

**The Methodist Church**  
SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2020

BRIDGEMARY

GOSPORT

LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

**INTRODUCTION**

Two of our Churches are now open, so the need for this is changing and soon there will be something similar to this that can be downloaded from the circuit website to be sent out to those who are unable to attend Church. I will continue to do a Magazine on a bi-monthly basis for everyone that will include short devotions for each Sunday. This I hope will mean everyone who cannot get to Church will have a devotional resource to feel included in our local Church.

**OPENING PRAYERS**

Holy and Eternal God, we bring ourselves into your presence to worship you to bow before your throne in heaven, to give you thanks and praise for all that you have done and all that you will do, for your great love for us, for the giving of your Son Jesus to be our Saviour and rescuer from a life of ignoring you.

Forgive our sins in thought, word and deed, and cleanse us from all wrong doing so that we may walk in newness of life, to the Glory of your name, Amen.

**READINGS**

Genesis 45:1-15

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-28

**HYMNS**

682 God of grace and God of glory

628 Faithful one

**REFLECTION**

Strangers, we have all been strangers at one time or another. Going for a job interview and knowing no-one, then when you get the job the only person you know is the boss, but it is not long before you get to know the people you are working with. Jacobs' sons did not recognise the stranger before them, he was an Egyptian official, so why should they, but Joseph knows who they are. His brothers having heard nothing for more than 10 years, assumed he was dead. Joseph knows that God had used him in order for Egyptian policy to save his family from the famine and provide food for them.

From the gospel reading we have the Canaanite woman, not someone Jesus and his disciples should be talking with. She is persistent, Jesus is not rude to her with the banter he uses between the two of them. She knows who Jesus is, she knows he can do a miracle in her daughters' life and she has had some contact with those from the Jewish community. Out of her mouth comes what is expected of a person of faith. She knows what Jesus is capable of and she expects him to do the same for her daughter. Before this story Jesus is talking about the attitudes we have to life, that either bring out good behaviour or bad unholy behaviour. The Canaanite woman is pushed by her daughters' illness, out of her comes faith that Jesus can make a difference.

Joseph is pushed, he is pushed in all sorts of ways, by all sorts of forces and spends some time in Pharaohs' prison. At each and every turn and twist in the story of Joseph, he can see the hand of God at work in his life. The result is he is the best he can be in each situation, he is not afraid of what the interpretations of the dreams are, he is not afraid of Pharaohs' response

which may not have been favourable. Joseph could not know what the outcome would be and does not run away from the responsibility he is given, he rises to the challenge among strangers.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Glory be to you O Lord, for you are the one who hears and answers prayer hear our prayers O Lord we pray.

We pray for places around the world where there is not true justice, where the people are maligned and falsely imprisoned, we think of those in Iran and Hong Kong. We pray for those living through a long war especially those in Yemen and Syria that peace and restoration may begin. We pray for the ongoing rift between China and America that both will back down,  
In your mercy  
Hear our prayers

We pray for the people caught up in the Stonehaven train derailment, comfort the bereaved we pray, place your healing hand on those who are injured, give peace to those traumatised by this accident,  
In your mercy  
Hear our prayers

We pray for the people in Beirut that they will get the resources they need to rebuild, that new hospitals are built and equipped to replace the ones that were destroyed by the blast, let your healing hand touch the injured, let your hand of mercy hold the hands of those whose loved ones died,  
In your mercy  
Hear our prayers

We pray for all those students who have received results and those still waiting to know what their immediate future will be and those supporting them, give them peace and give them the courage they need,  
In your mercy  
Hear our prayers

We pray for those we know, family, friends, neighbours, meet with them where they are and help each one. We pray for those wanting to avoid a two week quarantine as they scramble to return to Britain give them safe journeys we pray,  
In your mercy  
Hear our prayers

We pray for those who are not well at this time, Win Gibbens and others we know, place your healing hand on them. We hold before you those who are mourning the death of loved ones, give them peace and help them to remember the funny stories, so they can laugh again,  
In your mercy  
Hear our prayers

These prayers we pray in Jesus Name, Amen

#### BLESSING

May the Triune God bless you, May the Triune God bless your family, May the Triune God bless your friends, May the Triune God bless our work here, May the Triune God bless our work there. To him be praise and glory, Amen

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