



Christ Church Stocksbridge

“Together at Home” with Green Moor & Crane Moor

GOD OF COMPASSION

Sunday 22nd November 2020

Call to worship

God, you come in disguises:
in a friend asking for a chat,
in a person asking for help,
in all calls for assistance.

May we take the time to hear you,
knowing that when we respond to one person,
we are responding to you –
who always responds to us.

Prayers of Thanksgiving from Alyson

In these extremely difficult, challenging and distressing times we can feel that we haven't got a lot to be grateful for. We can find ourselves focussing on the negatives. Things we can't do, places we can't go and people we can't see. If we turn it around we have so much to be grateful for.

Dear Lord

Thank you for families and friends, we may not be able to see them or hug them. But how lucky we are to have them.

We live in comfortable homes where we are warm and well fed, we have power and water. Thank you, lots of people are not so fortunate. We live in a beautiful place, surrounded by fields, trees, dams and moors. We can look at sheep, cows, birds and ducks. Even llamas! Thank you.

We have family and friends who are ill or bereaved, have lost their jobs and are struggling to find work. Some of us meet people who are desperate and are in dire straits and we try to show your love by helping where we can. Thank you for our guidance.

Thank you for your constant love, put your arms around us and hold us close. Keep us safe in the knowledge that you are with us. Thank you for being a source of strength and courage.

How lucky are we ? **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.**

Introduction To Activity

Joys and Concerns & Offertory Prayer

First Hymn The Lord's my Shepherd STF 480

1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

2 My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

The Weekly Lectionary Readings

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Matthew 25.31-46 Ephesians 1.15-23; Psalm 95.1-7a;

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

The Lord Is the Good Shepherd

11 The Lord God then said:

I will look for my sheep and take care of them myself, 12 just as a shepherd looks for lost sheep. My sheep have been lost since that dark and miserable day when they were scattered throughout the nations. But I will rescue them 13 and bring them back from the foreign nations where they now live. I will be their shepherd and will let them graze on Israel's mountains and in the valleys and fertile fields. 14 They will be safe as they feed on grassy meadows and green hills. 15 I promise to take care of them and keep them safe, 16 to look for those that are lost and bring back the ones that wander off, to bandage those that are hurt and protect the ones that are weak. I will also slaughter^[a] those that are fat and strong, because I always do right.

Footnotes ^[a] 34.16 slaughter: Hebrew; three ancient translations "take care of."

20 So I, the Lord God, will separate you strong sheep from the weak. 21 You strong ones have used your powerful horns to chase off those that are weak, 22 but I will rescue them and no longer let them be mistreated. I will separate the good from the bad. 23 After that, I will give you a shepherd from the family of my servant King David. All of you, both strong and weak, will have the same shepherd, and he will take good care of you. 24 He will be your leader, and I will be your God. I, the Lord, have spoken.

Matthew 25.31-46

I haven't included the words for reasons of space and I think they will be familiar, or soon become so as you listen to the reading or read it at home.

SECOND HYMN Stuart Townsend. STF 481

The Lord's my Shepherd
The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

CHORUS: And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

CHORUS:

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

CHORUS:

Prayers of Intercession from Christine Gilbert

Forgive us, Lord. Sometimes we find it hard to pray and our faith is rocky. Just now, 2020, the year none of us will ever forget, we find everything difficult.

We feel angry because our liberty has been taken away, we can't see or hold our loved ones. Life has changed beyond all recognition and we long for our freedom again.

Yet many more of us are realising what a beautiful world we live in, and how the great outdoors can help with our mental health issues.

The world you created Lord has been torn apart by wars and greed; the habitats of many of our wild creatures decimated by unthinking and irresponsible forces, just to be able to plant and harvest the palm oil we have seemingly become dependent upon. Perhaps we should all try to look for alternatives, however difficult we may find it.

In these strange and frightening times we need you more than ever, Lord. Everything is so uncertain yet you are the only constant in our lives and we ask you to be with us through all we still have to bear.

Forgive us for all our wrongdoings and, above all, help us to be caring and kind. **Amen**

Blessing - Prayer for going out

Lord, may we leave this place with our cotton wool, our resolve to serve you and in the certain knowledge that you will nudge us and resource us and be with us every step of the way. We pray this in and through the name of Jesus.

Amen

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, evermore. **Amen**

Vesper

Take Oh take me as I am; Summon out what I shall be; Set your seal upon my heart and live in me. X 2

Now let's all enjoy a coffee or tea together.