

# Mickleover and Dean Street Methodist Churches Service Sheet

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Worship in Mickleover MC is at 10am and on Zoom, preacher Peter Goddard

Worship in Dean St MC is at 10.30am with Holy Communion, preacher Revd Gill Sharp

## Psalm 123:1,3a

I lift up my eyes to you,  
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.  
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.

## Opening prayer

Lord God, Almighty One,  
we come before you today just as we are.  
We come with all our weaknesses and  
vulnerability.  
We come and lay everything on our hearts and  
minds down in your awesome presence.  
May we be open to receive more of your power,  
mercy and love. **Amen.**

## Hymn StF

### Prayers of adoration and confession

Loving God, all-sufficient one, we acknowledge  
your presence and we worship you.

#### **We adore you, Lord of all.**

We worship you, Lord Jesus Christ, holy and  
anointed one. You laid your life down that we  
might live. **We adore you, Lord of all.**

We welcome your authority and influence in our  
lives, Holy Spirit. You intercede for us when we  
have no strength. You are with us and guide us in  
our weakness. **We adore you, Lord of all.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, are worthy of all our  
praise: **we adore you, Lord of all.**

*Pause for a moment to reflect on some of the  
ways in which you have not been your best self,  
ways in which you have let yourself down or on  
the places where you are not living up to your  
true potential.*

Loving God, we are sorry, and we lay everything  
at your feet. We are sorry that we  
overcomplicate everything. Help us to learn how  
to be still and know that you are God. Help us to  
seek simplicity, to slow down and not to hurry, to  
require nothing more than what you give, and  
not to fear being vulnerable, so that we can be  
complete in your presence, through Jesus Christ  
our Saviour. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

## Readings Ezekiel 2:1-10

Mark 6:1-13

## Reflection

Being a prophet wasn't easy – Ezekiel was given a  
huge task – to go to God's people, the Israelites,  
and speak God's word to them because they had  
rebelled against God. Ezekiel was to speak God's  
words whether they listened or not, and not to  
be afraid even though they were a rebellious  
people. Would you go having been told all that?  
Most of us certainly wouldn't be keen on the  
idea! Ezekiel had to eat the scroll full of lament  
and mourning and woe – these were God's words  
about how he felt about the people of Israel –  
God's heart was breaking over his people's  
actions because of his love for them. Ezekiel had  
to go it alone in taking God's words to the people  
of Israel. How hard must that have been, taking  
God's words of sorrow and grief to his own  
people?

Jesus knew how hard being a prophet to your  
own people was. When he returned to his home  
town and taught in the synagogue all the people  
saw was the boy who had grown up among them,  
the man who had been a carpenter. They knew  
his mother and brother and sisters, ordinary  
people, like them and they were full of disbelief  
and questioned where his teaching and power  
came from. Jesus said 'A prophet is not without  
honour except in his own town, among his  
relatives and in his own home.' I wonder how  
alone Jesus felt at that time.

But we don't have to go it alone!

How many things can you think of that come in  
pairs? For example, socks or 'Tom and Jerry'  
How many 'pairs' of people can you think of in  
the bible? For example, Moses and Aaron  
Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs, they did not  
have to go it alone. Doing things together can  
give us confidence, we have someone to share  
our anxieties and our joys with, someone to  
support us when the days are long and hard,  
someone to celebrate good times with, just like  
the disciples must have done. We can achieve so  
much more together than we can by ourselves.

Jesus' instructions were clear – take nothing with you. Nothing for everyday needs, nothing for emergencies. How must that have felt? The disciples had to trust other people to provide for their daily needs and trust God for the words to say and his power to heal those who were ill. What 'baggage' do you carry with you that slows you down with its weight, and holds you back? Is this what you put your trust in? Are you willing to leave it behind, to be vulnerable and live by faith? Living by faith isn't easy, Jesus knew that when he sent the disciples out, telling them not everyone would welcome them. But they went and people received healing and wholeness. Though they had nothing they gave much by the power of God. We too are sent out by Jesus to share his word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The words written by the apostle Paul in 2 Cor 12:9 remind us that it is when we admit our weakness we are strongest - *The Lord said to him, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'*

#### **Hymn StF 477 Teach me to dance**

*Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart,  
Teach me to move in the power of Your Spirit,  
Teach me to walk in the light of Your presence,  
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.  
Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion,  
Teach me to trust in the word of Your promise,  
Teach me to hope in the day of Your coming,  
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.*

#### **Intercessions**

God of our hearts ,  
Come into our feelings, our emotions, teaching us the art of love. Show us how to embrace your world and your people, with arms of grace.  
Guide us in each moment, that the very impulses of our bodies might be tuned to you, that in our weakness we may know your power.

God of love, enter our hearts,  
**And tune your world to love.**

God of our families,  
Come into the places we call home. Show us how to love each other, and reveal your nature of love to us, through our relationships with those closest to us – our family and closest friends.  
Guide us in the difficulties and struggles that come with our family lives, and the suffering of those closest to us – bring them your love, your healing and your wholeness.

God of love, enter our hearts,  
**And tune your world to love.**

God of the Church,  
Come into the midst of your people, come to bring healing, to bring unity, to build a movement that can shape the world for good.  
Show us how to reach out into the world around us, bringing peace, not division, bringing love, and not conflict. Guide us in our decision making and our worship. Lord, bring your newness, your refreshing and re-charging love.  
God of love, enter our hearts,  
**And tune your world to love.**

God of this country,  
Come into broken, bruised Britain, bringing healing and comfort. Show your love to those suffering in this country – the elderly, those suffering with mental illness, those without homes, those carrying a disease, those struggling to make ends meet, and those suffering from damaged relationships.  
God of love, enter our hearts,  
**And tune your world to love.**

God of the world  
Come into your suffering, unequal planet, bringing peace and harmony where there is war and discord. Show your love to those who cannot see it this morning – those tied up in war and conflict, those battling with the coronavirus pandemic, those struggling with a life of poverty.  
God of love, enter our hearts,  
**And tune your world to love.**

**God of our hearts - help us to be agents of love across your world, in the way we live our lives, in the people we meet and the situations we hold influence. Amen**

(adapted from prayer by The Joint Public Issues Team)

#### **Hymn: SoF 599 When we walk with the Lord**

Go and enter into the flow of love that is at work in the world. Go and discover that God is out there, moving, transforming, touching lives.  
Go and encounter the Spirit of God.

#### **The Grace**

*This service sheet has been prepared by Revd Gill Sharp for use in worship at Dean St MC*

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