

Bulletin for Sunday 24th October 2021

Good Morning, Friends.

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

Hymn: Praise the Lord, his glories show (R&S 102)

Prayer: Our glorious God, all around us we see your works,
and so we praise you; and we thank you:
for this new morning, bringing light and hope...
for this time and chance to worship....
for the people that laid the foundations of our faith...
and for your Spirit leading us forwards.
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: Psalm 126 and Mark chapter 10: verses 46-52

Reflection: Sometimes an opportunity comes to us, quite unexpectedly, and we can either grab it with both hands, or just watch it fade away into the distance. Bartimaeus may not have been able to see Jesus walking past, but he could hear enough to realise that this was his one chance - his now or never moment - and he didn't hesitate. He called out, and he refused to be hushed... and when Jesus stopped for him, he threw his cloak aside and leapt at his chance. Literally. This was his chance to be healed... and his chance to follow Jesus.

We are coming to the end of One World Week, and this year its theme is 'Act now for our children's world'. This is a vital moment, as world leaders come together in Glasgow; quite possibly a 'now or never' moment. We are being offered an opportunity to act to heal some of the damage we have unwittingly caused, and to make changes which will profoundly affect the world for future generations.

May God who made and loves this world give us light to see our way ahead, and the courage and decisiveness to grab this opportunity with both hands; to take action - right now - for the sake of our children's (and grandchildren's) world. Amen

Hymn: Thou whose almighty word (R&S 38)

Prayer: God of love and light,
in a world where the needy and the powerless
are all too often invisible to others,
give us the insight to recognise their humanity and worth.
We pray that our governments, our churches,
our communities, and we ourselves
will be aware of the importance of this time, right now...
and will grab the opportunity that you hold out to us.
We pray for those we love, and worry about.
Loving God, hear all our prayers,
spoken and unspoken, in Jesus' name. Amen

Hymn: Amazing grace (how sweet the sound) (R&S 92)

Blessing: May we take, whole-heartedly and with joy,
the chances that you offer us...
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
now and always. Amen

Reminder: there will be a Group Service for all three churches at Petworth, at 10.30 am on Sunday 31st October (i.e. in a week'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!
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