

Sunday, 26 July, 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you

### Opening Prayer

Lord, open the eyes and ears of our understanding today as we prepare our hearts for worship. We want to see you with our spiritual eyes today. Amen.

**Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God**

### Let us pray together

Lord our God, You require truth in the inward parts. We do not wish to deceive but at times we are not honest with ourselves or honest with others. Take any deception, known or unknown and pour out Your Spirit of truth. Today we receive Your Holy Spirit and ask that as a cool glass of water, You will refresh and cleanse us today of all sin and duplicity.

We give You thanks that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. For those who have truly repented hear the wonderful words of his grace when our Lord says to us,

‘your sins are forgiven.’ **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### Today’s Gospel Reading:

Matthew 13:24-52

**Read Rev. Ken’s sermon:** Knowing the cost of everything but the value of nothing

### A time of prayer

Dear Father, I thank You for the ongoing work in my life. I know it will continue until You take me home. Thank You for

sins forgiven, for a life with You now, and a life with you in the hereafter.

We pray for the Methodist Church, nationally and worldwide.

We pray for the universal Church and the churches that have met through technological means during this time.

We pray for all those who have suffered loss in this present coronavirus situation.

We thank You for every act of kindness done during this time and all the imaginative ways that ministers and lay workers have used to keep in touch with their congregations.

We pray for those who are in need of healing, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Lord in your mercy, **hear these prayers.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**  
*Our Father .....*

**Hymn: Be thou my vision**

### A prayer of blessing

Lord, I have heard the good news that You will reject none that turn to You in faith and repentance accept. Grant that whatever I do this day I will be responding to this love with a humble and thankful heart. **Amen.**

(Taken from Day 26 of Methodist Prayer Handbook, p. 76 by Gwenllian Knighton, supernumerary minister, Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit).

Amended Original Materials by **Rev Heather Wilson, Wolds & Trent Circuit, Lincolnshire District**

## **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

He put before them another parable: '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, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

### **The Parable of the Yeast**

He told them another parable: '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.'

### **Three Parables**

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

'Again, 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.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **Treasures New and Old**

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'