



## Family Communion 17th October 2021

*"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being"*

*Ps.104.35c*

### The Gathering

#### Welcome & Notices

#### Opening Prayer

Lord God,  
we come humbly into your presence this morning,  
ready to explore our place in your community.  
James and John had very set ideas  
about where they wanted to sit in glory.

Sometimes we have very fixed ideas  
about where we want to sit in this gathering.  
We like to know our place.

Help us to understand  
that you don't have favourites  
and we shouldn't either,  
and that we are a community  
and we are all in this together.  
Amen.

Song    **Your love is amazing ( Hallelujah )**

Performed by Worship Lyric Video. Written by Brown/Doerksen. Permission: worshiplyricvideos.com #CCLI 3091812

Summary of the law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: the first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandments greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Confession

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

cf Hosea 6

Absolution

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Collect

God our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Reading Mark 10. 35-45 read by Kate Holliday

**35** Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. 'Teacher,' they said, 'we want you to do for us whatever we ask.'

**36** 'What do you want me to do for you?' he asked.

**37** They replied, 'Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.'

**38** 'You don't know what you are asking,' Jesus said. 'Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?'

**39** 'We can,' they answered.

Jesus said to them, 'You will drink the cup I drink and be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with, **40** but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.'

**41** When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. **42** Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **43** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Sermon Nigel Lowe is opening God's Word for us today

Song The Servant King

Written Graham Kendrick. Performed by Graham Kendrick and Nicki Rogers. Copyright © 1983 Thankyou Music. Used with permission. #CCLI 78897.

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

Intercessions

by Simon McDowell

In you O Lord

**Do we put our trust**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Let us share together the peace ...

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times, it may seem strange to 'share the Peace.' But peace is from the heart and from God. God's peace in the Spirit moves among us and unites us, physically distanced yet one in the Body of Christ.*

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

*Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

*Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

**Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### Breaking of the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in the one bread.**

### Giving of Communion

The body of Christ bread for the world. The blood of Christ, the cup of abundance.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*We are invited to make spiritual Communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. And as we do so please listen to .... 'Lord I need you'*

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### Prayer after communion

And we say together ...

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you**

**our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**

**to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

### Song            Great is your faithfulness

Led by Brittany Hurlbert, Tim Packer, Sam Rankin, Tom Musson, Brandon Hurlbert and Sam Chapman for evening worship during lockdown at St Nic's Church, Durham, Sunday 16 May 2021. Words by Thomas Chisholm Music by William M Runyan © 1923. Renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company

### Final Prayer & Blessing

**Lord, Jesus, may we go out into the world to shine with your love, listen with your ears and speak words of kindness and hope to everyone we meet – in your name.**

**Amen.**

# Thank you for joining us today.



## All in this together

### Mark 10.35-45

Two of his disciples, James and John, ask Jesus to put them in a place of higher authority than the others, in his heavenly kingdom. Jesus points out that to be with him in glory they must share in his suffering on earth. He then reprimands them for wanting preferential treatment: instead, they should live sacrificially for others, as he does.

Now read **Mark 10.35-45** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

There are some basic problems with the request the brothers make. Why do they think they are more important? Don't they know that with authority comes responsibility and, in this case, suffering? Jesus isn't able to directly fulfil their request – he tells them they can achieve greatness by serving others. This is counter-cultural and can be difficult to hear: How does it make you feel?



## START YOUR DAY

Think through what your day will hold, and who you may speak to, or hear or see in any way. Think about who they are, not just their role as newsreader, postman, neighbour, but as individuals with value in God's eyes. As your day unfolds, offer each person who you hear and see to God, being thankful for their part in your life.

## Learn

October is Black History Month. Read one or two featured articles from the Black History Month website each day and learn how attitudes have changed over the decades. <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/section/history-of-slavery/> There may be parts of the story which are new to you, some shocking, others encouraging. How do you feel about the progress your community has made to recognise the equal importance of all its citizens?



**Ask yourself:** How do our circumstances affect challenges we may face together?



## BAKE

Bake some biscuits. But before you start, get all the ingredients together and think about what part they each play. Are all the ingredients equally important? Could you leave anything out and still get biscuits worth sharing? Even if you only need a small amount of one item, would it be missed if you didn't add it? Appreciate that many things have to come together to make recipe work. Enjoy your biscuits!



Jesus' teaching speaks first of being a servant and then of being a slave of all. In Jesus' time and in ours, being forced into slavery is not the same as choosing to serve. We don't have the same culture of servants today, thankfully, but we might go to a restaurant where we are served, or go to church for a service: in both cases, others are providing something to 'feed' us. Being a servant to others might involve a small act of thoughtfulness, or be on the scale of the efforts made by so many during the pandemic. What act of serving can you offer to someone today?



On your own or with others, imagine an organisation in which all involved in it are counted as equal, and how this would work. The official UK guidance on equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace refers to employees being able to raise issues with their managers. Any group, large or small, relies on someone taking responsibility, and others being willing to offer their services. From what you read of Jesus in the Bible, what was his role among the disciples with whom he had this conversation about serving others?

