



Expectations, risks, and faithfulness

A service of worship to guide reflections
on 15th November 2020

Welcome and Introduction

We continue our journey in the Gospel of Matthew looking again at a parable that Jesus told to challenge those listening then....and now!

Our call to worship together uses words from Psalm 90

***O Lord, you have always been our home.
Before you created the hills
or brought the world into being,
you were eternally God,
and will be God forever.***

Worship song/Hymn – All my days I will sing this song of gladness – Singing the Faith 343

All my days I will sing this song of
gladness,
Give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
For in my helplessness You heard my cry,
And waves of mercy poured down on my
life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,
I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
Of death defeated and life without end.

*Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,*

*You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion
And You reign, You reign over all.*

I long to be where the praise is never-
ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;
Where countless worshippers will share one
song,
And cries of 'worthy' will honour the Lamb!

*Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion
And You reign, You reign over all.*

Stuart Townend (b.1963)

We pray together as we approach God in worship

Prayers of approach, praise, and confession – led by David

Reading – Matthew 25. 14-30 - Paul

The Parable of the Three Servants

¹⁴“At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. ¹⁵ He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. ¹⁶ The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. ¹⁷ In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the

other five thousand. 'You gave me five thousand coins, sir,' he said. 'Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.' ²¹ 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' ²² Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, 'You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned.' ²³ 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' ²⁴ Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, 'Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. ²⁵ I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ 'You bad and lazy servant!' his master said. 'You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? ²⁷ Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. ²⁸ Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. ²⁹ For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰ As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth.'

Good News Bible © 1994, 2004 published by the Bible Societies/HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., UK Good News Bible © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992. Used with permission.

Reflection – Margaret

Reading – **1 Thessalonians 5.1-8** - Paul

5 ¹⁻³ I don't think, friends, that I need to deal with the question of when all this is going to happen. You know as well as I that the day of the Master's coming can't be posted on our calendars. He won't call ahead and make an appointment any more than a burglar would. About the time everybody's walking around complacently, congratulating each other—"We've sure got it made! Now we can take it easy!"—suddenly everything will fall apart. It's going to come as suddenly and inescapably as birth pangs to a pregnant woman.

⁴⁻⁸ But friends, you're not in the dark, so how could you be taken off guard by any of this? You're sons of Light, daughters of Day. We live under wide open skies and know where we stand. So let's not sleepwalk through life like those others. Let's keep our eyes open and be smart. People sleep at night and get drunk at night. But not us! Since we're creatures of Day, let's act like it. Walk out into the daylight sober, dressed up in faith, love, and the hope of salvation.

THE MESSAGE. Numbered edition © 2005.

Reflection – David

Worship song/Hymn – **Hear the call of the Kingdom** – **StF 407**

Hear the call of the kingdom
Lift your eyes to the King
Let His song rise within you
As a fragrant offering
Of how God rich in mercy
Came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace

Hear the call of the Kingdom
To be children of light
With the mercy of heaven

The humility of Christ
Walking justly before Him
Loving all that is right
That the life of Christ may shine through us

*King of Heaven we will answer the call
We will follow bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion, filled with power to
proclaim Salvation in Jesus' name*

Hear the call of the Kingdom
To reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion
In the wonder of the cross
Bringing peace and forgiveness
And a hope yet to come
Let the nations put their trust in Him

*King of Heaven we will answer the call
We will follow bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion, filled with power to
proclaim Salvation in Jesus' name*

*Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristin Getty (b. 1980) and
Stuart Townend (b. 1960)*

Prayers for others and the Lord's prayer – led by Margaret

The Lord's prayer

Worship song/Hymn – Be thou my vision – StF 545

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou
art; be thou my best thought in the day
and the night, both waking and sleeping,
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true
son; be thou in me dwelling, and I with
thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the
fight; be thou my whole armour, be thou
my true might; be thou my soul's shelter,

be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power
of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou
art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright
sun, O grant me its joys after victory is
won; great Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall, still be thou my vision, O
Ruler of all

Irish 8th century, translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931), versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935)

A sending out prayer

May you flourish as you use your gifts.
May you grow in faith and wisdom.
And may 'Well done, good and faithful servant'
be your joy to hear as you work, rest and pray,
day by day.

Amen.

The Grace

Service prepared by Margaret Cook and David Goulesbrough, drawing on material from *Singing the Faith CCLI 5560 (reproduced with permission)* and ©Roots for Churches Ltd. (www.rootsontheweb.com).



Notices 15/11/2020

As you might have heard, both of our caretakers, Neil and Tony have decided to take voluntary redundancy and will be leaving soon.

We want to thank them for their years of service to Christchurch and their hard work which enables our church to operate smoothly.

To contribute to their leaving collection, either post a cheque to Jenny Freeman 15 Scalbor Square, Burley-in-Wharfedale, LS29 7SP.

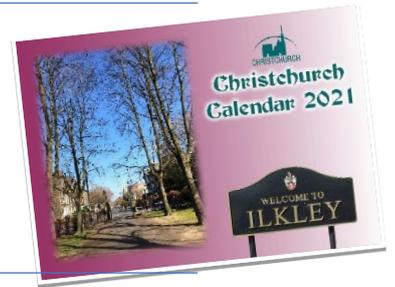
Make cheques payable to Christchurch Ilkley and write "Caretakers" on the back. If you want to pay by bank transfer, please indicate that it is for the caretakers.

Diana Feather

Christchurch Calendar

The 2021 Christchurch calendar is available now from Margo Atkinson (£6.50).

Ring 01943 608479 to secure yours.



St George's Crypt

This Advent Christchurch will be supporting St George's Crypt.

If you have any items that you would like to donate you can drop them off at church on Fridays between one o'clock and two-thirty when the church will be open for private prayer.

Items must be bagged up. We are looking specifically for Clean clothes and shoes both for male and female, towels, bed sheets and blankets. Please do not donate pillows or duvets.

If you cannot drop off these items during these specific times you can contact Ann Thake on 01943 816237 to arrange for someone to come and pick them up.





An inspiring photo exhibition touring the UK, commissioned by the World Council of Churches, Geneva

December 1st to 18th at Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley

Entrance free. All welcome.

Opening times:
Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:30am - 2:30pm
Fridays 10:30am - 1:00pm

Join us for an exhibition of pictures and stories of 12 people from different backgrounds sharing their hopes for justice and peace in the Holy Land.



World Council of Churches

Browse and buy a range of produce from Palestine