

**Bulletin for Sunday 10 July 2022**

Good morning friends.

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

Hymn:      Awake, awake to love and work      (R&S 608)

Prayers:      Creator God, we praise you:  
for the colours and scent of sweet peas,  
for the sweetness and flavour of strawberries,  
for the blue skies and warm sun of summer,  
and the song of the birds in the evening....  
Creator God we praise and thank you.  
May we value and care for the world around us,  
never taking for granted its fragile beauty.  
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:      Deuteronomy 30: 9-14      and      Luke 10: 25-37

Reflection: What we usually call the 'Parable of the Good Samaritan' is a very well known story - most of us learned it in Sunday School or in school Assemblies as children, and have heard it many times since. But it is a story with many levels, and one that I think we can always get more out of if we listen carefully.

The parable is about how we react in the daily decisions we have to make as we encounter those in need. The lawyer whose question prompts Jesus to tell the story is, like most of us, well-meaning. He wants to love his neighbour, he just needs the reassurance that his understanding of that is correct.

Jesus doesn't give him a definition of his neighbour; neither does he tell him exactly what loving that neighbour needs to involve. Instead Jesus gives an example - fictional, but perhaps all the more striking for that.

Jesus' parable tells a story of a particular situation, with particular participants, which shakes up possible assumptions about who our neighbour is - our neighbour, says Jesus,

is (emphatically) not necessarily like us. Then, by coming back to the lawyer and asking him for the answer to his own question, Jesus draws out from him that he does fully understand who his neighbour is, when he is presented with the situation of somebody in need. It's all about compassion - both immediate, instinctive, compassion, and the more considered care (physical and/or financial) which is needed subsequently in order to truly help. Both are neighbours - notice that the compassionate Samaritan is actually the one Jesus describes as such, because he himself recognises the injured man as a neighbour in need. Both carer and cared-for are neighbours. And loving our neighbour is an attitude of compassion that we are all called to practise and to grow in.

Hymn: Teach me, my God and king (R&S 538)

Prayers: God of compassion, you understand our worries.  
We pray for peace in the world:  
for places, including Ukraine, which are at war...  
and for the many places where there is violence,  
where lives are lost or destroyed, yet there is no war.  
We pray for your peace, that comes with justice,  
and allows all people to live fully, and without fear.  
We pray for our neighbours and communities,  
especially those struggling to make ends meet,  
and those who are sick, those who are anxious,  
those who are grieving.....  
We pray for our friends and for all those we love...  
In Jesus' name we ask all our prayers,  
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you (R&S 474)

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

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There will be NO Sunday at Six Zoom this Sunday - back next week as usual.

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