

Bulletin for Sunday 9 October 2022

Good morning friends.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing our first hymn:

Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing (R&S 285)

Prayers: Gracious God, we praise you!
We have so much to thank you for:
we have food to eat, and clothes to wear;
we have friends and families and so much more....
Thank you for the beauty of the world around us -
for green grass after rain, and autumn colours;
for patches of blue sky and shafts of sunlight;
and for peaceful dark night skies full of stars....
As we give thanks for the blessings we enjoy,
help us also to show your love to those in need.
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and on everything we give in your service,
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Luke 17: 11-19

Reflection: It was grim suffering from leprosy in those days - being complete outcaste from society, with no hope of healing. No future... Small wonder if this little group of ten had got together for mutual support and safety. Nor is it really surprising that most of them, when they realised that - contrary to all expectations - they were suddenly well, had other priorities than returning to say thank you. Almost unbelievably they had a future again - they could hug their families, return to their jobs, look forwards to life and love and laughter. They weren't ungrateful - they just wanted to seize life and not waste a single second!

Our modern lives can be full of activity, responsibilities, things to remember and things to worry about. In any day there may be dozens of little 'thank you's - for the door held

open, the receipt handed over with a smile, the cup of tea made the way we like it, or someone waiting patiently as we negotiate a narrow pavement. We don't remember them, however genuinely we meant 'thank you!' at the time.

Some thank yous are bigger, though. Just as the tenth leper was so bowled over by gratitude that he returned and prostrated himself before Jesus, trying to express with his whole body the feelings that were too great to put into words, so God gives each of us gifts which sometimes fill us to overflowing with thankfulness. Sometimes, as we remember, we really do thank God 'with hearts and hands and voices'. Amen

Hymn: Now thank we all our God (R&S 72)

Prayers: Loving God, when we see the state of our world,
we cry to you for help, just as the ten lepers did.
In different parts of the world, floods, drought, hurricanes...
People suffering ill health, physically and mentally...
so much anxiety and fear...
We remember the people of war-torn Ukraine,
those affected by the nursery school killings in Thailand,
and others briefly in the news... and then out of it...
Hear our cries for mercy, for your people, for your world...
You brought healing to the lepers...
so in hope we hold before you our world,
our communities, our neighbours and our loved ones.....
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers,
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling (R&S 663)

Blessing: May we be truly and deeply thankful...
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love,
this week, and always. Amen

No Sunday at Six service on Zoom this Sunday or next - back on 23rd.

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