

## Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit Service at Home 22 June 2025

Prepared by Rev John Archer

### Introduction

This is the second of 4 planned services at individual circuit churches to celebrate Bible Month. It covers the Gospel of John – a huge task. This part is designed to look at chapters 2 – 12. They contain great stories, incidents and very deep teaching. It is impossible in one service to cover the lot so I am concentrating on 4 incidents which illustrate the text I have chosen. If you have a couple of hours to sit down and read the 11 chapters you will find them a great blessing

### Call to Worship (from Psalm5)

I pray to you O Lord. You hear my voice in the morning. You are not a God who is pleased with wrongdoing. You allow no evil in your presence. But because of your great love I can come into your house. I can worship in your holy temple.

**Amen**

### Read pray or sing StF 1

(All people that on earth do dwell)

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Grace Community Church)

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice.
- 2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make:  
we are his folk, he doth us feed;  
and for his sheep he doth us take.
- 3 O enter then his gates with praise;  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.
- 4 For why, the Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

- 5 To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heaven and earth adore,  
from earth and from the angel host  
be praise and glory evermore.

*William Kethe (d. 1594)*

### Prayers

Our Heavenly Father

you deserve our constant praise for you are  
all good, and all loving and we worship you .

Forgive us that all too often we we take your gifts  
for granted losing our sense of wonder.

Forgive us for singing praises with our lips  
without meaning it in our hearts,

for offering worship out of a sense of duty  
rather than privilege

Help us rejoice in your love each moment,  
to bring our praise each day,

and to offer our service always faithful to you  
as you have been faithful to us

And so we worship you now.

In the name of Christ **Amen**

### Let us pray 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.

### Read John 10 : 1 – 17

### Read pray or sing StF 35

(The trumpets sound)

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

- 1 The trumpets sound, the angels sing,  
the feast is ready to begin;  
the gates of heaven are open wide,  
and Jesus welcomes you inside.  
Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,  
come and revel in heaven's love and light;  
take your place at the table of the King,  
the feast is ready to begin,  
the feast is ready to begin.

- 2 Tables are laden with good things,  
O taste the peace and joy he brings;  
he'll fill you up with love divine,  
he'll turn your water into wine.
- 3 The hungry heart he satisfies,  
offers the poor his paradise;  
now hear all heaven and earth applaud  
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

### Sermon

The 11 chapters of John feature celebration, healing, feeding and restoration of life itself. I have chosen as my text John 10 : 10

***“I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness”***

4 incidents in this section of John illustrate this text

#### 1. The wedding at Cana

You will know the story well. It is the start of Jesus' ministry, and he is invited with his mother to a big village wedding. Disaster happened when the wine ran out and his mother pleaded with him to help. The 6 large water jars (used for ritual washing) were now empty. Jesus got the servants to fill them with water which then became wine and the best wine at that! He turned the imperfections of the law into the perfection of his grace. When God's grace comes to men and women there is enough to spare for all. Become a follower of Jesus and there will be a change in your life, like turning water into wine

#### 2 The Samaritan woman at the well

On a journey to Galilee, Jesus had to pass through Samaria (“foreign” territory). He was hot, tired and thirsty and so rested on a wall beside a well. A samaritan woman approached to get some water and Jesus asked her for a drink, She was astonished (a Jew asking a samaritan and a man talking to a woman.). There was a discussion and Jesus said that he could give her life-giving water that would never run out. She left her water jar and went back to the town and said “Come and see the man who

has told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?”

#### 3. Feeding the 5000

You will know the story of the boy who shared his lunch of fish and bread, and Jesus miraculously enabled the disciples to use it to feed 5000. The point I want to emphasise here is that when it was over they collected up 12 baskets full of bread that was left. Again this illustrates the abundance that Jesus gives in life when we commit ourselves to him

#### 4. Mary anointing Jesus at Bethany

As probability of arrest closed in on him, Jesus spent an evening at Bethany, just outside Jerusalem. It was at the home of friends, Lazarus, Martha and Mary. The evening is remembered by Mary's extraordinary action. She undid her hair (never done in public) and used her hair to wipe an expensive ointment over Jesus feet. This action provoked anger and opposition (typified by Judas) They were all against her except Jesus. He recognised that she, unknowingly, was anointing his body against his death. A ceremony that normally comes after death and in the tomb. Mary showed lavish generosity to express her love for Jesus. Unconsciously, she is mirroring his total generosity in dying on the cross for us all. Her action calls us to look again at our generosity in service to Jesus.

***“I have come in order that you might have life – and life in all its fulness” John 10 : 10***

### Read pray or sing StF 416

(There's a wideness in God's mercy)

[There's a Wideness in God's Mercy \(Faber; Corvedale\)](#)

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.

- 2 There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.
- 3 There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.
- 4 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.
- 5 But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.
- 6 If our love were but more simple  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the presence of our Lord.

*Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)*

### **Prayers for others**

Amighty God, our heavenly father we pray to you  
for the weak and powerless of the world;  
those who yearn for change,  
but who can find no opportunity to change.

We pray for those in our own society -  
the homeless and the unemployed,  
the disabled sick and mentally ill,  
those caught up in circumstances  
which seem to be beyond their control  
and who feel unable to cope with life.

Lord of all reach out in love

We pray for those in other countries -  
the poor, the underprivileged, the dispossessed,  
those who are persecuted for their beliefs  
or driven from their homeland as refugees,  
those whose labour is exploited,  
or those whose livelihoods have been destroyed  
by famine disaster or war.

Lord of all reach out in love

Heavenly father

give strength to all who are powerless -  
strength to survive and to hope  
for a better future

Give help to those who campaign for freedom  
for peace and a more just world.

Grant that those who are strong may help those  
who are weak so that the voice of all may be  
heard and the rights of every individual may  
be respected

Lord of all reach out in love Amen

### **Read pray or sing StF 696**

[For the Healing of the Nations \(Tune: Westminster Abbey - 2vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

1 For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

*Fred Kaan (1929-2009)*

**Blessing**

Wherever you are  
    wherever you go,  
    whatever your strengths,  
    whatever your weaknesses,  
    God will be with you.  
    to hold, to heal, to guide and to bless.  
Go then in peace, assured of his love.  
    Amen

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