

Camel-Allen Churches Sunday Worship at Home

Sunday 5th July 2020

Welcome as we worship
our Living Lord together.



WE PREPARE

Let us come to the Lord Jesus.
Let us seek his rest.

We come before you,
with all our cares and worries,
laying them down before you.
We come before you,
setting aside this time to worship,
opening up ourselves to you.

We come before you,
in the expectation that you will take and transform us,
before we return to the world once again,
ready to face all that comes our way.

We trust in you and in your promises,
for you are gentle and humble in heart,
your yoke is easy and the burden you place upon us is light.
And you grant us rest. **Amen.**

Hymn

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus –
to reach out and touch Him
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen:
O open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus!

Robert Cull

We say, 'Sorry'... ..and seek God's loving forgiveness

Dear Lord, it doesn't always sink in
just who I am talking to when I come before you.
I don't fully get it,
that I'm in the presence of such a mighty God.

Please, Lord, forgive me for the times
when my picture and understanding of you are far too small;
when I try to fit you into that tiny box
that I think I can cope with;
when I'm frightened to let your power loose in my life.

Forgive me, Lord, and make me whole.
Amen.



THE WORD OF GOD

Bible Readings

Zechariah 9; 9-12

Psalms 145; 8-14

Romans 7; 15-25a

Gospel Reading Matthew 11; 6-19, 25-30

Jesus and John the Baptist

[Jesus speaks to the crowds and says] ¹⁶“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷“We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

The Father Revealed in the Son

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Reflection

Is this what Jesus is offering us - a single, milkmaid style yoke used to carry milk or any load on a farm? A yoke that will enable us to deal with a burden, all by ourselves, leaving us exhausted?



No, Jesus is thinking of the double, or twin yokes, used in his time for working animals two at a time. Linked in pairs, the two animals sharing the burden of pulling.

Jesus would have been somewhat of a yoke expert, his words having authority, for yokes were made by village carpenters, and crafting these vital pieces of farming equipment would have been part of Jesus’ training with Joseph in the Nazareth workshop. Each yoke was made to measure for each pair of animals - tailor made not one-size-fits-all.

But as well as knowing about double yokes, Jesus would have known about *adjustable* yokes whereby the burden distribution could be altered, so that one animal pulls more if the other tires or is overburdened.

Jesus says, "Take **my** yoke upon you,"
The yoke that Jesus has made for each one of us,
a double yoke,
so that we walk with him and he walks alongside us;
an adjustable yoke, so that when we struggle, Jesus lessens
our share as he walks, yoked beside us, easing our burden.

Thought

There was one burden that only Jesus
could bear,
a single beam of wood,
on one man's shoulders.



Song

When I feel the touch
of Your hand upon my life,
it causes me to sing a song,
that I love You, Lord.
So from deep within
my spirit singeth unto Thee,
You are my King,
You are my God,
and I love You, Lord.

Keri Jones / Dave Matthews

WE MAKE OUR RESPONSE

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;**

**he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

[cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7]

WE PRAY TOGETHER

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for all in authority, that they will be respectfully
conscious of the weight on their shoulders,
and that they will act responsibly for the people they serve.
We pray for them in their personal lives, with the worries and
cares that only they see.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls.

We pray for our friends, family, colleagues.
We pray that as we walk alongside them, you will use us to
bring them close to you, and they will learn of your love.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls.

We pray that we might be sensitive to the needs of those
around us – the people we see every day, perhaps as
fleeting as at the shops, or in the bus queue.
We have no idea what burdens they are carrying, or if they
need a kind word from you that only we can give.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls.

We pray that we will see the positive in people, even when it's hard, and reach out to encourage them.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls. Amen.

A Reflective Prayer

Lord, sometimes I feel as if I'm on a fast train.

Life rushes by and I don't have time to pause.

Lord, I want to take time to see the view
that your wisdom, through Jesus, gives me;

to come to you in prayer,

expecting far more than I could ever believe possible.

Bless me with your presence, Lord. **Amen.**

The [alternative] Collect for today

Gracious Father,

by the obedience of Jesus

you brought salvation to our wayward world:

draw us into harmony with your will,

that we may find all things restored in him,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Hymn

Father, we love You,
we worship and adore You:
glorify Your name
in all the earth.

Glorify Your name, (3 times)
in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You,
we worship and adore You:
glorify Your name
in all the earth.

Glorify Your name, (3 times)
in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You,
we worship and adore You:
glorify Your name
in all the earth.

Glorify Your name, (3 times)
in all the earth.

Donna Adkins

OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Jesus has called us to come to him
and blessed us with his richness.

Now he sends us out into his world,
to make sure people see him,
and listen to him, through us.

What a responsibility, what a joy, what a privilege.

We are yours, Lord. Use us as you will. **Amen.**

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