

Sunday 5th July 2020

Opening Prayer:

Jesus, we come to you to celebrate your love and to receive your word.
You taught us that we must worship God in spirit. We long to worship with your people, but we know you are with us, in these difficult times. **Amen.**

Hymn: Singing The Faith: 503 - Love divine, all loves excelling
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CNfpUrKzpM>

Let us pray:

Lord God, we are in wonder at the world you have created and the life you have given us. We thank you for that gift of life and the joy of sharing our lives with others. We have not always lived our lives as you would wish. Yet, even as we confess this to you, we know your forgiveness by the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Reading: Romans 7: 15-25a

Hymn: Singing The Faith: 248 / Hymns & Psalms: 136 – I heard the voice of Jesus say:
<https://youtu.be/XUVCpF8-VuE> (sung to the tune: Kingsfold)
<https://youtu.be/GHylH7m8TeE> (tune only: Vox Dilecti)

Reading: Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Time to Reflect:

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' Matthew 11: 28-30

Jesus says that he is offering a new way to God. Like the old way, it aims for salvation, but He offers us strength and comfort on our path to God.

He calls us to accept the need for forgiveness, and the salvation He offers to us. Then we can receive the Spirit to follow God's way with the knowledge of His Love.

Jesus says people criticise him for not conforming to their expectations. Those who fear his message point to how he lives his life, in the same way they'd criticised John the Baptist.

If, through our calling, we receive or fear such criticism, we must rise above it. Seeing others we should look to what their words and actions mean for us, rather than judging their outward appearance.

It is reported that when Sydney Carter wrote the well-known hymn "Lord of the Dance" he expected the Church to dislike it because it was different. Happily it was accepted, perhaps not as quickly as it deserved, and is now a familiar celebration of Jesus' life.

Jesus speaks of the word of God being hidden from the wise, of those who allow wisdom or knowledge to hide the love of God, and who see the detail of the Law as overriding God's calling that we should love God and our neighbour.

In the parable of the 'Good Samaritan' it was a priest and a Levite (someone who would assist the priest in the Temple), who would know the Law, who walked by.

In writing to the Romans, Paul speaks of the conflict between following the Law and accepting the call of Jesus.

This does not mean that we can disregard the Law. Indeed often the Law shows us how to love our neighbour, but the love God shows us is not following a set of rules but a supreme act of love through suffering. Our call to respond should also be through Love.

All this is through God's love for us, shown in the grace we are offered when he sent His Son to die for our forgiveness and salvation.

A time of prayer:

We thank you Lord for the gift of your Son: for His life, His sufferings and death and for His Resurrection and Ascension, for the witness, salvation and hope He gives.

We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit and especially for the gift of that Spirit in your Church.

We rejoice in the work and witness of your Church and pray that it may continue to strive to fulfil your work and proclaim your Love.

We pray for the needs of the world, thinking especially at this time of those affected by the Coronavirus, but remembering too all who suffer including those whose plight seemingly goes unnoticed. Be with all those suffering in any way. Especially be with.....(people known to us)

Be with those whose lives impact others: leaders in government, or the workplace, health care workers, teachers, emergency workers and all those on whom people depend. Grant them the wisdom and the strength to know and to follow your way.

Lord, we commend everyone to your unfailing love through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer : Our Father.....

Hymn: Singing The Faith: 247 – “Lord of the Dance”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLGqavkDszU>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing:

May the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest and remain with each of us sharing His worship today and always. **Amen**

Acknowledgement: *Most of the above is based around an act of worship prepared by Ralph Frankland for The Methodist Church – Ministry: Vocations & Worship.*

Radio 4:

8.10am Sunday Worship – The Rev Lucy Winkett & Bob Chilcott explore the power of music in troubled times.

BBC1:

10.45am Sunday Morning Live – Sean Fletcher & Sally Phillips explore the ethical and religious issues of the day

1.15pm Songs of Praise – Celebrating Florence Nightingale and the NHS

Radio Cymru:

12.00yp Yr Oedfa

12.30yp Bwrw Golwg

4.30yp Caniadaeth y Cysegr

S4C:

11.00yb Oedfa Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol – Parchg. Ddr Adrian Morgan

7.30yh Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol – uchafbwyntiau'r gyfres bresenol(2)