

## Informal Morning Service

Tuesday 9th June 2020

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.

Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever **Amen**.

Together we pray:

**Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to pray, lift up our hearts to worship you in Spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Confession

Jesus says, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. So let us turn away from sin and turn to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: we confess to you our neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, our wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts we have done to others, and the good we have left undone. O God, forgive us, for we have sinned against you; and raise us to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Absolution

May the Lord enrich us with his grace, and nourish us with his blessing; may the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil; may the Lord accept our prayers and forgive us all our sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

### Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### Reading

Matthew 12 v46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.'

But to the one who told him this, Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' And pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'

### Pause for Thought

Families are strange, complex and amazing things, we all have a differing experience of what family life is. Some people have the most wonderful family life. Within our church we have families that seem from the outside to be wonderful. Roy and Dot, Sally and Amy to name but two. My own family with my 3 sisters and 1 brother is on the whole great. We all get on reasonably well. We enjoy getting together at various times of the year for special occasions and other stuff. I love setting up camp with my brother Jon and his children and my mother. And this year I will miss this family time together... of eating Frosties in a field on a slightly dewy table, or BBQing fish and steak



on Jon's portable gas BBQ that he has squeezed into his van of tools that he brings with him each year. From our church I love seeing Amy and Sally interacting with each other and their kids, there is a deep love for each other, and Roy and Dot again show great care for their family and grandchildren.

Others though have families that are too difficult and can be painful to spend time with – it has been said that you choose your friends but you can't choose your family. In fact, I know a few people that for them family and those sibling relationships are completely overrated and redundant in their lives.

Then if you get married, you find that your partner comes into your life with their family, with all the joys and hang-ups that that brings, suddenly your time and energy is thrust into the dynamics of another family that you are now part of. And that is great, and when you marry you married someone you hopefully love, and hopefully you will grow fond of your in laws... but this is not always the case, and I have friends who have in-laws that are a little strange... before you ask I have been reasonably fortunate with Rachels family. Especially if they are reading or watching this!!!

And then, we are part of a church, another family we are part of ...

In this passage today we see that Jesus had a family, and the reading tells of a time they came to spend time with him. This gave Jesus an opportunity to talk about family and what makes us part of Gods family.

In the previous chapters of Matthew, we see the ways that people had responded to Jesus, many came with questions, some came for healing, others were curious about the things Jesus was teaching. They all responded in different ways.

The religious leaders of the day also came to see Jesus, so often their response to Jesus was the wrong one... They saw everything that Jesus did but rejected it, asking for more evidence, for more information. We see that they were happy to enjoy his miracles, but didn't want to change the things they were doing that got in the way of them truly serving God. They had a choice to make to be part of Gods family or do things their own way with their set of ways and based on their human understanding of history and tradition.

The right reaction to all of Jesus's teaching is to answer yes to these things; do you want to have God at the centre of your life, are you willing to love him with your whole heart, is God in charge of the way you respond to situations and issues.

We see that they had the wrong thinking about life, they were not seeing things as God see things, they missed the point of what their role in Gods family was all about. Once we decide we don't want Jesus in charge of our lives we react differently to his teachings and his ways. Our acts of love are often self-serving rather than God serving. We have a different motivation for doing things. Even the good things of Jesus get rejected and we can end up in a place that feels far away from God's love for us.

Jesus used his own family to point out that Gods family is set up differently, its not about blood

relationships. The right reaction to Jesus comes from those that follow him, these are his family, these are the adopted heirs of Gods kingdom. Our family is those that come to Jesus as they are and let Him transform them into his ways.

Matthew 11 v 28 says; "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Jesus invites us to come and learn from him. And the word "learn" is almost the same as the word for a "disciple". A "disciple" is someone who has come to learn the art of living from Jesus. We are called to learn from Jesus, in the



same way that a plumber, or builder, a dentist, doctor or mechanic passes on their knowledge to an intern or apprentice.

Jesus disciples were doing the same thing, they were learning from Jesus, they were seeking to follow his ways and his footsteps, this made them part of His family.

When we choose to follow Jesus and do things His way we are part of His family, but unlike our earthly families, we are advised not to keep them at arm's length or just interact with them when we want to. We are called to follow Jesus, to be a disciple, a learner, and to build our lives on the firm foundation that is Jesus. We have a God that is trustworthy and loves us with an everlasting love. This is why if we follow what our Father in Heaven want us to do, then we are called brother, sister and mother by Jesus.

This is the incredible joy of having God as our father in heaven and one that should make us think about what it is to part of Gods family here in this place.

We declare our faith our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel to pray

Lord God, make your ways known upon the earth: your saving power among the peoples.

Renew your church in holiness: and help us to serve you with joy.

Guide the leaders of this and every nation: that justice may prevail throughout the world.

Let not the needy be forgotten: nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Make us instruments of your peace: and let your glory be over all the earth.

A moment of silent prayer

Lord, we ask you to accept all our prayers and answer them for your glory. **Amen.**

**As we end this service we say together: Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and accompany us in this day's journey. Scatter our darkness and open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

And now may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy

Ghost, be amongst us and remain with us always Amen

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord In the name of Christ. Amen.

