

Bulletin for Sunday 17th October 2021

Good Morning, Friends. Just to bring to your attention that there will be a Group Service for all three churches at 10.30 am on Sunday 31st October (i.e. in a fortnight's time). Please come - you are all very welcome! With the larger congregation and mixing of people from different communities the Elders have decided that masks must be worn for this service, to keep everyone as safe as possible. We will definitely be singing, though!

We pause as we prepare to worship..... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing (R&S 114)

Prayer: Our God and King,

we praise you, and thank you for all you give us.
As we explore our place in your community,
we remember that Jesus came as a Servant King,
and we try to follow him, seeking to do your will;
so help us to be servants to one another...
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and everything we give, in your service,
now and always. In Jesus' name. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Mark chapter 10: verses 35-45

Reflection: To James and John it seems straightforward enough. They had been there right from the beginning - some of the very earliest disciples - and had never fallen away. The two of them had even been picked out to accompany Jesus up the mountain when he was transfigured in brilliant light, and they had heard a voice from heaven... Admittedly Peter had been there too, but he had managed to open his big mouth and put his foot in it more than once, so surely they were in pole position. Surely they were the most important of the disciples? Fit to sit with Jesus in glory?

It was difficult for them to understand that Jesus wasn't going to Jerusalem to become an all-powerful, Roman-defeating, King - one who would need trusty lieutenants. And, if we're honest, it's quite difficult for us, as well as them, to understand that the nature of God's kingdom, God's rule, is so different from everything we are used to. Like James and John, we take hierarchy for granted. We live in a world of 'important' people, and 'others'. Bosses and workers. Powerful, influential people... and un-noticeable people. But Jesus didn't! Jesus came as a servant to all,

and taught us, if we want to follow him, that we must serve each other; and together serve the rest of God's children.

Hymn: From heaven you came, helpless babe (R&S 522)

Prayer: God of a topsy-turvy kingdom,
where the first can be last, and the last, first,
wherever there is need -
hunger, oppression, sickness, grief or fear -
may we follow the example of Christ, the Servant King.
We pray that all our churches and communities
may learn to serve one another in kindness,
supporting the weak and aiming for the common good.
And we pray for those we love, and worry about.
Loving God, hear all our prayers,
spoken and unspoken, in Jesus' name. Amen

Hymn: Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided (R&S 603)

Blessing: May we understand that we are all in this together,
and that to do God's will we must become servants...
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
now and always. Amen

Please continue to remember that we all have a part to play in caring for each other and doing what we can to keep everyone safe from Covid, which includes letting us know if you have a positive Covid test after recently being in church. Sadly it's impossible to make our churches completely risk-free.

There will be a 'Sunday at Six' service on Zoom tonight as usual at 6pm. All welcome.

Anne Lewitt phone (01798) 872535 email aelewitt@gmail.com