

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SHEET PROPER 10

July 12th, 2020



Words of Welcome

Lighting of the candle....

OPENING RESPONSES

The seed is sown, and the crop is grown.

Come, Lord, strengthen us as we grow in you.

The rain hydrates and the sun radiates.

**Come, Lord, quench our thirst
in the warmth of your love.**

The land is tilled and the flour milled.

Come, Lord, refine us by your Spirit.

Come let us worship the Living God
as the seed of the Word is sown
here with us today.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we might not be sitting by a lake today.
However, as the crowds eagerly gathered
to listen to the stories and truths you told them,
we too await your word to us.

With joy in our hearts, and anticipation,
we pray that you will give us listening ears,
and hearts open to receive your love,
your teaching, and your wisdom.

Help our lives to be full to bursting, bearing your fruit.
Amen.

HYMN/ SONG: Speak O Lord as We Come to You

.

**1 Speak O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all your purposes, for your glory.**

**2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
as the earth is filled with your glory.**

Keith Getty (b.1974) and Stuart Townend (b.1963)

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CONFESSION

When our hearts and minds are closed to understanding
God's word.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

When listening to God's word and following Jesus'
teaching become difficult and we turn away.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When we allow the concerns and worries of our lives to
crowd out God's word and peace.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever.”

ABSOLUTION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You opened your mouth and uttered a word and
creation sprang forth in abundance.
Let us open our mouths in praise,
That we may bear fruit in every season
And be satisfied by your goodness,
For you, O God, are the source of all growth;
Your grace abounds forever, Amen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**For the word of God in Jesus,
For God’s wisdom all around us,
For God’s word and wisdom in us
Thanks be to God.**

BIBLE READINGS

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

*The active word of God will fulfil God’s promises just as
rain enables seeds to grow. So these words, spoken
through the prophet Isaiah, may be trusted.*

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the
eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord’s renown,

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23

*The word of God is received differently by different
people and even though many reject or lose that seed,
enough absorb it to yield bountiful harvests.*

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down
beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around
him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The
whole crowd was standing on the shore.

He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer
went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed,
some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other
seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow.
They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t
deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the
plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. 7
Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants
grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil
and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to
one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in
another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has
ears should pay attention....”

“Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever
people hear the word about the kingdom and don’t
understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what
was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was
sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on
rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word
and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have
no roots, they last for only a little while. When they
experience distress or abuse because of the word, they
immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread
among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the
word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of
wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for
what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who
hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in
one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case

a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION

RESPONSE: AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Philippians 2.6-11

HYMN: You shall go out with joy

**You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills
shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy
and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.**

Stuart Dauermann (b.1944)

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RESPONSE: Intercessions

God of all seeds and all stories,
we pray for the wisdom to apply the truth of Jesus'
parables
to our own lives
and to our life together in this place where we worship
you
and this community where we serve you.
**May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you
care.**

In the world, we pray especially
for places where climate change has brought drought...
for the places where it has brought floods ...
for those whose crops have been scorched...
for those whose livelihoods have been washed away.
We pray for the people of Japan –
for those caught in the heavy rains there –
and for the people of Australia
and their wildlife endangered by the forest fires.
We pray too for those in our own country
who face continual upheaval and heartache through
repeated flooding.
**May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you
care.**

We pray for those whose life's seeds
are being choked by anxiety, poverty and hardship...
for those who have lost their jobs...
for those unable to feed their families
or to pay their mortgages and rent...
for those living without basic facilities.
We pray for those given hope by the emergency budget
and for those who feel hope-less
and for foodbanks and charities that try to help all who
are struggling.
**May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you
care.**

We pray for those unable to thrive because of illness...
and those denied the opportunity
to plant the seeds of their dreams in fertile soil...
for those hospitalised with Covid-19...
for those whose journey to recovery is long , slow and
painful...
for those who nurse them...

for those who love them...
for those whose treatment has been put on hold...
We pray for those robbed of the opportunity to go to school,
for children in war zones, those in refugee camps,
those who have to work to find their daily food.
May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

And we pray for those whose seeds are watered by their tears...
those grieving the loss of someone close to them...
those who feel forgotten...
those who are neglected...
those who are victims of injustice, abuse, or cruelty...
May they – and all in any kind of need today – see you, may they hear you, and may know you care. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you...
And also with you.

We take a moment to write a peace greeting to one another whilst listening to the Iona chant: Peace be with you....

A BLESSING

May God give you life through the Spirit dwelling within you
and may Christ nourish and enrich you with his word
and guide you by his example.
And the blessing of God almighty...

SENDING RESPONSES

Now may God who gives seed to the sower
and corn to the reaper,
give to us all we need
to produce a good harvest.

**May God make us fertile
In faith, hope and love,
And take us out with joy
And lead us on in peace,
As signs of the fruitfulness of heaven.
Amen**

A PRAYER FOR THE COMING WEEK.

God of goodness and growth,
Let your love be made real in me this day.
Soften the hardened places of my heart
And crowd out any corners of greed or anxiety.
Make me fruitful in thought, word and deed.
Amen.

QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS TO PONDER IN THE COMING WEEK.

Is the parable in our gospel about seed or about soil? Often we focus on the outcome, which is excessive because even the least (the 30 fold) is far beyond what the first hearers would expect from their land. They would expect four or five fold, which makes this a story of excessive generosity. What is significant is that generosity comes from even the seed that falls on the worst soil.

Think about the four soils: good, thorny, rocky, and hard.

- Which one are you and why? Offer some examples. In truth, at different points in life we are probably all four.
- When do we feel downtrodden and hard-hearted like the soil on the path?

- When do we feel stunted in our creativity or life by bad luck or bad influences like the stony ground?
- When have we had the initial burst of enthusiasm only to lose that energy quite quickly like the seed among the weeds and thorns?

Acknowledgements

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- Roots for Worship.