

Bulletin for Sunday 3 July 2022

Good morning friends.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: In Christ there is no East or West (R&S 647)

Prayers: May our hearts sing God's praise!
Faithful, loving God,
we praise you for the wonders of your creation;
we praise your constancy in care for us;
and we praise the power
and the en-livening of the Spirit all around us.
May our hearts always sing your praise!
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and on everything we give in your service,
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: 2 Kings 5: 1-14 and Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

Reflection: There are so many voices clamouring for our attention - to sell us things we don't need...; to enrol us in groups whose agendas we don't understand...; to manipulate us for the benefit of others. They can make it difficult for us to hear the quiet voice of truth. Naaman had heard, against the odds, the voice of the servant girl generously directing him to 'the prophet who is in Samaria'. But he struggled to hear the life-giving directions of Elisha when they didn't fit his - distinctly prejudiced - prior expectations. He had to learn to listen to the voice of 'others'.
Jesus sent the disciples out especially to heal - to bring some much-needed wholeness and hope to these small communities which he was hoping to be able to visit himself, eventually. But in the process they were also to share with their hosts, and certainly not in silence. "Whoever listens to you listens to me", Jesus said. The voice of Jesus in the voice of others. This is a very balanced view of healing mission, where the hospitality of the community was vital. It was a mutual relationship, where the healing and teaching

work of the seventy was enabled by the acceptance and generous provision of their hosts. They listened to each other. They shared with each other. The kingdom of God came near as they helped each other.

There are many things that we can do in the church which bring a measure of healing. Listening, supporting, valuing and including can all help to heal wounds and lead people towards more abundant life. Even making and sharing a cup of tea can make a huge positive difference. May we learn to share - to share conversations where all listen respectfully and carefully; and to share the healing effects of mutual support and concern. So that in listening we may hear Jesus' words to us, and in sharing we may be aware of the Spirit bringing healing and peace. Amen

Hymn: The kingdom of God is justice and joy (R&S 200)

Prayers: God of compassion, giver of life and wholeness,
we pray for those whose health is ebbing away;
and for those who have to live without peace,
surrounded by destruction, by loss, and by fear.
We pray for those whose lives are blighted
and reduced by others' prejudices,
and for the powerless whose voices go unheard.
We hold before you our neighbours and communities,
our friends and all those we love.....
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers,
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: Go forth and tell! (R&S 574)

Blessing: May we listen to each other and serve God;
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love,
this week, and always. Amen

There will be a Sunday at Six Zoom service at 6pm this Sunday as usual.

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