

Abberton, Bishampton, Flyford Flavell, Grafton Flyford,
Naunton Beauchamp, North Piddle, Throckmorton



The Flyfords Family of Churches

26th July 2020 Service for The 7th Sunday After Trinity

Dear Friends,

Here, as usual during this strange year, is our weekly offering for you to use as you wish. Our thanks to Carole and Caroline (our Administrators) for getting information out to you each week during the pandemic! As you know, we shall continue to distribute this service for the time being, until things begin to settle down again. The good news is that we are beginning at last to experiment with having short services in some of our churches on a Sunday morning- (Bowland Benefice at present), so please keep a watch on the pages of the Flyford Flyer for any weekly updates on what is happening in the Flyfords family of Churches.

Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for you all, and I look forward to the day (very soon, I hope), when we can meet again together to worship God in spirit and in truth.

We shall continue to follow our usual Bible readings and prayers that we would normally be using in church, and there will be seasonal variations from time to time. Although I can't supply the music, I shall always include some hymns for you to use as you wish.

As always, you are very much in my prayers at this difficult time, and if you would like a call from me during the week, please do let Caroline know (07514 901344), or you can call me direct on the Rectory number (01905 841563).

Gary

Opening Prayer:

Faithful One, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise today, to inspire our prayer, and to shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray:

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you now in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us and help us.

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

The Collect:

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard-seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom, so that we may share your glory and be made perfect in your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn:

Beauty for brokenness

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord, in your suffering world
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice burns
Brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Reflection from Gary:

Do you know what the smallest and largest seed is on the face of planet earth? Well, apparently the largest is the seed of the sea-coconut, and the smallest is the seed of tropical orchids. One is as big as a boulder, and the other as tiny as dust. Maybe they could germinate them at Kew or Wisley, but most of us would struggle in our own gardens and greenhouses! Now, Jesus used a lot of agricultural/horticultural imagery in his teaching, especially when it came to that very special form of teaching- the Parables. By its very essence, a parable is meant to be taken as an illustration of a deeper spiritual truth, and Jesus has several here today in our reading from Matthew 13. They involve such things as mustard seed, yeast, treasure in fields, fine pearls, and fisherman's nets.

They all begin with the words: 'The Kingdom of God is like.....' Jesus is explaining to his hearers what the kingdom is and how we are meant to respond to it. Take the Parable of the Mustard seed, for example: the variety used by the ancient Palestinian farmers could grow up to 10 feet! Not exactly huge, but big enough for the birds to perch in. From small, fairly insignificant beginnings, some things grow enormous and bear much fruit- just like the Kingdom of God here, and we begin to see how it affects the whole of our lives, if we truly believe and follow Jesus as Lord. You know the phrase: 'every oak has been an acorn', I'm sure- sometimes we feel that our faith is small and insignificant, but Jesus teaches us something far bigger here. By the inner working of the Holy Spirit (if we allow him to) the kingdom spreads through the whole of our lives, just like the yeast here that we read about. In God's kingdom, life changes for us in every way, and we find that God gives us the strength and grace and capacity to do things that we might never have thought possible. God, of course, knows the potential of everyone, and he uses the most unlikely people for his great purposes. He has shown us that no person, whoever we are, is outside the scope of his kingdom and his saving purpose in his Son Jesus Christ.

So, next time you reach for the seed packet to sow something, think about these parables- no matter how large or small the seed might be!

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.

Our Prayers: (Please feel free to pray as you wish).

- We pray for our world and the leaders of the nations at this time.
- We pray for our own nation, our government and the Royal Family.
- We pray for our Church, both nationally and locally...pray especially for wisdom for our Archbishops, Bishops, and local clergy.
- We pray for ourselves, our family and friends, and all known to us in any kind of need.

Special prayer:

Sovereign God, time and again you have overturned human expectations, using the most unlikely of people in yet more unlikely surroundings. You have shown beyond doubt that each of us can be used by you. Teach me, then, to be open to everything you would do through me, working in ways that I would never have dared to contemplate or scarcely imagine. Thank you, Lord, that you recognise the potential of everyone and everything, and that, in your kingdom, you can do more with a little than I could hope to achieve had I the whole world at my disposal. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Hymn:

Come down O love divine

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till they become the place
where-in the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

Final Prayer and Blessing:

May God keep you in all your days. May Christ shield you in all your ways.
May the Spirit bring you healing and peace. May God the Holy Trinity drive all
darkness from you and pour upon you blessing and light, now and for
evermore. Amen.
