



505 N. Redington Street Hanford, CA93230
559-584-4075 (voice) 559-584-5438 (fax)
office@fumchanford.org http://fumchanford

August, Sunday 16th 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use. 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

O God, through the presence of Your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see You here; open our minds to receive Your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing Your praise. For You alone are God— worthy of all praise and worship, now and to the end of time. Amen.

Hymn: “Stand up, stand up for Jesus”

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bRApUD9RN4>

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
when I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
when I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

Let us pray together

Lord, I come before you and acknowledge that you are King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I bow before you and recognise you as the one who is able to do great things.

Help me to trust you and listen to your reply as I call out to you.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21-28

Time to Reflect

The Gospel reading raises a multitude of questions and this reflection is not necessarily able to answer them. Why did Jesus seem to reject the woman – surely his message is for all the world? Why were his disciples apparently so heartless? Why did Jesus heal some people and not others? We say that God always answers our prayers but why are some prayers for healing answered with a ‘no’? That last one is surely more pertinent now than ever.

I admit that I don't know the answer to those. However, the reaction of the woman shows

us ways that we can respond when faced with hard questions and difficult situations.

Firstly, in the midst of her trouble and desperation, she recognised who Jesus was and that she should turn to him. She recognised him as someone special, as the one with the power to help her.

Secondly, she reacted with boldness. She was not put off by approaching a stranger, by approaching a man or by approaching a foreigner – none of which would have been easy for a woman of her time to do. Her boldness continued as she pressed the matter and argued her case. She was not put off by Jesus's silence or the disciples' irritation.

Finally, she approached with faith – and that is her claim to fame. She argued her case. Her boldness and her faith go hand-in-hand. Her request was not a “well, Lord, if you might, possibly ...” She trusted that Jesus was the one to help her and wouldn't take no for an answer.

Are we like that woman? When we approach Jesus, do we truly recognise who he is – the Lord of Lords but the Saviour who can meet our deepest needs?

Do we approach with faith, clearly asking, or do we provide God with get-out clauses: “Please heal my friend – or at least make him not quite as bad?”

Do we approach with boldness?

And, when we don't get the answer we want, does our faith allow us to answer back? God's back is strong enough to take it if we shout and rail back at him – as long as our faith then allows us to respond to his answer.

A time of prayer

God of our days and times: come close to us in this hour. Calm our hearts and minds, restore our spirits, and give us peace. Lord, allay our fears,

bolster our courage and our compassion, increase our capacity for love. In this season, we have been made uncomfortable; our movements have been curtailed; we are inundated with often conflicting information; our minds are racing – but – we cling to your promise to be with us always. We are your creation and our hearts can safely trust in you. During our time of social isolation, help us to get closer to you. Let compassion rise in us and send us an extra anointing of your love. Allow us to hear your voice amid the cacophony of voices around us and restore our joy. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

Sing or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPYydmCzffA>

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand
years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

A prayer of blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you. May he guide you
through the wilderness protect you through
the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at
the wonders he has shown you. May he bring
you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Based on Liturgy by Alan Darlington

Adaptation Rev. Pablo Róvere

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 657359



Please mail gifts to First UMC of Hanford,
505 N. Redington St, Hanford, CA 93230

Give online at:

<https://onrealm.org/fumchanford/-/give/now>

Matthew 15: 21-28

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

From Bible Gateway and last accessed on August 15th 2020.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+15%3A+21-28&version=NIV>

If you have a praise or concern you would like lifted in prayer this week, please submit it to us in any of this ways:

EMAIL:

office@fumchanford.org

pastorpablo@fumchanford.org

PHONE: Leave message
(559) 584 4075