

# Mickleover and Dean Street Methodist Churches Service Sheet

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Worship in Mickleover MC is at 10am and on Zoom, led by the Sunday School  
Worship in Dean St MC is at 10.30am, led by preacher Peter Nelson

### Call to worship

Let us worship our Creator God,  
who has given us the miracle of life  
and sustains us through the sacred rhythms of  
planet Earth.

### A gathering prayer

Here we are, Creator God, Lord and Spirit,  
standing before you, grounded on the earth,  
our hands stretched high like a tree.  
You fill us with amazement, wonderful  
God. **Amen.**

### Hymn StF No 100 - All Things Bright & Beautiful

#### Prayers of confession; praise and thanksgiving

God of mystery,  
Sower, Saviour, Spirit,  
we worship you;  
and we ask you to give us:  
eyes to notice where the seeds of your kingdom  
are growing,  
courage to show them to others,  
faith enough to help nurture them,  
and a heart that delights in their harvest. **Amen.**

God of all,  
you do not force growth but nurture it.  
**Forgive us when we want too much too soon.**  
You do not start big but start small.  
**Forgive us when we want too much too soon.**  
You do not sow greedily but graciously.  
**Forgive us when we want too much too soon.**  
You do not hurry the harvest but hallow it.  
**Forgive us when we want too much too soon.**  
Forgive us, and accept the work of our hands,  
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

God of grace and growth,  
you have called us to plant the seeds of your  
kingdom  
in the fields of your world,  
and to trust you for their developing and  
flourishing –  
**and so we praise you.**

For the abundance of your creativity:

**we praise you.**

For the transforming nature of your Spirit:

**we praise you.**

For the power of small beginnings:

**we praise you.**

For the mystery of hidden growth:

**we praise you.**

And for the harvest we are invited to delight in:

**we praise you.**

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Hymn StF No 487 – You shall go out with joy

#### Mark 4:26-29 The Parable of the Growing Seed

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

### Reflection

Look what I have! A nice, big, juicy apple Today I am going to tell you the story of a man called Johnny Appleseed. As you might guess, Johnny Appleseed was not his real name. His real name was John Chapman. He was born in 1774 in the state of Massachusetts. When he was in his early twenties, John became a nurseryman. A nurseryman is someone who works with plants, trees, and shrubs. John Chapman especially loved apple trees and he planted them all around the town where he lived. But that wasn't enough for John, He wanted people everywhere to enjoy apples just as much as he did, so he travelled all around the country planting apple trees and giving away apple seeds.

John Chapman was a simple man. He travelled all around the country on foot, usually without shoes. He often wore a shirt which he made from a seed sack with holes cut in it for his head and arms. He had a beard and wore a tin cooking pot as a hat. In fact, he often took the tin pot off of his head and used it to cook his supper. John Chapman was a kind and gentle man who was liked by everyone he met. He became well known and people began to call him Johnny Appleseed.

Johnny Appleseed's life wasn't easy, but he loved what he was doing. He never married, but he had more friends than he could count. He lived a long and happy life enjoying the great outdoors and the beauty of God's creation until he died in March of 1845.

You may be asking, "What does the story of Johnny Appleseed have to do with our Bible reading?" Well, it's a bit like the parable that Jesus told. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he is asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but the man doesn't know how it happens."

Just as Johnny Appleseed was passionate about planting apple seeds, God wants you and me to be passionate about planting seeds of the Good News everywhere we go. If we will take the Good News of Jesus to people, it will take root in their life and begin to grow. We may not understand it, but that's the way the kingdom of God grows -- by people like you and me planting the seed and watching it grow.

### Active worship

Leader: Jesus says, wait

*Young people: **But we say hurry up!***

Leader: Jesus says good things take time to grow.

*adults: **But we say we want it now!***

Leader: Watch, says Jesus.

Men: **We are watching** (*make binoculars with hands*)

.

Leader: Listen, says Jesus.

Women: **We are listening** (*cup hand over ear*).

Leader: Give it time, says Jesus.

*All: **Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock** (look at clock or watch)!*

Leader: It's starting, says Jesus.

*All: (bells, loud cheers) **Bells and hooters if you have them !***

*Young people: **Wow! It really is coming!***

*All: **That's God's kingdom at work.***

### Prayers of Intercession

Eternal, ever-present God, visible and yet invisible, we bring our prayers for those we know and those unknown to us. We seek to journey with you and with them, to support and uphold them with prayer and love.

For those who journey with illness and pain,  
**transform them by your grace, Lord.**

For those searching for meaning and purpose,  
**transform them by your grace, Lord.**

For those wanting to belong and yet seemingly always on the edge,  
**transform them by your grace, Lord.**

For those who lack confidence in themselves,  
**transform them by your grace, Lord.**

For those who have no faith, no vision for an eternal future,  
**transform them by your grace, Lord.**

For those who live with lies, secrets and untruths,  
**transform them by your grace, Lord.**

For those who live without the very basic foundations of life:

without food and water and homes,  
**transform them by your grace, Lord.**

By praying for these, we know that we must walk and work hand in hand with you, to relieve their suffering and pain. We trust our prayers, our loving and our living, to your almighty and eternal presence. **Amen.**

***Hymn – The seeds of the Kingdom** (on the screen)*

## Mark 4:30-34 The Parable of the Mustard Seed

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

<sup>33</sup> With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup> He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

### Reflection

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? They're very tiny. They're the smallest seeds I've ever seen. A mustard seed is so small that if you were holding one in your hand and dropped it on the ground, you might not be able to find it. Even though the mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds, when it is planted in the ground, it grows into a plant so large that birds can perch on its branches and can even build their nests in it. These tiny seeds can produce a plant that grows ten feet high or more – that's twice as tall as me!

Jesus told a parable comparing the mustard seed to the kingdom of God. He said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants.

So how is that a picture of the kingdom of God? Well, when Jesus first began his earthly ministry, he had no followers. The Bible tells us that Jesus was walking along the shore of the sea of Galilee when he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew, casting their nets. "Come, follow me," Jesus said to them. They immediately followed Jesus. As they continued on their way, they saw two other brothers, James and John, mending their nets. Jesus called them and they immediately left their nets and followed him. One by one, Jesus called his disciples until there were twelve of them. That is still a pretty small beginning, isn't it? Jesus sent out the twelve and they brought others to Jesus and the kingdom of

God grew. From a very small beginning, the kingdom of God has grown and grown until it has spread over the world

So, Jesus started growing the kingdom of God with a handful of disciples. Every follower of Jesus is a part of the kingdom and that means that you and I are a part of God's kingdom. Each time we tell someone about Jesus, we are helping to grow the kingdom, just like in the previous story

### Hymn StF No 483 - We are marching in the light of God

Creator God, send us out to be  
ready to learn from your words,  
ready to grow in faith and  
ready to sow the seeds of your love.

**Amen.**

### Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. **Amen.**

*To join the Zoom service by telephone dial  
0203 481 5237 and use meeting details below*