

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT HOME

21ST June 2020

As we prepare to worship at home, we think about others in our church, and prepare to worship with them.

We pray Lord God, we are in a world of change, we come in this special way to pause in your eternal presence, to find our way, our hope, our peace, trusting that you are the source. AMEN

AND WE SING... Majesty, worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be glory honour and praise
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flows from his throne, unto His own
His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King
Majesty, worship His majesty
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings

Let's pray together

O God our Father, Creator of the universe, Your majesty we can never fully grasp
Your power has absolutely no limits.
You love for all your children is unending, and embracing all and everything.
You are God of your children, everywhere.
And it is you we take this time to worship, to praise, and to thank. AMEN

Mark 7 31 - 37 Jesus Heals a Deaf & Mute Man

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

WE REFLECT

There been a couple of occasions when I have lost my voice, I think the family were secretly

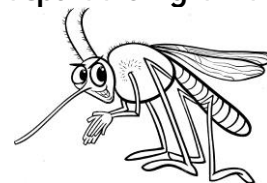
pleased for the peace and quiet. Here though we have a man who could neither speak nor listen. Communication was almost impossible, how devastating. We often speak about the ways of communicating now and how blessed we are to have even a telephone, but there are those worldwide who have no means whatsoever to get in touch with others. This may be because of physical disabilities, or lack of technology, but it could also be through fear of repercussions.

It struck me that this man was taken to Jesus, but probably didn't know where he was going, and he wouldn't have known who he was standing in front of, who was touching his eyes, until after the miracle had happened. But I don't think it would be important. What did matter was that the man, who was often shunned and ignored, found someone who cared about his needs, showed compassion, someone who was willing to meet him, and made him feel important, and who through a miracle changed his life for ever. This then opened his eyes and ears to Jesus.

This man's life would never be the same again. He had met with God in Christ. From that moment every event would be an opportunity to serve - to serve someone who has lost, anyone torn apart by grief, the man must have felt called to comfort and help.

It made me think of front line workers, carers, people making calls from home, those offering meals, shopping, delivering medication, writing, waving to and smiling at others. It made me think of you, today's disciples, making a difference to others, who may not yet recognise Jesus, but can feel the difference that the care, compassion, time and concern you give makes to them, maybe opening their eyes & ears to Jesus.

**If you think you're too small to make a difference
You haven't spent the night with a mosquito**



PRAYER - Thank you Lord for the ways you are prompting me to use my time to change a moment for someone else.
Thank you for everyone who is showing the heart of Christ to me. AMEN

Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow Thee,
rise up and follow Thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love,
interpreted by love.

With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of Thy call,
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall
As fell Thy manna down,
as fell Thy manna down.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace,
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm!

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER FOR GOD'S WORLD

Our Father in heaven we pray with you today for your world, knowing that you care about even the smallest detail of that world.

We pray with you for all who suffer today at the hands of others, through war, greed, the abuse of power, or the abuse of words, hoping they find You standing with them, giving them strength through others supporting them.

We pray with you for all those who find themselves in positions of authority today, whether it be by

choice, or because their skills have been recognized and needed, or because there is no one else available. We ask that they will use your wisdom and humility to know what's best.

We pray with you for all who suffer today as a result of this pandemic; through sickness, through the loss of loved ones, or through the exhausting workload of caring for others, that they will receive comfort, healing & hope.

And we pray with you for all those known personally to us who are in need today ... *(we name them)* ...
May they find grace, healing, and blessing.

We bring all these prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us when we pray to say ... **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father*

Our offering Lord we ask you to bless the gifts that we offer for your Kingdom work. Those we have sent & those laid aside to give later, and we offer the gifts of ourselves, small though we are, believing you can do big things through our faithfulness **AMEN**

AMAZING GRACE! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

The Blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us, our loved ones, our friends, our church families, and all those we pray for. **AMEN**