



Chet Valley Churches



Parables of the Kingdom



All Together Communion

26th July 2020

Introduction

Good morning and welcome to the Chet Valley. Our service this morning is All Together Worship with Holy Communion on this the Seventh Sunday of Trinity.

We Prepare for Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

Our service today is looking at God's kingdom and some of the pictures that Jesus paints to help us understand what it is like.

♪ Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, Thou my true word;
I ever with thee, Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, Thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower:
Raise thou me heaven-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

The Collect for Purity—A Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden,
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect—A Special Prayer for the Day

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession—We Say Sorry to God

As we become aware of God's presence with us, we realise that we fall short of the kingdom living to which he calls us. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Father God, we ask you to forgive us
For the things we have thought
And the things we have said
And the things we have done
That do not please you.
We are sorry.**

**Help us to be more like Jesus:
Ready to pray, ready to help others,
Ready to do your will
In all things, every day. Amen.**

Absolution (The Priest Announces God's Forgiveness)

May the God of love and power
Forgive us and free us from our sins,
Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit
And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



🎵 **Gloria Round**

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, Gloria. Alleluia, Alleluia.

📖 **Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you O Lord.

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.”

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.”

“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.

“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.”

This is the gospel of the Lord **Praise to you O Christ.**

Talk [Rev Alison]

Jesus was good at taking everyday things around him and using them as illustrations in what he was saying. Today we have heard some parables about the kingdom of heaven: the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, yeast, treasure in a field, a pearl of great price, a fishing net. All things

that would have caught the attention of his hearers – people who grew things, baked, fished...

The Kingdom of God—what is it really like?

Will we ever fully appreciate it?

I am not sure that we will but the point of the parables, is to engage our imaginations and help us to understand a bit more about the nature of the subject of the parable. They might make us think and ask questions, discuss what they might mean. The point is not to provide easy answers!

No parable or metaphor can fully capture its subject. However, they can each reveal something. We might feel bowled over and out of our depth when we have wave after wave of different parables as we have just heard. But maybe it will help if we see them each as one of the tiny droplets making up a wave and keep some perspective of the whole.

“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.”

With that thought in mind, and not sure that I could be described in any way as a master of the household, I offer you few (possibly) new reflections about the kingdom of heaven:

- The Kingdom of Heaven is like my handbag. It holds all I could possibly want, and I make new discoveries every time I look in it
- The Kingdom of Heaven is like the sunflowers in my garden. I didn't sow them yet they come up in unexpected places bringing colour to my life and food for bees and birds.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is like an acorn which falls to the ground and lies, unnoticed, for years. But it sprouts and grows and grows until it becomes a huge and beautiful tree.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is like a cat video, shared on Facebook, and bringing laughter and joy to strangers all around the world.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is like is like small children who have been socially isolated for months. Once out of lockdown, they run all over the place, longing to embrace everyone that they meet and encouraging them to join in their game.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

I wonder how you would finish the sentence?

What is your experience of God's Kingdom?

I want to end with a prayer:

Prayer

Help us to see you all around, O God:
in our families and friends,
in WhatsApp and Instagram,
in FaceTime and Skype,
in all the ways we have of connecting,
even when we are apart.
May we use all the opportunities
we have to spread love and not fear,
to build up and not tear down,
to give thanks and celebrate achievement,
and to know you, God of the old and the young,
are bringing us together
to love one another
through this time and forever.

Amen.



from Spill the Beans

Creed: We Say What We Believe

The minster introduces the creed

**We believe in God the Father,
From whom every family
In heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
Who lives in our hearts through faith,
And fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
Who strengthens us with power from above.**

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We Pray Together [Rev Alison]

In our prayers today, the refrain is:

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done.**

Dear God, your kingdom is like a mustard seed which, though small, grows to great size and offers shelter to all.

Help us to discern the small signs of your kingdom around us and to help nurture and grow them in our own and other people's lives so that we may offer shelter to those in need.

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done.**

Your kingdom is like yeast, which works in secret to produce bread to eat.

Help us to feed those who are hungry, whether in body, mind or spirit.

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done.**

Your kingdom is like treasure hidden in a field.

Help us to search for your kingdom, and when we find it, to put it before everything else in our lives.

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done.**

Your kingdom is like a pearl of great price, worth more than all other jewels.

Help us to see the beauty which you have created in this marvellous world and to value it above all our material possessions so that we may look after it for you.

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done.**

Your kingdom is like a fishing net in which are all caught and judged.

Lord, we pray that through our faith in Jesus we will be found worthy to be caught in your net and judged worthy to be part of your kingdom for ever.

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done.**



The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

♪ **Offertory Hymn: Seek ye First the Kingdom of God**

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy** [*Getting louder*]

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy** [*Getting louder*]



You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy** [*Getting louder*]

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with
power from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to
them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of
God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died. [*Open your arms*]
Jesus Christ has died. [*Open your arms*]

Jesus Christ is risen. [*Raise your arms*]
Jesus Christ is risen. [*Raise your arms*]

Jesus Christ will come again. [*Wave arms in celebration*]
Jesus Christ will come again. [*Wave arms in celebration*]

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and
resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Amen, Amen, **Amen.** [*Getting louder*]

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing
of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

Amen, Amen, **Amen.** [*Getting louder*]

For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

Amen, Amen, **Amen.** *[Getting louder]*

The service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

On Earth as it is 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.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory

Are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Fraction *(Breaking of Bread)*

Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.

The Invitation

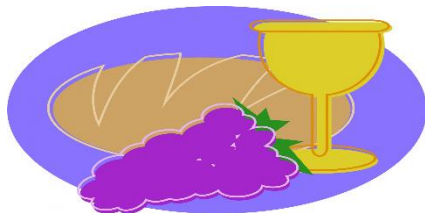
This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord,
it is made ready for those who love Him
and who want to love Him more.

So, come, you who have much faith,
and you who have little,
you who have been here often,
and you who have not been for a long time,
you who have tried to follow,
and you who have failed.

Come, not because it is I who invite you: it is our Lord,
It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.

Come.

The Communion



**Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets,
Where each sign of hatred
His strong love defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I feel triumph too;
On suspicion's graveyard,
Let me dance with you.**

Notices

There will be an outdoor cake and produce sale on Saturday 8th August from 10:00-14:00 at All Saints, Chedgrave.

Picnic lunches will be available if ordered in advance from Rev Alison (01508 528 126)—eat on one of the benches in the churchyard or in The Pits playground.

And, by popular request, we will be having a plant stall as well.

We also have a small Community Garden in the churchyard, with some beans and tomatoes. If you visit and notice that they need watering, please give them a drink. And when the beans and tomatoes are ripe, please help yourself.

Blessing

The blessing of God almighty, Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

The Dismissal

Receive gladly God's blessing
And let it spill over into the lives of those you meet. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

