



~AT HOME WORSHIP~



5th September 2021
Theme: No Borders

Preparation

Welcoming God, you invite us
to worship you and to be together.
Sustain us with your presence,
nourish us with your word,
strengthen us in your service
and send us out to live
every day of our lives, in your name.
Amen.

Hymn/Song:



[When I Needed a Neighbour \(7vv\) \[with lyrics\] - YouTube](#)

When I needed a neighbour

Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbour

Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty

Were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty

Were you there?

I was cold, I was naked

Were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked

Were you there?

When I needed a shelter

Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a shelter

Were you there?

**When I needed a healer
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer
Were you there?**

***And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?***

**Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there
Wherever you travel
I'll be there
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
I'll be there**

<https://lyricstranslate.com>

Opening Prayers

All-inclusive and ever-loving God,
we praise and adore you.
With you there is no south or north,
no east or west – no borders.
You care for each one of us.
You are a healing God, who heals us
wherever and whenever we need your touch –
whether in body, mind or spirit.
We look upon you now,
our hearts ablaze with love for you.
Amen.

Prayer for the Day

Lord God, we come to you in so many different ways.
We may jump for joy at being in your presence;
or we may shamble in,
weighed down by the cares of our world.
The Gentile woman,
overcome with worry about her daughter,
fell at your feet and pleaded with you.
The deaf man had the people of Decapolis to plead for his healing.

God of miracles, however we are feeling,
we come to meet you, expectant and hopeful.
Whether we are one or many,
and whatever our station in life,
you welcome us, arms wide open –
and we worship you, Lord God of all.
Amen.

Saying Sorry

Forgive us, Lord, for all the times
we are too quick to form opinions,
too quick to judge others;
the times we don't give people the benefit of the doubt;
or fail to consider what they might be going through.
Open our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as you do.
Amen.

BIBLE READINGS



Mark 7 24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that you may go – the demon has left your daughter." So, she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."



Isaiah 35 4-7a

REFLECTION TIME Short Reflection by Janet Clarke

Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet

Jesus knew that his mission, first and foremost, was to the Jews; yet he was inclusive. He made time for this Gentile woman who was outside of the group of people he should normally associate with. The fact that he was travelling in this area at all, and speaking to a Gentile woman, would have been radical. Later, both Jesus and the man born deaf crossed the borders of what was socially acceptable, in order for the man to be healed (would you let someone spit on you and touch your tongue?!). Are we willing to step out of what is familiar and away from people we are comfortable with, in order to include everyone and follow God's prompting?

- A chaplain was telling the women in a UK prison about the woman from Tyre. When they heard about Jesus speaking to the woman as though she was a dog stealing food from the Jewish people, they assumed Jesus was insulting her. But they warmed to the idea that Jesus might be testing her in a battle of words. They agreed that she stood up to Jesus and spoke well. In other healing stories, Jesus says that people's faith had made them well. But here, Jesus compliments the woman for her words – and it is because of those words that she learns that God has healed her daughter. In today's culture, where women are encouraged to speak for themselves, how is this story heard and what difference does it make?

What might it be like to be deaf? How would it change the way you communicate with others and engage with society? How does hearing loss disadvantage someone? Are there positive things about being deaf? What might it be like to have Jesus say, 'Be opened' and suddenly hear? Have you ever met someone having a cochlea implant turned on for the first time? It is like a miracle. I am sure I have told folk before, but I feel I must again. It is 1984. My husband was in hospital in Portsmouth with meningitis and pretty much unconscious. Sunday came and people in church prayed for Chris to get better, to walk again, Alan aged 4, said 'the prayers are not correct I want to pray'. I let him speak into the microphone and he shouted 'Dear God please make my dad better so he can read the Bible lesson in this church next Sunday, love Alan.'. A machine came from USA and the next Sunday Chris read the lesson. In church were four hospital doctors and three preschool ladies with their families. They all joined church. WOW. Locks Heath Free church built a new building, started Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade, Alan joined anchor boys. Eventually members of the congregation went as missionaries to Nepal. A retired Baptist minister gave up retirement and came to run the church. We had seen a miracle.

Mark's story tells of two people who not only felt that they weren't welcome – it was a lived reality. Neither of them was welcome in Israel because they were not Jewish. The woman was a Gentile – a non-Jew. That was what defined her and made her not welcome. A Gentile and a woman – Jesus should not have spoken to her. But he did. She had clearly heard of Jesus. She came to find him, to beg healing for her daughter. It may be a bit tricky for us to understand all the ins and outs of the – to us – strange conversation they had, but the result was Jesus spoke to her and her daughter was healed. Religious and cultural boundaries are no barrier to God's kingdom.

And the man who was deaf was also not a Jew – he came from Decapolis. And Jesus speaks to him too, and he too is healed. And if we didn't get it with the woman and her daughter, Mark is explicit this time: this is fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah chapter 35 – a prophecy about how God's kingdom will come to the whole world, not just the Jews.

Is it significant that Mark tells us the Aramaic – ephphatha – that Jesus speaks so that it stands out? Could it be referring not just to the man's ears and mouth but also to the kingdom, now opened to Gentiles? All foods being declared clean expands into all people being declared clean. Jesus again tries to keep what he's doing quiet. But word spreads like wildfire through the whole area. The Jewish leaders might not get it, but two Gentiles have joined him in his message: the boundaries are breaking down, everyone's welcome to come and experience God's reign.



Why is generosity important today?

Last year, to mark his 100th birthday, the now late Captain (Sir) Tom Moore raised £32 million for the NHS in the UK by walking around his garden. What began as a family affair caught the imagination of so many, and people generously gave money to support the work of the NHS. But, while generosity includes how we use our money, it should extend well beyond that and encompass pretty much every attitude and response we have to other people. In the Bible we are regularly reminded about just how generous God is to us, not least in and through Jesus. Jesus is generous to children, to beggars, to those who are disabled, to his opponents and his disciples (who don't always get things right). There are genuine signs of generosity in the world; there are also plenty of times it seems to be in short supply. The Bible challenges us to be generous in every aspect of our lives.



Tim

- Are there any places – perhaps a restaurant, bar, or another place where people gather – that, technically, you could go to, but for some reason you feel that you don't fit in? Mark's story tells of two people who weren't welcome in Israel because they weren't Jewish – and yet Jesus welcomed them. Put yourself in their shoes – the quick-witted woman able to finish Jesus' parable, or the deaf man excluded because he could neither hear nor speak properly. What did it mean to them to be welcomed into the kingdom Jesus proclaims? How do you think the disciples reacted to this? What lessons are there for us and for our church community?

Time for Prayer Lord God of healing,
 we thank you for the different ways you answer our prayers.
 The Gentile woman wasn't frightened to answer you back –
 and you knew she was right.
 We thank you for the power of words.
 The deaf man had the confidence in you,
 to jump up and receive your healing.
 We thank you for the power of actions
 that speak louder than words.
 Thank you that you are available
 to each one of us who truly believes.

(Thank you Lord)

Let us pray

As the children return to school, year 7's on Friday 3rd September we pray for those who are worried and afraid of this new venture. We pray for the children at Lydiard Park Academy in West Swindon. Be with them Lord and guide them . Help them to live in your generous way.

We pray for St Mary's church Lydiard Tregoze as they prepare for the Heritage weekend , and we pray for their musicians and Bible readers today that God will lead them in his way.

We pray for everyone involved with the Bethany Children's trust , may their funds be sufficient for the need.

We pray for the Church of England. Thankyou Lord that it is still running and producing material for us to use. Thank you for guiding us through the pandemic with daily thoughts. Please guide the writers of the next lectionary so that all may feel welcome .

Dear Lord we pray for our communities as they come out of COVID precautions. Please guide everyone in your way.

Let us pray to have sufficient faith to know how to look at life.

I would like to rise very high, Lord

Above my city

Above the world

Above time

I would like to purify my glance and borrow your eyes.

(Michel Quoist Prayers of life)

Lord's Prayer (traditional or contemporary)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.

Hymn/Song

[There is a Redeemer \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)



There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own son
Precious lamb of God, Messiah
Holy one

Jesus my redeemer
Name above all names
Precious lamb of God, Messiah
Oh, for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory
I will see his face
And there I'll serve my king forever
In that holy place.

There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own son
Precious lamb of God, Messiah
Holy one

*Thank you oh my father
For giving us your son
And leaving your spirit
'Til the work on earth is done.*

Closing Prayer

Loving God, who rescues us and restores us,
we think of those who need your help today.

We pray especially for those who feel ignored,
those whose problems are swept under the mat,
whose cries for help are downplayed or devalued.

We pray for those who feel they do not have a place to belong,
a safe place to find support and friendship.

We pray for the Afghan refugees as they arrive in a strange land.

Help us to help them O Lord

WE pray for the survivors and the rescuers of the Haiti disaster

We pray for those in situations of captivity,
in whatever sense of the word,

for those who cannot see a way through the darkness,
for those who feel their lives are in pieces.

We ask that you would touch their lives,
that they may know you as healer and as friend.

As for us, make us their advocates and their champions;

where the world has abandoned them,

help us walk beside them,

showing your love to all who need it.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Dismissal

May the peace of the Lord go with you , wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the days ahead meeting many strangers

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you,

God bless you now and always



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