

Circuit Worship 21st July 2024

Our worship for this week was written by Paul Eckersley Local Preacher worshipping at St Johns Church. You may wish to have your Bible to hand. The hymns are at the back of the sheet. CCLI licence 556292

Call to Worship

Psalm 89:20-37

Hymn 434(StF) Rock of ages, cleft for me

Prayer of Adoration

Heavenly Father, we worship and adore you. You are the King who has risen from the dead. Let us remember that it is you and you alone that we worship help to focus on you and through your Holy Spirit let us commune with you in this act of worship.

Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you for all the good gifts around us, we thank you for your creation. Help us to be better stewards of this world. Show how we can save this planet from unwanted disaster and help us to be more thankful of the world that we live in.

Amen

Prayer of Forgiveness

You came to save us risen Lord; we are grateful that you did. Yet we sometimes fail to meet up to the way you want us to be, in our word, deeds and thoughts. Forgive us Father and show us how to live a better way.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 479(StF) The King of love my shepherd is.

Reading Mark 6:30-34,53-56

Reading 2 Ephesians 2:11-22

Hymn 608(StF) All praise to our redeeming Lord.

Reflection

We all live busy lives, during this time of year I'm away a lot with work, sometimes I'm away for up to seven weeks of the year, indeed on this Sunday it will be my first Sunday at home since May!

Many of us are so busy we even forget what day it is!!!!

Going back 2,000 years in today's gospel Jesus was busy. I think we can learn from him. We can do this by asking the question WWJD? What would Jesus do?

I would like us to look at three things that Jesus did that we can do to help us.

1] Work

Jesus' work involved preaching and helping people. V34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Jesus cared about the people so he taught them about God. Having met their spiritual needs he then met their physical needs by feeding them v.39-44.

Jesus cared about his disciples. They were out in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, so he walked out to them to help them v 47-51.

Jesus then went to the marketplaces, v.56. These were the places where most people would congregate and, therefore, where Jesus would teach. When they heard he was there people would bring the sick to be healed. People who trusted in Jesus, as opposed to his townsfolk, who we read about two weeks ago, mark 6:1-13.

Jesus was never too busy to do the work of God. To care for people by teaching and healing. We may think of "work" as something that we get paid for but God also calls and equips us to work for him. We are all called to minister for him.

Let us be busy in serving God but also spend time in...

2] Rest

Jesus tried to do this with his disciples. V.31, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

Sometimes we need to get away. This is very appropriate as we approach the summer holidays. We were not created by God to be busy all the time. We need rest. Sometimes with those who are close to us. Jesus was trying to escape the crowds with his disciples. We might like to go away on holiday with family and friends. Holidays are a gift from God!

3] Pray.

Today's reading misses out the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus's walking on water to help the disciples who were on a boat in a storm. In between, verse 46, we read that Jesus went to a mountain to pray.

Prayer is a wonderful antidote to, and preparation for, busy-ness.

"The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in." C.S. Lewis.

Jesus prayed before he walked on the water, taught people and healed the sick. I don't think that is a coincidence. If we want to minister for God, it must be accompanied by prayer.

We can pray anywhere and at any time. Sometimes it can be helpful to have somewhere where we will not be disturbed. Jesus chose a mountain. For us it can be a church, a park, a room somewhere. For me it can be away on my trips, Cornwall on the coastal path, on a train going somewhere or in a Premier Inn bedroom.....

We all need to achieve a balance. Of working, not only to pay the bills but also working for God and helping others. Of resting to recharge our batteries, to spend time with our family and friends. Of praying. Speaking with God. Bringing him our concerns and listening to him.

AME

Hymn 409(StF) Let us build a house where love can dwell. We cannot print this hymn due to copywrite restrictions

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly Father we know come to you with our prayers for the world and home.

We prayer for our new government, let them govern, with due diligence, honesty and truth. Let your will be done in all things,

We pray for peace in Palestine and Ukraine, we ask that solutions maybe found in these areas of conflict. We ask that your grace and mercy will be evident and that a lasting peace can be found.

We pray for those at this time that may be suffering in health. We ask that you be with those suffering disabling diseases such as cancer etc.... we pray for all those we know. Give them strength and we ask for your healing hand in all situations.

We pray for the lonely and persecuted, give us a comforting arm to rest and a listening ear to listen and we ask your peace and love be on those in this situation currently.

We pray for our family and friends, especially those who must be away from loved ones due to work, give them and their families a sense of peace and love at this time.

We bring ourselves to you Lord and ask that you will be our strength if a storm is all around us. Give us courage, strength and trust in you in all things.

These prayers we ask in your Name.

Amen

Hymn 736(StF) In heavenly love abiding.

The Grace

Hymn 434 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee ;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2 Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands ;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears for ever flow,
all for sin could not atone :
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling ;
naked, come to thee for dress ;
helpless, look to thee for grace ;
foul, I to the fountain fly ;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740–1778)

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Hymn 479 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never ;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me ;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight ;
thy unction grace bestoweth ;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth !

6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never :

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877)

Hymn 608 1 All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

2 He bids us build each other up ;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.

3 The gift which he on one bestows,
we all delight to prove ;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

4 E'en now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree ;
concentred all, through Jesu's name,
in perfect harmony.

5 We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

6 And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what heights of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet !

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Hymn 736 1 In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear ;
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here :
the storm may roar without me,
my heart may low be laid ;
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed ?

2 Wherever he may guide me,
no want shall turn me back ;
my Shepherd is beside me,
and nothing can I lack :
his wisdom ever waketh,
his sight is never dim ;
he knows the way he taketh,
and I will walk with him.

3 Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen ;
bright skies will soon be o'er me,
where darkest clouds have been ;
my hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free ;

my Saviour has my treasure,
and he will walk with me.

Anna Laetitia Waring (1823–1910)

Based on psalm 23