



Sunday 23rd August

PREPARATION

Welcome

Leader We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise His presence with us wherever we are right now

All As God's people we have gathered
let us worship together

Hymn **O for a thousand tongues to sing**

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, listening to His voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ:
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

My gracious Master, and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad,
the honours of Thy name.

Words by Charles Wesley
Music by Thomas Jarman

Opening activity ~ Puppet skit
Hi Scruff – oh no, what happened to you?

I had an accident.

I can see that, what happened?

Well, I went on holiday last week with my friend Rover.

Oh lovely, where did you go?

Wales. We went swimming and climbing and played golf and caught crabs. We had so much fun!

Sounds great! But what happened to your head? Did you get hit by a golf ball?

No.....

Clawed by a crab?

No....

Slipped on a rock?

No...

Scruff, what happened?

Well, there was this really fun tree top trail and I'd done it before but Rover hadn't so I was telling him what to do.

That was kind of you to try and help him.

Yes, but....well....I was really proud I knew more about it than Rover did, and I didn't really listen when the instructor was showing us how the clips worked for abseiling because I already knew and....

Yes?

Well, we got to the abseiling place and I told Rover I'd go first in case he was feeling a bit scared, and he said I'd done my clip wrong but I didn't listen because I knew how to do it.....

And?

.....and I fell off and bumped my head.

Oh Scruff, you could have been really badly hurt.

I know.

Well I'm very glad you're OK. But do you know, you've reminded me of something in the Bible.

Really? I didn't know they did abseiling in the Bible!

Oh Scruff! Of course they didn't! But they did have a lot to say about pride. In Proverbs 13:10 it says 'Pride leads to trouble; those who take advice are wise.'

Oh, and I got hurt because I was too proud to listen to Rover's advice.

That's right, however much we know we can always learn something new if we listen to wise friends and especially if we listen to God. So make use of those ears of yours!

I will Beaky! Want to come scuba diving with me next week?

Confession

Leader: Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**All: Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord.**

Absolution

Leader The Lord enrich you with His grace, and nourish you with His blessing; The Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; The Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Collect (11th Sunday after Trinity)

Leader God of glory, the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

This time @home - Patrick and Barbara Phillipps, All Souls'

Hymn **My lighthouse**

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea (x2)

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea (x2)

*My lighthouse, my lighthouse
shining in the darkness.
I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise.
You will carry me safe to shore.
Safe to shore (x3)*

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea (x2)

My lighthouse . . .

Fire before us, you're the brightest,
You will lead us through the storms (x4)

My lighthouse . . .

Words and Music: Rend Collective
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Bible readings

Luke 24:13-25 ~ Kay Dodds, St Mark's

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

¹⁸They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

²⁰"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

[Acts 18:23-28](#) ~ Angela Quitmann, All Souls'

²³After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and travelled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. ²⁴Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. ²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.

²⁶He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. ²⁷When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. ²⁸For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Sermon "A humble man" – Mick Moore

Just in case you are saying or thinking – Who is this strange old man? – I'll introduce myself. My name is Mick Moore – I have been a member of the church, particularly St Mark's for the past 50 years or so; 20 years ago I was ordained as a local ordained minister, as such I functioned for about 10 years, then things in my life became difficult and I no longer function as an ordained minister although my name does appear in Notes & news. So I'm very glad that Jonathan has given me this opportunity.



If I said I was going to speak about Apollo the name might strike some bells, perhaps you would think of the Greek god or the theatre in London. But if I said Apollos you might think I had made a mistake, that is unless you were listening carefully to the sermon last Sunday. So we continue with the series about ordinary Christians doing extraordinary things, today we are considering Apollos.



We read of him briefly in the book of Acts and he gets mentioned in some of Paul's letters. You will also get some information about him if you google him. But as most of the info comes from the new testament, we'll stick with that. So what do we know

about him? He was a Jew and he came from the city of Alexandria in Egypt, where there was a thriving Jewish community. At some stage he had come into contact with the Christian community there and had joined them, becoming a Christian himself. He may have had a job that necessitated travelling, we read of him first in Ephesus situated in what is now Turkey but we know that he went to Corinth and Crete.

What else do we know about him?

He was very clever, knew the Hebrew Bible – our Old Testament well, and was a good speaker. As one translation puts it he was eloquent, we read also “he taught accurately and he spoke with burning enthusiasm”. So to sum up Apollos was well travelled, clever, eloquent and enthusiastic. So although he was an ordinary Christian, in many ways he was not an ordinary person.

As a Jew, wherever he was he attended the synagogue, this he did when he was in Ephesus; as a visitor he was invited to speak so he took the opportunity to speak about Jesus as the promised Messiah, we read “he taught accurately about things concerning Jesus;” and he did so fervently.

Among those listening was a couple of Christian Jews – they were the subject of last week's sermon, ‘the all-rounders’ as Jonathan called them Priscilla & Aquila. They were pleased to hear him speak about Jesus and argue the case for Christianity, but they realised that there was something missing in his message. We don't know exactly what it was, but it seems that it was about baptism because we are told, “he only knew of the baptism of John, a baptism of repentance. So Priscilla & Aquila took him quietly to one side, at their home “and explained the way of God more accurately”, so that he understood the full gospel. End of story. But was it easy for Apollos?



Here was a very gifted man, who put his reputation on the line, and chose to go to the very people who were likely to be hostile, and we are told that he spoke boldly. Surely he deserved nothing but praise. He could have taken offence at Priscilla & Aquila and said to himself – what are they anyway – just tent makers. What people are, often colours our opinion of them and what they say and our readiness to listen to them. Jesus found this when He went to his hometown of Nazareth, they didn't take much notice of what he said or did. Why? Because in their eyes he

was just a carpenter. You don't listen to carpenters – or tent makers when they talk about things outside of their field of expertise. But Apollos listened. He didn't look at what they were but who they were. He was ready therefore to hear what God had to say through them. He not only listened but took on board what they had to say. Therefore that is why they were able to send him on his way; when he moved on to Corinth, with a letter commending him to the church there. So here was a very gifted ordinary Christian who showed, I think, extra-ordinary humility taking notice, of a couple of tent-makers. There is further reference to him in Paul's letter to the Corinthians where Paul speaks very appreciatively of him. Also he was quite popular certainly with some members of the church there because in the letter Paul and another group says "I belong to Apollos". Paul then goes onto write "I planted", "Apollos watered" but "God gave the increase". Apollos also gets a brief mention in the letter to Titus so in his travels he must have gone to Crete. We know a lot about Paul but hardly anything about Apollos. Why?

Paul wrote a lot, much of it makes up our New Testament, but is this the full explanation? I think part of the explanation is in the words "Apollos watered", taught and nurtured. When I left school I worked at Wisley Gardens in the glass department.

Watering was regarded as so important that at first I was not allowed to do it – there was no such thing as automatic watering then. The visitors often admired the plants,



particularly in the display houses, but I never heard anyone say what a good job the waterers did or ask "I wonder who does the watering?" Apollos was a waterer, a very important job but often taken for granted and not noticed.

Yet another example of Apollos' humility. He was a very good public speaker, eloquent and fervent and in an age when the opportunity to hear someone speak well about a subject was a form of entertainment; Apollos had the ability to draw large crowds, he could have made a lot of money like the stand up comedians of today, however he chose to use his gifts serving God by teaching the Christians of Corinth. In fact Apollos provides us with an example of true humility. When Priscilla & Aquila

approached him, he didn't get on his high horse but humbly accepted what they had to say. Secondly he was ready to use his many outstanding talents serving others in a capacity that gave no glory or even recognition. Here was an ordinary Christian showing extraordinary humility. He was a very clever, eloquent, enthusiastic, yet humble person. Like Jesus – An example to us all.

Incidentally the ancient Greek word which in our bibles is usually translated as humility, was often used to describe big powerful animals such as horses or elephants which potentially could hurt human beings but use that strength and power to pull or lift heavy loads. – So true humility is using Power, status, position, talents or abilities in the service of others.

Let us pray – *O Lord, Keep us from all self-confidence give us the grace of true humility and self-forgetfulness, help us in this respect to be like Apollos and above all like Jesus – in whose name we ask it. Amen*

Hymn **Meekness and majesty**

Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony, the man who is God:
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

*O what a mystery, meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship, for this is your God,
this is your God!*

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross:
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice;
and, as they crucify, prays, 'Father, forgive.'

O what a mystery . . .

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.

*O what a mystery . . .
this is your God!*

Prayers ~ Clive Boyle, All Souls'

A prayer of thanks for God's creation

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home, for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the salt sea and running water, for the everlasting hills and the never resting winds, for the trees and the common grass underfoot. We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of the birds, see the splendour of the summer fields, taste of the autumn fruits, rejoice in the feel of the snow, and smell the breath of spring. Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty and save our souls from being so blind that we pass by these things unseeing. O God our creator, who lives and reigns for ever and ever **Amen.**



A prayer for friends

You have blessed us, O God, with the gift of friendship, the bonding of persons in a circle of love. We thank you for such a blessing: for friends who love us, who share our sorrows, who laugh with us in celebration, who bear our pain, who need us as we need them, who weep as we weep, who hold us when words fail, and who give us the freedom to be ourselves. Bless our friends with health, wholeness, life, and love **Amen.**

A prayer for this often troubled world.

Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God, your saving power among all peoples. Renew your Church in holiness and help us to serve you with joy. Guide the leaders of all nations, that justice may prevail throughout the world. Let not the needy be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away. Make us instruments of your peace and let your glory be over all the earth **Amen.**

We remember all those in our Church family, within our individual families or circles of friends who are sick, troubled, or in any kind of need and also for those who help and care for them. We especially pray for Eileen & Peter Bliss, Mary McAvoy and Joy Storkey. We also pray for the recently bereaved, thinking today of Mary and the family and friends of Bob Baker, also the family and friends of Marcia MacFarlane and Brian Rich.

Comfort and heal, merciful Father, all who are in sorrow, need, sick or troubled. Give them a firm trust in your goodness; help those who

minister to them; and bring us all into the joy of your salvation. In the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ **Amen.**

A prayer for the church.

Enable this church to do your will; make it vulnerable that it may speak with calm humility; make it outward looking that it may care deeply; make it a community of peacemakers and bridge builders. In the midst of turbulence let the church make space for the hearing of your still small voice **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

**All 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.
For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

Song - His Eye is On the Sparrow *sung by Lily Pusey from St Mark's*

Notices (See Notes & News)

Hymn **In Christ alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied,
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain,
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Words by Stuart Townend
Music by Keith Getty
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The dismissal

All **God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you
now and always.**

May Christ draw you to humility and worship,
and bring you to see God at work;
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you now and always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

