

Sunday 1st November 2020 WORSHIP AT HOME: GOSPEL Matthew 5.1-12

Welcome to our act of Worship for All Saints

Call to worship Psalm 34

- ¹ I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
² My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
³ O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
⁵ Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
⁶ This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.
⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
⁸ O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
⁹ O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.

²² The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be
condemned.

HYMN

T Soll's Sein

How shall I sing that majesty

which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

HP8, MP, RS661, STF53

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the
Wiltshire United Area)

Prayers of Praise

Worthy of praise from every mouth, of confession
from every tongue, of worship from every
creature, is your glorious name, O God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit. For you created the world by the
word of your power, and in love you most
wonderfully redeemed it. Therefore with angels
and archangels, and with all the company of
heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious
name, for every praising you and saying: **Holy,
holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven
and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the
highest. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,
we seek your forgiveness:
for failing to give account of the faith that is in us;
for falling silent when we should have spoken
out;
for being too quick to condemn and criticise;
for being too slow to show compassion;
for not living as examples of your love;
for not behaving as the saints we were called to
be.**

(Pause)

**Have mercy on us and forgive us.
Amen.**

HYMN

T Same

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Allelu -, Alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu Alleluia...

We shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu Alleluia...

HP138, MP590, RS512, STF 254

Ministry of the Word of God

Revelation 7.9-17

Psalms 34.1-10,22

1 John 3.1-3

Matthew 5.1-12 The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Reflection

From village to city and town, from Scottish golf course to Premiership football club, from Pop band, to calendar dates. That is without even mentioning the churches! The connection: Saint(s)!

Today is All Saints, in this tired old-world saints are sore needed. There is too much division, too much distrust, far too much hate and endlessly too much violence. Too much insularity and not enough community, too much about rights without enough about responsibilities.

Saints are not relics of the dust-encrusted past centuries. Saints come in a variety of guises and appearances. To many living hand-to-mouth Marcus Rashford is a saint – dare I say that for someone who plays for Manchester United! (*To*

the non-football focussed – Southampton are known as The Saints). The current pandemic has brought very much into focus the commitment, dedication and bravery of members of the NHS working especially with Covid patients – are they not saints?

We would do well to remember that the Church does not have a monopoly on Saints. Those outside, might not know God, but God knows them!

There remain many unfilled vacancies for saints! Truth be told there have been those who have mis-used and abused the term. The church has been haunted by those who thought themselves superior, elite, high-class - alas in some Churches those ghosts remain real! It is worth remembering that the Apostle Paul addresses even the Christians in Corinth as saints, those whom he has rebuked and castigated for many and various moral offences (1 Corinthians 1:1-9). Their sanctity - and our own(!) - is not one of moral achievement but rests, upon having been made objectively holy by being baptized into Christ and declared righteous by God's grace. There is absolutely no place for religious snobbery!

Being a saint is about faithfully following the Servant and Suffering Christ who came amongst humanity to demonstrate, teach, and call us to a new way of being. We need to learn how to be different. That is, I think, why St. Antony moved to the desert, St. Francis renounced his father's wealth, and St. Julian of Norwich locked herself in a life of prayer. They wanted a new way. Throughout the ages the saints have echoed Christ's call to a new level of being and living.

If you want to be different, or to make a difference in this tired old-world, then re-read our Gospel lesson, for the Beatitudes are Jesus' core values. They define Jesus' life and ministry. They are at the heart of his teaching, his healing, his life and death. Jesus is not telling us what to do but how to be.

The world needs "beatitudinal" people, who speak, act, pray, and relate from the level of kingdom consciousness. That is who the saints of every age are. It is who we are asked to become. Saints are not God's little overachievers. They are ordinary people who allowed themselves to be

inhabited by the life of Christ and his values. They are those who are not content to stay on the touchline but have got involved to create something of heaven on earth, to bring a sense of God especially where everything seems Godless.

Today is All Saints, but it is not about simply looking at the past or indeed at others, it is also about examining our own lives. Where and how do the beatitudes shape and manifest our lives?

'Christ has no body now but yours
No hands, no feet on earth but yours
Yours are the eyes through which He looks
Compassion on this world
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world
Christ has no body now on earth but yours'

St Teresa of Avila

Prayer of Response

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Amen.

St Francis

HYMN

T San Rocco

Give me the wings of faith to rise

Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
How bright their glories be.

Once they were mourners here below,
And poured out cries and tears:
They wrestled hard, as we do now,
With sins, and doubts, and fears.

I ask them whence their victory came:
They, with united breath,
Ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
Their triumph to His death.

They marked the footsteps that He trod,
His zeal inspired their breast;
And following their incarnate God,
Possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise
For His own pattern given;

While the long cloud of witnesses
Show the same path to heaven.

HP815, MP, RS664, STF747

Our Prayers

We stand alongside St Francis and St Clare,
as we pray for the whole of creation.

We stand alongside St Francis Cabrini,
as we pray for those who have to flee from their homeland.

We stand alongside St Giles,
as we pray for those who find themselves rejected and outcast.

We stand alongside St Benedict,
as we pray for those who find themselves homeless.

We stand alongside St Anthony of Padua,
as we pray for those living in poverty.

We stand alongside St Zita,
as we pray for those in servitude.

We stand alongside St Toribio Romo as we pray for migrants and refugees, especially after this week's tragedy in the English Channel.

We stand alongside St Dymphna,
as we pray for those suffering mental illness.

We stand alongside St Mary Magdalene,
as we pray for those who long for forgiveness.

We stand alongside St Michael and St Camillus,
as we pray for those who are sick.

We stand alongside St Monica and St Paula,
as we pray for those who have lost loved ones.

We stand alongside St Joseph of Arimathea,
as we pray for those close to death.

We stand alongside the saints and with all in need
as we pray:

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN *T Sine nomine*

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their
might;
thou Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest
coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless
host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

HP814, MP148, RS658, STF745

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good
courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to
no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to
everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the
power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of
almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit be upon us, and remain with us for ever.

Amen

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire
United Area
Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not all be open, but the Church is
active and alive.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love
and prayers.*

Through the Week

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good
therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can
show to any human being, let me do it now. Let
me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this
way again."

*Stephen Grellet - (28 October 1772 – 16 November
1855) During the French Revolution he was
sentenced to be executed, but escaped and
eventually became a prominent French-
American Quaker missionary.*

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