

MORNING WORSHIP, MULBARTON – Sunday 8th October 2023

Leader: Jill Wright; Worship: Steve Adcock & co; Reader: Lorna Tully; Intercessor: Sue Mellows

THEME: **God's Vineyard**

WELCOME & notices

CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Come, now is the time to worship,
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship,
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come*

One day every tongue will confess you are God;
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
for those who gladly choose you now.

*Come, now is the time to worship,
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship,
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come*

Come, come, come

[Brian Doerken 1998, Vineyard Songs]

VINEYARDS (there is one less than ½ a mile from here!)

Chosen and cared for....

....to produce.....

a harvest.....

to bring joy....

and delight

A song of God's vineyard in Isaiah 5 verses 1 to 7:

I will sing for the one I love,
a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
He dug it over and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it, and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

“Now, you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?

Now I am going to tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed.
I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.
I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briars and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are the garden of his delight.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

TALK: God’s Vineyard, part 1

Bad fruit (end of v.2):

WOE to greedy land-grabbing (vv. 8 – 10)

WOE to over-indulgence (vv. 11 – 12)

WOE to deceit & arrogant unbelief (vv. 18 – 19)

WOE to self-justifying lies (v. 20)

WOE to the clever-clogs’ deceit (v. 21)

WOE to bribery & injustice (vv. 22 – 23)

v. 16: the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice,
and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness

CONFESSION – based on Isaiah 6:

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your Name,
Lord God almighty.
We are people of unclean lips,
and live among a nation of unclean lips.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN**

PROMISES of forgiveness:

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal from the altar.
With it he touched my lips and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips;
your guilt is taken away and your sins atoned for.’

So, may the Father forgive us by the death of his Son
and strengthen u to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

AMEN

HYMN of intercession: (MP509)

O Lord, the clouds are gathering,
the fire of judgement burns
How we are fallen!

O Lord, you stand appalled to see
your laws of love so scorned,
and lives so broken.

*Have mercy, Lord / Have mercy, Lord,
forgive us, Lord / forgive us, Lord,
restore us, Lord, revive your church again.*

*Let justice flow / Let justice flow
like rivers / like rivers,
And righteousness like a never-failing stream.*

O Lord, over the nations now,
where is the dove of peace?
Her wings are broken.

O Lord, while precious children starve
the tools of war increase;
their bread is stolen.

Have mercy, Lord....

O Lord, dark powers are poised to flood
our streets with hate and fear;
we must awaken!

O Lord, let love reclaim the lives
that sin would sweep away
and let your kingdom come

Have mercy, Lord...

Yet, Lord, your glorious cross shall tower
triumphant in this land,
evil confounding.

Through the fire your suffering church display
the glories of her Christ:
praises resounding!

*Have mercy, Lord / Have mercy, Lord,
forgive us, Lord / forgive us, Lord,
restore us, Lord, revive your church again.*

*Let justice flow / Let justice flow
like rivers / like rivers,
And righteousness like a never-failing stream.*

[Graham Kendrick 1987 Make Way Music]

A Parable of God's Vineyard: Matthew 21 verses 33 to 46:

(Jesus is speaking to the chief priests, elders and Pharisees)

"Listen to another parable:

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall round it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some tenants and went away on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them in the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said.

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and take his inheritance." So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent out the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read the Scriptures:
'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes?'"

"Therefore I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

TALK: God's vineyard Part 2

Jesus speaks about the Vine: John 15 verses 1 – 4:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

SONG of response (MP792)

*You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.*

*You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.*

Then we'll grow in Your love,
then we'll go in Your Name,
that the world will surely know
that You have power to heal and save.

*You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.*

*You are the Vine, we are the branches,
keep us abiding in You.*

[Danny Daniels & Randy Rigby 1982, Mercy/Vineyard Publishing]

THE GOD WE BELIEVE IN (based on verses in Revelation):

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.**

**We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
for with his blood
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say 'Come!'
Even so, come Lord Jesus.**

AMEN

INTERCESSIONS, led by Sue

CLOSING SONG:

We want to see Jesus lifted high,
a banner that flies across the land,
that all men may see the truth and know
he is the way to heaven.

*We want to see, we want to see,
we want to see Jesus lifted high.
We want to see, we want to see,
we want to see Jesus lifted high.*

Step by step we're moving forward,
little by little gaining ground,
every prayer a powerful weapon,
strongholds come tumbling down.

We want to see Jesus lifted high,
a banner that flies across the land,
that all men may see the truth and know
he is the way to heaven.

*We're gonna see, we're gonna see,
we're gonna see Jesus lifted high.
We're gonna see, we're gonna see,
we're gonna see Jesus lifted high.*

[Doug Horley, 1993, Kingsway Thankyou Music]

CLOSING PRAYERS:

Let us bless our world:

To a troubled world,
Peace from Christ;

To a searching world,
Love from Christ;

To a waiting world,
Hope from Christ.

And let us bless one another in the words of 'the grace':

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and for ever. AMEN**