

The Methodist Church
SUNDAY 12TH JULY 2020

GOSPORT

BRIDGEMARY

LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

INTRODUCTION

With each step we take through this lockdown, there is new legislation, we are trying to work our way through this to come up with critical cleaning charts and risk assessments to show we have met our legal obligations before we can reopen. We are in the process of finding out how many we can legally seat, so need to know from each of you if you will be coming to Church once it is open. If there are too many for the space we have, then you will have to book for the first or second service, both will be the same. We are not legally allowed to overfill the Church. We are not allowed to sing and can only speak quietly, there will be no refreshments after. The preacher will use the microphone so you will hear them.

OPENING PRAYERS

Thank you Lord Jesus Christ for the patience you have given us, the quiet acceptance you have enabled us to display, may those who watch us see we have something that they do not and help them to begin to turn towards you. We are so mindful that we do not always get things right, so help us to reflect your love in all that we do and forgive us when we do not. May we know and understand that the God of love cleanses us from our sin and restores us to understanding the words of Paul that there is no condemnation for those of us who are in Christ Jesus, Amen.

READINGS

Genesis 25:19-34
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

HYMNS

555 Jesus, all for Jesus
545 Be thou my vision,

REFLECTION

I always find it strange that we have this parable of the sower reading in the middle of what for most is the growing season. Depending on where we live in the world, (I know you all live here or near here), is when in the year harvest will take place. It also depends on what is grown as I am picking and eating beans and peas, not enough to cook but yummy as they are and more are growing to extend the season. Spiritually are we in the middle of the growing season waiting for the harvest to come in? Have we been cultivating faith in our friends and family. We may have been able to show a sense of calm instead of the fear and worry others may have been feeling. They know we have faith or know we go to Church and can see we react differently, usually calmer, less agitated, less verbal than they are or feel. We can get to a sense of calm knowing ultimately God is in control of our lives, he promises to keep us safe and we can trust that.

Thinking about fruit, Paul is talking about a confidence we can have in the faith we have. That we can trust we are forgiven when we confess our failings and there is no need to doubt. This confidence maybe an all of a sudden experience, or something that grows in us slowly. Where growing is concerned Jesus talks about the grain bearing much fruit, as Christians we are changed by each encounter we have with him, we do not stop being ourselves, we become more sensitive to those around us, more caring, respond revealing the love and compassion of Jesus as we in turn begin to sow seeds of faith. How we are with people either points them to Jesus or puts them off. May we be the ones who help to grow the kingdom of God in this place.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord of compassion we ask you to help us grow in the knowledge of our faith, give each of us the confidence to say what our faith means to us when asked to do so. May those who hear what we say be convinced that the faith we talk about is genuine, may they be the good soil we sow seeds of faith into. We pray for those we know and love meet the needs they have and bless them with your peace and presence,
In your great mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord of compassion we ask you to help all who are preparing to reopen our Churches; we pray for those on Church Councils, for those who are Stewards, Cleaners and those who rent parts of our buildings, give them the willingness they need to put into place all that is now required, so we can safely reopen our doors. Help those tasked with putting together risk assessments and cleaning lists, so that all are safe,
In your great mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord of compassion we ask you to help our communities to flourish, strengthen the local economy so that all may benefit. We pray for those facing unemployment may they find suitable jobs locally. We pray you will help us to be brave enough to visit our local shops, to walk and cycle without fear and keep us safe as you promised you would, help us to support the local economy,
In your great mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord of compassion we ask you to give and keep giving a sense of compassion to those who govern us, that the poor will have enough to live on, that the rescued homeless will have the support they need to cope with the housing they are being given and may they find favour with the employers they apply to and find a new sense of purpose,
In your great mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord of compassion we ask you to give comfort to those who mourn especially Lillian Close and her family, surround them and all who mourn with your love and peace at this time
In your great mercy
Hear our prayer

BLESSING

Local Lay Pastor Celia
Mobile: 0740 1201525
Phone: 023 92521 398
Email: pastor@esanddcircuit.org.uk

Please let your own Church know if you will be attending when it is open again. This will help them to determine and let preachers know how many services they need to lead on that Sunday and at what time the service/s will begin.