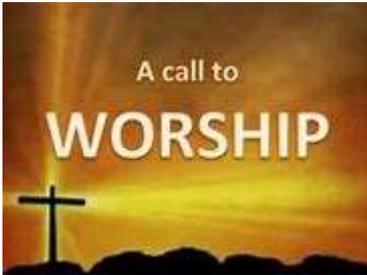


**Sunday Morning
All Age Worship
Earlsdon Methodist Church
26th July 2020**

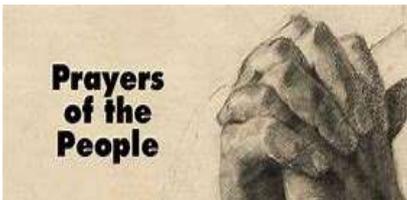
Theme: Secrets of the kingdom



As we enter God's holy presence this morning, are you ready to hear again about God's kingdom? Come, open your hearts and minds to see the kingdom around us and within us. Come, and worship the living God. **Amen.**



Hymn 61 StF: Our God is a Great Big God



Sometimes we take our eyes off you and feel so lost. Bring us back, please, Lord.
Forgive us, Lord, as we open our hearts to you. Amen.

Pause for a Reflection

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

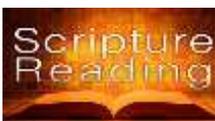
Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving

We praise you, O God for being God Almighty in our lives and the universe. Day by day your love surrounds us, and you keep us well and safe with your mighty right hand. We praise you Lord.

Marvellous and mighty Lord, we are forever grateful for all the good gifts you give us, for eyes to see, for ears to hear, for mind to understand, and a heart to love. We thank you, Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God, sometimes we feel so set in our ways. We are not always ready to give something up to gain the thing of value that you promise.

Forgive us, Lord, as we open our hearts to you.



Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52



Reflection: The Parable of The Mustard Seed



Jesus was sitting in a boat and great crowds gathered all around him and along the beach. He began to teach about the kingdom of God. Jesus spoke in parables because that was how the rabbis of Jesus' time spoke. They use words and symbols to create images for their messages.

Jesus Said:

Seeds: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree.'

Yeast: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Metal detector: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, that someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

Pearls: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

Net: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind.'

Good News:

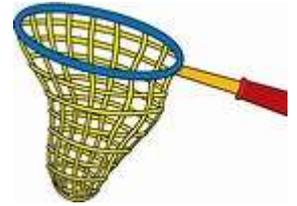
There is a double message about the kingdom of heaven. First, it is something that seems very small to begin with but will grow. Like the yeast and the tiny mustard seed, the kingdom of heaven will grow and spread far and wide.

- God is assuring us that good will overcome all the evil in the world.

The other images speak to us about the worth or value of the kingdom. For both the treasure in the field and the pearl are of great value, someone gives everything to acquire them; The kingdom is worth more than anything else.

- Two of the images refer to giving everything up for the kingdom.
- What might this look like in your life today?
- How do we give sacrificially for the kingdom today?
- Do you think we should?
- What would you give up for the kingdom of God? It could be habits, possessions, comfort, money, time, pride, impatience etc
- Can you see signs of the kingdom where you are?

Which of these images resonates with your understanding of the kingdom of heaven?



Which do you find the most challenging?



'Here is a tiny seed. It may be very small but if it is planted in a field, amazing things will happen. The seed will grow and grow into a huge tree – so big that birds will come and make their home in the branches.'



Here is a tiny piece of yeast. It is put into the bread mix and kneaded into the dough. When it is left in the warm it will grow and grow, and the dough will rise. Then the dough will be ready to be baked into bread.

God's kingdom is like the seed and God's kingdom is like the yeast. It will grow and grow and grow.' We all must be a part of God's kingdom, that is why whatsoever we do, we must do in love and with love so that we also will grow in love and faith as we are part of the kingdom of God. **Amen.**



Hymn 662 StF: Have Your Heard God's Voice; Has Your Heart Been Stirred



God of love and wisdom, we pray for the nations of the world and their leaders we remember and pray for those countries and all those places whose suffering touches our hearts. We pray for all who are struggling after losing their jobs; for young people applying for university;

Lord, may the truths of your kingdom be our strength.

We pray for churches and places of worship as they welcome congregations back;

We pray for one another as we reflect on the parables and live out our faith.

Lord, may the truths of your kingdom be our strength.

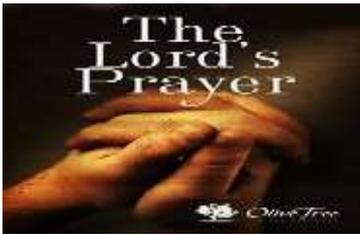
And we pray for those who are ill in hospital and at home; those awaiting operations and treatment. We remember those who have died, and pray for those grieving – and those unable to gather to comfort one another.

(In silence let us bring before God people and places known or known to us).

Lord, may the truths of your kingdom be our strength.

Hear our prayer O God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

for courage as they encounter new challenges
and joy as they embrace new opportunities.



Our Father in heaven, blessed is 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
do not let us be tempted and save us from evil for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours today and for ever. **Amen.**



Lord, it is not up to us to sort the bad from the good, the wheat from the weeds. Rather, send us out to love everyone equally, and to do everything we can to promote your kingdom. Go in peace in the name of Christ. **Amen.**