

Order of Service Wimborne 13th. June 2021

Welcome Call to worship Hebrews 13 :8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.”

Hymn 57 StF Let all the world in every corner sing

(Youtube York Minster Choir 4 Dec 2012)

Let all the world in every corner sing: My God and King!
The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing: My God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing: my God and King!
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing: my God and King!

George Herbert 1593-1633

Opening Prayers

Living God, as we gather here this morning, we are aware that we are part of your world church. Today millions of Christians will meet together all across the world in church buildings large and small, or outside, joyfully celebrating your living presence.

We thank you for your promise that when we come together in the name of Christ, He is here among us, ready to speak, listen, forgive, teach and love.

Christ is present here in one another, in the fellowship we share together. He is present through the Scriptures, constantly speaking to us in new ways. He is present in the world around us, in the beauty of creation and the people we meet. He is present every moment of every day, through His life-giving and life-transforming Spirit.

Living God, we thank you that whoever we are, wherever we are, whatever we may be doing, you are with us through Christ, constantly by our side, travelling with us, and looking to lead us forward into new experiences of your love. Forgive us for the times when we forget you, or turn to you as an afterthought. Help us to keep you at the centre of our lives. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Introduction to the Reading: Sometimes doors open, sometimes they close. We read of Paul, Silas and Timothy being led to Philippi in the district of Macedonia. Their first venture into Europe. As we would look for a church, they looked to make contacts in a synagogue.

As there was no synagogue in Philippi they asked where the Jews met for prayer. By the river Gangites, outside the city gates, they found a group of devout women including Lydia. It would be a new beginning for Lydia and her household.

Acts 16: 6-15

Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of standing and begging him: "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we travelled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Hymn 476 StF One more step along the world I go

One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see you'll be looking at along with me:

And it's from....

As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go you'll be telling me the way, I know:

And it's from.....

Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you:

And it's from....

You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you:

And it's from the old I travel to the new

Keep me travelling along with you.

Address

How do you react to change or new beginnings ?

When we pause to reflect, it's interesting that all of us are constantly facing "new beginnings", throughout our lives. They are so varied, we may approach each with excitement, uncertainty, fear, or even a mixture of all three.

From our early years at school, we are familiar with the annual change of class and teacher in a new classroom. We usually adapt quite well to new friends and a widening circle of acquaintances. But the move from First School to Secondary School is a much bigger leap, and our feelings are often affected by which of our friends are facing the transition with us.

Can you remember the first time you lived away from home ? It may have been for a job, college or university, but it was probably quite scary to begin with as it's very unlikely any of your close friends were accompanying you. Suddenly, you were away from home, family and old friends, feeling alone in an unknown area, with expectations placed upon you. While you may have looked forward to this new chapter in your life, in your life and seen it as a real adventure, when it actually happened you may have found it quite daunting to begin with. What made the difference I wonder ? How did you turn the corner and face the new challenges ?

It used to be normal for older people, like my mother and favourite aunt, to live within a small radius of where they were actually born. My aunt married from home at 23, then lived in the same house within a mile of where she was born for the next 66 years ! My cousin and I are just in the process of clearing it now, and I can certainly see advantages of moving more frequently !!!

However, when I left home, mum soon ran out of space under C in her address book – I was then filed under "X" to have several pages to myself for the numerous addresses I had over the years. Times change. And of course, a new home inevitably meant new neighbours, new friends, finding my way around a new area ...How have you coped with these changes during your life ? What has helped you ?

It's interesting, looking in the Bible to see there has always been movement of people. In the OT Moses and the Israelites journeyed for years. Abraham travelled with his household to a new country. Daniel was sent into exile. Joseph travelled, against his will. Ruth left her own country to go with her mother-in-law. In the NT Apostles were sent out to spread the Gospel, to new regions and countries. Paul travelled widely, with his friends, on numerous missionary journeys.

In the book of Acts we read of the huge number of visitors to Jerusalem from all around the Mediterranean. Jerusalem, was and still is, a hub of activity.

But equally, throughout history there has been movement of people because of wars, famine, people wanting a new beginning, or perhaps more recently because travel offers the chance of better opportunities and a fresh start.

Like many of you, wherever I have lived, I have quickly found the churches in the area to find a spiritual home. Church fellowship has been a vital part of my journey, as have prayer, and friendship. Looking back, to the various schools at which I taught, there were always people of faith who became friends, some lasting a life-time. When we pray and are open to guidance, it's amazing how God puts the right people in our path at the right time.

Our journey of faith is exciting, as although we never know exactly what is around the corner, whatever happens, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever." He is the one who walks beside us and carries us when needed.

As well as the Bible, I find hymns sustain and give me strength for my Christian journey.

Can you remember verses from hymn 513 from the old MHB ?

*"I know not what the future holds
of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.*

*I know not where His islands lift
their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift*

beyond His love and care. John Greenleaf Whittier 1807-92

Reflect on your life-journey and marvel at how God has guided you and put the right people there for you at the right time.

Hymn 615 StF Let Love be real

Hymn chosen by Phil and Phyllis

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
Without the need to manage and to own;
A haven free from posing and pretending,
Where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
Give me your love wherever we may go.

As God love us, so let us love each other:

With no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
That strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
That helps us face the risk of truly living,
And makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness;
Give me your love in spite of all you know.

As God loves us.....

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
No secret wish to harness or control;
Let us accept each other's incompleteness,
And share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your Hope through dreams and disappointments;
give me your trust when all my failing show.

As God loves us, so let us love each other;

With no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Michael Forster 194

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, as we come together today we bring you our thanks –
for this place of worship where, week by week, we can come and share fellowship;
for this time set aside from the daily tasks of life so that we can offer you our praise, reflect

on your word and seek your will. We thank you for everything our coming here has meant and continues to mean.

Lord of the Church, **unite us through the love of Christ.**

We pray for those who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to worship with us – those confined to their homes, those no longer fit enough to get out and about, those in hospital or in care, those looking after loved ones.

Lord of the Church, **unite us through the love of Christ.**

We pray for all those facing uncertainty and new beginnings - those like Phyllis and Phil who have moved to a new area among new people, those who are shortly leaving school to go to university or training..., those who will be looking to begin a new job..., those who now find themselves out of a job, with a possible career change..., those facing new family circumstances..., those who are recently bereaved.

Lord of the Church, **unite us through the love of Christ.**

Loving God, may each of these, our friends, know that they are still much remembered, much valued, and much cared about. May we find ways of showing our support and expressing our interest in their welfare. And whatever their situation, may they know you close by their side, joined with us and all your people in the fellowship which only Christ can bring.

Lord of the Church, **unite us through the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn 465 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

(Youtube Huddersfield Choral Society + BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester)

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land:
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.

Open thou, the crystal fountain whence the healing stream shall flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams 1717-1791

Blessing: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit unite us and lead us in peace and joy, this day and for evermore. Amen.