



Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dan writes - as Sam is on holiday this week I am sharing with you instead the Reflection and Prayers from this week's Methodist Church Worship from Home service sheet, written by Ann Seaton.

The bible is full of 'pairs' ... Moses and Aaron, David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha; soul-mates who supported each other as they grew, so Jesus sends His disciples out two by two so that they might support each other. With His instructions, Jesus is telling them that 'as God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you'.

When I go on a trip I always take far too many clothes with me, most of which come back un-worn. No chance of the apostles doing that, but, as in the middle east the temperature can drop substantially when the sun goes down, I've always been surprised that they didn't have an extra shirt, just a staff and sandals ... that reminded me of another journey, when the Israelites were getting ready to leave Egypt at the first Passover and they are told (from The Message bible Exodus 11:11) "Be fully dressed with your sandals on and your stick in your hand".
As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you.

Being told not to take any food suggests that God will also fulfil that basic need. This is unsurprising; the Israelites spent years as desert nomads and so developed the custom of hospitality, and here is another parallel to the Exodus, with God providing enough manna each day for everyone.
As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you.

However, what about money?
The Israelites were told to "ask your neighbour and any guests in her house for objects of silver and gold, for jewellery and extra clothes" (Exodus 3:22) so that they didn't go into the desert with nothing.

Some commentaries cross-reference this reading to Matthew 10 v 10 which says (MEV) "the workman is worthy of his keep" suggesting that for work, the disciples will be fed.
As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you.

Aren't we blessed... this loving God who was and is and will be forever has provided in the past, does so today and will continue to do so until the end of time.
Thanks be to God, Amen.
Ann Seaton

Prayer for the week

Loving God who was and is and will be forever, we pray for the world and its people, for all who have struggled during the pandemic.

For Your church, for people of faith, for those struggling with faith, for those with other faiths and for those with no faith.

For all leaders that they may be fair and just and for victims of natural disasters or who are suffering because someone has ill-treated them.

For the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and for carers, health workers and emergency services.

For those who taught us the truths and duties of the Christian faith. In a time of silence we bring our personal concerns. Loving God who was and is and will be forever we ask these prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen
Ann Seaton



Messages from the Leadership Team

“At time of writing I’m in good spirits – last night England had a rare win over Germany (commiserations to Markus). It’s strange what type of things raise our spirits.

Helen and I were out for an early morning walk in the Surrey Hills a couple of weeks back. As the sun rose in the sky we could feel its heat. The birds were singing, rabbits running and beautiful countryside rolled out before us in all directions. A Buzzard circled overhead. I commented to Helen that it was hard to believe much of our wildlife is apparently endangered – it was everywhere this morning! We started running through the animals we would have seen regularly as children – they all seemed to be around in relative abundance, with one exception – hedgehogs. Neither of us could recall seeing a live hedgehog in years - yes, we could believe hedgehogs are endangered.

The following evening we were watching TV when something moved outside our patio doors. To our surprise there was a hedgehog on the patio. I preached last Sunday on miracles, but the coincidence of seeing a hedgehog just a day after we’d discussed not having seen one for 10 or more years seems just that. It certainly raised our spirits. We were like a couple of excited children. Unfortunately once we appeared the hedgehog went into a dark corner and wouldn’t pose for a photograph!

Many things raise our spirits. Music has that effect on many people. I know I am uplifted listening to our music group during Sunday morning worship. The IMM music sessions held here at Trinity also have that effect. And this Sunday at 3pm IMM are hosting an event in the gardens of Kettlewell House Care Home. This is part of Thank You Day, a national initiative. The idea is that through simple activities of getting together we say thank you for the work done by so many organisations and people during the pandemic. So why not join us – we’ll walk up there from Trinity at about 2.45pm. And my guess is it will be one of those occasions that raises our spirits. And depending on what happens in Rome on Saturday night, it might be just what we need.

Hugh Bowerman

Woking People of Faith: Forthcoming Events

International Peace Day - This year’s theme is ‘Climate Action for Peace’.

We have asked children to produce a poster or poem in answer to the question: ‘What is causing climate change and what can people of faith do to help solve it?’

We would normally hold an event to mark the occasion and invite the Mayor of Woking to give prizes to the winners at Woking Town Centre, along with other activities.

However, this year, we are having to do things differently and are working with RHS Wisley Gardens to mark the event on Zoom on Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 6.30 pm till 7.15 pm.

Winners of the competition will be announced and there will be a short talk from RHS Wisley Gardens.

All welcome to join on Zoom.

For more information please visit: www.wpof.org.uk or email: administrator@wpof.org.uk

Daphne Lander

A Word in Season 63 – In my Abba* Father’s House

... you know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. (1 Timothy 3: 15 – all references are from NRSVA unless otherwise shown)

**Abba, - a child’s word of respect for a parent who sustains and cares for their family in every detail; (p 333 The Complete Bible Handbook, John Bowker, Dorling Kindersley, London 1998)*

On Sunday 20th June Rev Sam gave the congregation a challenge. How would you define/describe Trinity as God’s House? For the past week that question has been in the back and often the front of my mind. Sam suggested that perhaps a picture or a poem might be used. I am not an artist or a poet, but as a simple wordsmith, I give you my imperfect offering.

First principles: In John’s Gospel Chapter 14v2, Jesus describes God’s House – **In my Father’s House are many dwelling-places;** Trinity, as a church building, could be said to have many dwelling-places of different shapes and sizes - from the Sanctuary to the Flower Room. We also welcome a variety of users across all age groups. I have worshipped and worked in Trinity for over fifty years and it has played a significant part in my faith journey and our family life and I have affection for it. However, it is only a church building, it may well be held with affection in our hearts, but at the end of the day it is only bricks and mortar.

That begs the question, what is the House of the Lord then? Put simply it is the people who come here. First, and foremost, we, who come to Trinity have to recognise that –**God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.** (John 4:24) God’s house here at Trinity must be a spiritual place full of Abba Father’s Spirit; with the Holy Spirit actively present, living and working among us, in our worship, prayer, outreach, work, leisure, in all facets of our lives and activities. The Holy Spirit should filter through us into the way we live and worship. In order to achieve this we have to consider where to start.

Love - God's love for us - God is our Abba Father who created us in his own image, we are a reflection of God, not God ourselves. God cares for us individually and as a church. The starting point is found in John's Gospel, Chapter 3 v 16,

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have everlasting life.

Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4: 7, 10, 12b)

This love is, unreservedly, for all, as St Paul says in Romans 3:22b-23 – **For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus;** hence we are all equal in God's eyes, no one is better or worse than another, and we are all forgiven and accepted as God's children through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This forgiveness is for all, no matter what - therefore we should not judge each other, as Jesus said – **'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. (Matthew 7:1)** but encourage and support each other.

Faith - in God's forgiveness and hope in God's faithfulness to us, brings with it joy – **I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents ... (John 15:7a) Although you have not seen him (Jesus), you love him; you believe in him and rejoice with and indescribable joy (1 Peter 1:8)**

Joy naturally brings us to **Praise and Worship** – **'I will bless the Lord at all times his praise shall continually be in my mouth; Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp. Sing to him a new song. For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. (from Psalms 34:1, 33:1 -5).**

After praise and thanksgiving what is our response to God's love and forgiveness through grace? The prophet Micah puts it simply – **What does the Lord require of you but do justice, and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)**

Jesus makes it even more clear – **I was hungry and you gave me food (physical and spiritual), I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.**

(Matthew 25:35-36) (Imprisonment can also be found in a variety of physical, emotional and psychological situations).

Jesus said; **I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life, (John 8:12). You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matt. 5:16)**

Putting all this together my vision of Trinity - my Abba Father's House - is throbbing with the power of the Holy Spirit, prayer, praise, joy, faith and hope. There is fellowship, through the unconditional love for our Lord, for each other, and the world around us. Friend and stranger are welcomed without prejudice or favour. There is celebration of God's love for us through Jesus, and the forgiveness and redemption his grace has given us. Joy and praise are reflected in sharing various styles and ways of worship to celebrate our love for Abba Father and his everlasting love for us.

Also a light shining into the darkness around us - caring, sharing, giving, with much loving in every way possible, seeking new options with faith and hope to share the Gospel of love here in Woking and the wider world.

I know we are work in progress as individuals and a church but we are all forgiven and have aptitudes and skills to share, and, working together, with the Holy Spirit we can let our light shine out to share the 'Light of the World', with Love, Faith, Hope, Prayer, Joy, Praise and Personal Commitment to Serve. The hymn writer Marty Haugen puts it so well in StF 409:

"Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here, the love of Christ shall end divisions. All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as a symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus. All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us. All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger. All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *All are welcome in this place*".

This is my vision – we will all have our own visions – but, we must lovingly, constructively, share them so that the Holy Spirit can move within our Abba Father’s house and lead us purposefully into the future. Amen

Graham

Valerie’s Quiz Corner!

Answers from the last quiz:

1. Who wrote the book “War Horse”? *Michael Morpurgo*
2. Which mountain in the US. State of Georgia displays the largest bas-relief in the world, depicting 3 confederate leaders from the American Civil War? *Stone Mountain*
3. What does a hygrometer measure? *Humidity*
4. What flavour is the liqueur Cassis? *Blackcurrant*
5. What is a flat round cake of pastry filled with currants and named after a town near Manchester? *Eccles Cake*
6. Which tree is the sloe the fruit of? *Blackthorn*
7. What was Tom Jones first U.K. number 1 single? *“It’s Not Unusual”*
8. In Monopoly, what colour is a Hotel? *Red*
9. Where in Cornwall is The Eden Project? *Near St Austell*
10. What is the main interest of an arctophile? *Teddy Bears*
11. What is the name of the windmill-dwelling detective played by Alan Davies? *Jonathan Creek*
12. Which African Republic was known as Northern Rhodesia until 1964? *Zambia*
13. Which country do The Galapagos Islands belong to? *Ecuador*
14. Which king is commemorated by a statue in the market place of Wantage, where he was born? *Alfred the Great*
15. How long did it take to build the New Coventry Cathedral? *Six years*

This week’s questions:

1. A monadnock is a small type of what?
2. What colour is found on 70% of the world’s flags?
3. What is a spirometer used for?
4. What is the number of the R.A.F. squadron which carried out the Dambuster raid in 1943?
5. How many rooms are in Buckingham Palace?
6. Which art gallery holds Vincent Van Gough’s painting, “Starry Night Over The Rhone”?
7. Aduke, borlotti and cannellini are all types of what?
8. In which part of the body would you find the cruciate ligament?
9. Which Welsh city lies at the mouth of the river Taff and has a suburb called Tiger Bay?
10. Which is the world’s deepest ocean?
11. Who wrote ‘The Catcher in the Rye’?
12. Which method of communication involves two flags?
13. Who created the famous statue “The Thinker”?
14. Which animal kills the most humans?
15. Of which country is Karachi the largest city?

What next for the newsletter?

Many thanks if you have already responded to the survey online, or by post. I will keep the survey link open until early next week, so if you would like to respond, please do so over this weekend: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8ZVHMS6>

We really appreciate your feedback. Thank you.

Dan WS



Paul and I were in the garden on Sunday and these fledglings flittered around our heads before settling in his apple tree. I wanted to share this lovely image. *Dan*