

The Methodist Church

SUNDAY 24TH MAY AFTER ASCENSION

LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

GOSPORT

BRIDGEMARY

INTRODUCTION

We inherit things from our parents, our grandparents, sometimes from ancestors further back and occasionally friends. We will leave things for our relatives and maybe friends whether they want them or not. I have been going through photographs that I had given and now have come back to me along with a lot of others. Are they still the others, or are they now mine and should they be mine when others might prize them? It takes time for them to become mine, because I have to accept them as mine. We cannot inherit faith, we may have been brought up by devout parents who took us to Church, but faith does not become mine until I accept it as mine and then it begins to fill me.

OPENING PRAYERS

As the disciples watched Jesus disappear out of sight they were told to wait in Jerusalem, help us O Lord to wait in your presence before we begin to worship you. Help us to wait and stand still to listen to your word. May your Holy Spirit inspire us and instruct us in your way of holiness as your disciples were and help us to be ready to receive him as he fills us again and again.

When we ignore you, Father forgive us
When we ignore others, Father forgive us,
When we are self-centred, Father forgive us
When we do things without thinking about others, Father forgive us
Father forgive us and help us to amend our ways, Amen

READINGS

Acts 1:6-14
John 17:1-11

HYMNS

300 Hail the day that sees him rise,
595 Lord, we have come at your own invitation,

REFLECTION

We are certainly doing a lot of waiting at the moment, waiting for the time of the pandemic to peter out so we can resume life with out the fear of being near someone with the live virus. We are waiting for a vaccine to be found so we can all be vaccinated and be safe. We hope this happens sooner or later, but the sooner the better. The disciples are told to wait, they wait praying daily waiting patiently.

There has been an initiative for some time called *Thy Will Be Done*, a time of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost for people we know. We pray that they will come to know the faith we have and we commit to eleven days of prayer asking God to intervene in peoples lives, to make himself known to them. Then it is waiting patiently to witness those answers. Jesus prayed for

the disciples, that they (we) will be one, that they (we) will be safe. By safe Jesus means that we will not be lost from the kingdom of God. Our prayers for peoples safety are that they are kept away from this virus, not that they are kept eternally within the Kingdom of God.

As Jesus has gone, so he will return again, the early Church thought this could happen at any moment, "The End is Nigh" has been paraded up and down High Streets for a very long time. But now it is The Extinction Rebellion who have taken up this phrase and suddenly people are listening and missing the point, Jesus returning, is the end, nothing left to save in that sense. Yes of course, we should take care of our environment, drive less and walk more, recycle as much as is permissible where we live, grow flowers, grow vegetables and I could easily go on.

The disciples charge is to pass on what they have been given , in a way they have been entrusted with an inheritance, that was never theirs to keep to themselves. Jesus took time with them in order that they could truly understand some of the breadth, length and height of the Kingdom of God. We are now those disciples, the faith has reached down through the ages to us. We are the ones entrusted to wait until we have the opportunities to pass The Good News on.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father we pray for and lift to you those we are praying for, that Your Kingdom may come and grow in their lives; please keep us calm as well,
Gracious God
Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father we pray for those we know but are not allowed to see at this time, give them peace and give them patience and meet the needs they have, may Your Kingdom come and grow in their lives,
Gracious God
Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father we pray for the local communities here, for businesses, for producers and those who sell, bless their businesses that they may do well. Bless the High Streets so that we can easily walk to local shops,
Gracious God
Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father we pray for those at the end of their earthly life and for those who love and care for them, may each one know they are loved by you, may each one know you comforting them and give them peace, the deep peace that can only come from you as they watch and care.
Gracious God
Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, may your healing hand be on those not well at this time, restoring them to health. Heavenly Father, comfort those in sorrow and give peace to the broken hearted, let them know your peace and presence,
Gracious God
Hear our prayer

These and all our prayers we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen

BLESSING

Jesus Christ our King, keep us strong and faithful to do your will, that we too may be with you in Heaven. The blessing of Almighty God, be with you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, this day and for ever, Amen

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Thy Kingdom Come can be emailed to you should you want it. Please email Celia or phone and I will send it. Celia