



Sunday 18th April

Mission Sunday ~ Malcolm Pritchard CMS

PREPARATION

Welcome

Leader Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Leader This is the day that the Lord has made.

All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn **This little light of mine**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine x2

Jesus is the Light, I'm gonna let Him shine
Jesus is the Light, I'm gonna let Him shine
Jesus is the Light, I'm gonna let Him shine
Let Him shine, let Him shine, let Him shine

I will stomp my feet, and I will clap my hands and shout, shout
I will run around and I'll jump off the ground and shout, shout
I will stomp my feet, and I will clap my hands and shout, shout
I will run around, I'll jump off the ground and shout, shout

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

I will stomp my feet, and I will clap my hands and shout, shout
I will run around and I'll jump off the ground and shout, shout
Jesus is the Light,

I'm gonna let Him shine, Jesus is the Light, I'm gonna let Him shine
(I will stomp my feet, and I will clap my hands and shout, shout)
Jesus is the Light,
I'm gonna let Him shine, Let Him shine, let Him shine, let Him shine
(I will run around, I'll jump off the ground and shout, shout)
Let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine

Opening activity ~ 5 Marks of Mission in the Parish

Confession

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Collect (3rd Sunday after Easter)

Leader Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen

Hymn I, the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the
night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,

they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord...

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord...

Bible readings

Luke 24:36b-48, ~ Rob Moore (St Peter's)

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'
³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.'

⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will

suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Acts 3:12-19 ~ Rosemary Titcombe (St Peter's)

¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: 'Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ 'Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Sermon - Rachel

If I asked you to think of overflowing water what would come to mind? Maybe that time the overflow got blocked and you flooded the bathroom? Hopefully something more pleasant like a beautiful waterfall.

What about overflowing love – what does that look like? Like a hug perhaps or getting up in the middle of the night to care for your loved one.

What does God's overflowing love look like? I'm sure we could all suggest lots of things but I'd say that more than anything it looks like Jesus dying on a cross – the culmination of everything that came before it and the starting point for everything that followed.

You might be thinking this is mission Sunday our Mission Gift Day, why is Rachel talking about love? Isn't mission just about sharing the gospel and witnessing to our faith, like Sam was. Shouldn't she be talking about two weeks ago? That's generous giving or how to share the gospel? I'm talking about love because mission is how God's overflowing love is worked out in the world. Mission is much broader than that. just sharing the gospel or supporting our mission partners. Every story in the Bible, from the garden of Eden to the death and resurrection of Jesus through to

John's vision of a new heaven and a new earth, is part of God's mission, flowing from God's heart of love.

Overflowing water might look pretty but it's probably not doing anything useful. But God's overflowing love, God's mission, has a purpose – to transform this broken world into God's kingdom. And we get a glimpse of this kingdom in the life of Jesus – the hungry are fed, the blind receive sight, the outcasts are welcomed and sinners are forgiven. Above all, the broken relationships between God and humans and creation are healed and restored. This is God's mission – a cosmic vision of redemption and transformation and renewal. So mission isn't our idea, it comes from God. Rowan Williamson, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, put it like this: "Mission is finding out what God is doing and joining in". "Mission is finding out what God is doing and joining in".

And that's what we see happening in today's readings. Luke's gospel tells us about the disciples' last meeting with Jesus before he ascends to heaven. After eating a piece of grilled fish, he opens their minds to understand the scriptures and he promises to equip them with the Holy Spirit. He's preparing them to carry on his mission. Acts gives us a tiny snapshot of Peter and John doing just that. One day, on their way to pray at the temple, they see a man who can't walk. Like Jesus, they stop. Like Jesus, Peter commands the lame man to walk – and he jumps to his feet and walks and leaps and praises God because he's been healed. Peter must be pretty pleased with himself, don't you think? I know I would be. But the first thing he does is say 'it wasn't me, it was Jesus, who you crucified, who healed this man'. And that's really important because of course it's God's power not our power, and it's God mission not our mission.

So if everything God does is mission then it follows that mission isn't just the work of a few special people, like St Peter or our mission partner Malcolm, mission is the work of all of us. We're all missionaries. But that doesn't mean we all need to head off to the other side of the world to share the gospel. Mission is much broader than we tend to think.

Helpfully, the Church of England have come up with five marks of mission. We could spend a whole sermon series unpacking the theology and practise of these five marks but for now here's the short version.

Tell – the first mark of mission is to tell your story, as Sam preached on a couple of weeks ago. After he heals the lame man, Peter tells the crowd the good news he himself has witnessed. We haven't had the chance to sit

and share grilled fish with Jesus but we still have stories to share of how God's been at work in our lives. We've heard some of them in our Everyday faith series. What stories do you have to tell that could help someone else to encounter God?

Teach – help other Christians to learn and grow in faith. We saw in our gospel reading how Jesus taught his disciples so that they would grow in faith and be able to teach others. Malcolm teaches his students so that they'll be able to teach and nurture others in their turn. Maybe you don't consider yourself to be a biblical scholar but you might be surprised at how much others could learn from your walk with God.

Tend – this is about serving the needy. When Peter saw the lame man he didn't think oh, it's just another beggar, he saw a precious human being, worthy of his time and attention and the very best he was able to offer. In our series on Acts last year we heard how seriously the early church took its responsibility to provide food for widows, and we heard about Tabitha who had a particular ministry making clothes for them. Tending the needy is a practical expression of God's love.

Transform unjust structures of society – this is such an important part of mission because injustice is so prevalent. Just this last year we've seen how covid disproportionately affects poorer communities and disabled people. The deaths of Sarah Everard and George Floyd have highlighted the oppression faced by so many women and people of colour. And then we see the plight of refugees and minority groups across the world. People who need us to stand up for them and transform their world into a place where they can flourish.

Treasure creation – God gave us the task of caring for the world and so much of the time we damage it through greed and carelessness. We spoil its beauty and we harm millions of people whose homes and livelihoods are threatened by climate change. But when we treasure creation we help restore what God made to the way it was meant to be.

Does that sound a bit overwhelming? I wonder if Peter was overwhelmed that day Jesus commissioned him to go and preach Christ to all the nations. Well, I'd say three things to encourage you. Firstly, you're probably already doing mission without realising it. Earlier on we saw some members of our own church family sharing ways in which they do mission, even though they might not think of it like that. Secondly, it's God's mission and it's going on everywhere we look. So what has God put on your heart? Where and how can you get involved? Thirdly, God

equipped Peter and the disciples for the mission he was sending them on, and he'll equip us too.

Our focus today is on supporting Malcolm with our money and with our prayers but let's not sit back and leave it there. It's God's mission and we can all join in.

Hymn Build your Kingdom here

Come, set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come, set our hearts ablaze with
hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your power in us
We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at
peace
We lay down our lives for
Heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray: revive this earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray
Unleash Your kingdoms power
Reaching the near and far
No force of Hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than
this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love
of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth
Build Your kingdom here.... X2

Mission partner update - Malcolm Pritchard from CMS

This Sunday is our mission Sunday in the parish dedicated to Malcolm Pritchard, who is one of our mission partners working with Church Mission Society in Uganda. (*video update from Malcolm online, see also Notes & News*)

Prayers ~ Sue Harvey (St Peter's)

Gracious Father, God of Love,
we rejoice in the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus
Christ;
we praise you and thank you for our Saviour,
who triumphed over death
to reign as Lord of life.
Strengthen us, Father;
grant us a firm faith,
that we may know the presence of Jesus
our Wonderful Counsellor and true friend;
all glory and honour to his name! Amen



Today we pray for our CMS mission partner Malcolm Pritchard and his work in Uganda.

Father God,
We pray for our mission partner Malcolm and that the treatment he is receiving will restore him to good health so that he will be able to return to Gulu and continue his work there.
We give thanks to you that Uganda is among those countries less affected by Covid and pray that the vaccine that is now available will be distributed equitably so that more lives will be saved.
We thank you that the Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College has the opportunity to secure the legal title to its campus. We pray that the planning and negotiations will go well and have a successful result.
We pray that the search for a successor to the college principal will be successful in finding a person who loves you, Lord, and also loves your people and will take the college forward to the next stage of its development.
Father, we ask you to hold the people of Uganda, and especially those in Gulu, safe in your hands.
For the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Eternal God, we remember Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We give thanks for his long life, for the love that he received from you and showed among us.
We recall with gratitude his love for his family and his devotion to duty, his service in the Royal Navy and his support for many causes. We remember his vision and imagination, his interest in young people and his support for them.

Now we pray that he may know the joys of your everlasting kingdom, where sorrow and pain are no more.

Inspire us with the same commitment to serve friend, neighbour, and stranger alike, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful God, surround the Queen, whose 95th birthday is next Wednesday, and the Royal Family with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come. May they know the hope of your promises and the comfort of your love.

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Come alongside your people, remind them of your eternal presence and give them your comfort and strength. Amen.

Closer to home, we remember, in a short time of silence, the family and friends of former St Mark's member Sylvia Jenkins – and all those who are sick or frail, including Eileen and Peter Bliss, Patrick Chapman, John Hunter, Lynda Kirk, Trevor Lloyd (Barbara Lloyd's son) Catherine McCormack, Olive Park and Joy Storkey together with anyone known to us personally.

Creator and Father of all, we pray for those who are ill.

Bless them and those who look after them, so that they can put their whole trust in you and be filled with your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

We pray for our clergy – and for all those who lead our services – especially at this time with the additional tasks necessary to provide the online services.

Lord Jesus,

We pray for Jonathan, Sam, Rachel and Mick and for all those who minister to us.

Keep them faithful when things are difficult and humble when things go well.

May your word be in their hearts and on their lips, and may they commend you to others by what they are as well as by what they say; for the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Thank you, Lord, for prayer, which is our lifeline in every situation; for we know that you are always present with us as we pray, even when our prayers are not made of words.

In prayer help us to receive your love, your forgiveness, your peace, your guidance and your grace.

Then we shall praise you with joy in our hearts, rejoicing in Christ's name.

Amen.

And finally we join together in the prayer that Jesus himself taught us:

**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

Notices *(See Notes & News)*

Hymn **The Kingdom of God**

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

The dismissal

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

