**Father’s Day 20th June 2021 Kath & Andrew All Age**

**Psalm 100**

Sing to the Lord, all the world. Worship the Lord with joy. come before him with happy songs. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Hymn MP 506 O Lord my God**

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder

consider all the works Thy hand hath made.

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,

Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,*

*How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,*

*How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander

and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees

when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,

and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

*Then sings my soul*....

And when I think that God His Son not sparing,

sent him to die - I scarce can take it in,

that on the cross my burden gladly bearing,

He bled and died to take away my sin:

*Then sings my soul*....

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

and take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!

Then shall I bow in humble adoration,

and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

*Then sings my soul*....

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**Prayer (MP 133 v 3)**

Father we love to seek Your face we love to hear Your voice

Father we love to sing Your praise and in Your name rejoice.

Father we love to walk with You and in Your presence rest

For we know we always can trust You. Amen

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**The Lords Prayer**

**Notices & Mission prayer**

**Dedication of offering**

**Every day is Father’s Day Kath**

Think of some Special days which are always the same such as

1st January, 14th February, 5th November and 25th December.

Think of some special to you…

One for us is 8th July which is our Anniversary – 26 years this year and still speaking!

Think of dates that change like Mothering Sunday, Easter Day and Father’s Day.

Different days are important in different ways to different people but the Amazing news is God is with us wherever we are every day. His love and care for us makes every day special. Every day a day to say thank you to Him through our prayers and through the way we look after each other and look after those less fortunate.

**Hymn No MP 245 How great is our God** x2

How great is our God, How great is His name,

How great is His love forever the same.

He rolled back the waters of the mighty Red Sea

And He said, “I’ll never leave you, Put your trust in me.”

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**Matthew 10:26-31** v31 **We are all priceless - Andrew**

Most of you will know that Kath and I have a motorhome and enjoy the opportunities it gives to get away although the lockdown has meant that hasn’t happened as often as we would have liked.

When we were first married we had a static caravan at Arnside out in the woods near the bottom of the Knott where it is so peaceful and quiet. When we went there the first thing we had to do was to unload, sort everything out and tidy up around the caravan.

On one occasion I was tidying up next to a stone wall and disturbed a small dark coloured snake, probably a slow worm, about 12” long which just quietly slithered between the stones and disappeared into the wall.

Throughout the week, particularly morning and early evening, we could sit in the caravan and watch the mice run about on the wall and, in the nest box we put up, listen to the young blue tits shouting for food. It was a world away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. That’s why we liked to go there so much.

When it is so quiet, I can really relax and often let my mind wander and I remember thinking:

 What must it be like to be a snake? Always the symbol of evil in the bible, one that everybody steers clear of. Is it a lonely life or just nice and quiet and peaceful?

 or to be a mouse, having to watch carefully for fear of cats, owls, and others looking for a quick meal and never risking staying still for long?

 or to be a bird, with such freedom, able to fly off over the trees and fields and see the world from such a different perspective?

Even though we are all part of God’s creation I’ll never know what it is like to be a snake, a mouse or a bird. I’ll never know because God has made me as I am.

To him, the animals and birds and human beings are all special, because we are made the way he wants us to be without the option to be like something or someone else and our reading from Matthew’s gospel reminds us that as human beings made in God’s image we are of far more value to him than any bird or mammal or reptile.

**Jesus said He’s like our Father,** with limitless love, unending patience, boundless mercy and forgiveness. One who cares about all his children, never loves one more than another, never treats one better or worse than another and is just in all he does. He is so much more than any earthly father can ever be.

We know so much about God and yet we know so little. He is so much bigger than the sum total of all we can imagine together and yet he is closer than the closest of family.

Forgetting snakes and mice and birds we sometimes see other people and wish we could be like them but this wonderful, vast and awe inspiring God we worship knows just who and what he wants us to be. Our worth, our value to him is simply in being ourselves.

The challenge however is to be prepared to let go of the picture we have for our lives and to let him make of us what only he can. What a challenge that can be because it talks of accepting that the Christian life is one of constant change as we learn more about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and so grow in faith and understanding.

That means acknowledging we need to be changed. I suspect the coronavirus and lockdown have begun to do that, to be different from what we know and are comfortable with, and not just allowing God to do it but wanting it to happen. Wanting to be more like the only one true example that we need to follow, Jesus.

On this Father’s Day we celebrate all parenthood but especially give thanks for the loving heavenly Father of us all.

He is the giver of life and the supplier for all our needs and he loves us more than we will ever know and he wants nothing more than to give us life in all its beauty and fullness - but we have to want to receive it.

**Hymn MP 3 Abba Father let me be (x2)**

Abba Father let me be Yours and Yours alone.

May my will for ever be evermore Your own.

Never let my heart grow cold, never let me go.

Abba Father, let me be Yours and Yours alone.

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**Prayers of Intercession Kath**

Father God, You know the pain and the joy of fatherhood,

for you witnessed the life and death of your Son.

We pray for fathers everywhere. Help them all to appreciate both the privilege and the responsibility they have.

Give them wisdom, patience and dedication and grant them strength to persevere when children bring tears as well as laughter anxiety as well as hope, pain as well as pleasure.

Be with all whose fathers have died those who have never known their father those who have been mistreated, rejected, abused and those from broken homes who do not feel they have enough time together.

In each of us you delight when we pursue what is good when we honour your commandments, when we seek your will and respond to your guidance but we also cause you pain through our weakness, our disobedience our deafness to your call.

We pray together today as part of your family, those you have brought together. We thank and Praise you for the fellowship we find at Westfield.

We thank and Praise you for the other Christian fellowships in Wyke, for each one who is part of your family in Wyke and we name those we can now.

We think particularly about those struggling in mind, body or spirit and all who are struggling with this present time,

help each one know our prayers are with them.

We pray for each human being in the world who are all your children, all uniquely precious to you, help each to know that you are Father of all and that anyone who turns to you will be eternally in your loving arms. Through the precious name of your Son our Saviour. Amen

**Pause for thought:**

 Over the years Sunday for many has transformed from a day which was very different, to a day which is exactly like every other one for many. The notion of a day of rest has vanished for lots of people. The pressures of modern living are with us all seven days a week. In the last few months, with more time to reflect and take stock of the way we live, the hope is everyone’s lifestyle will stay changed in the future.

  God asking us to keep Sunday special is such a blessing because it reminds us that it is good to set aside time to worship the Creator and to rest in Him. The busiest of us have learnt that it is good to rest in His presence every day with the virus restrictions. For Christians priority to spend more time being still in God’s presence and listening more than speaking to God should continue long after this virus has gone.

 Do you put aside time to rest in the Lord’s presence daily? Our relationship with the Father is not just for special occasions. He wants us to be close to Him every day. John Wesley rose two hours earlier to spend more time with the Father if he had a busy day ahead. Check the balance of your life and ask the Lord to show you how to learn to rest in Him.

 (Youth for Christ daily devotion)

 Please Pray for all those working at this time, whether going out to work like Glynis or working from home like Neil , that each day they will have times of resting and refreshment with the Lord and that they will not be too busy to listen, pray and worship.

  Please pray especially for safety and God’s protection for all those working in these uncertain times.

Pray also that Sunday will once again be a special day of worship and rest for all in our community, county, country and world. Amen

**Shine share**

**Hymn No 244 How good is the God we adore**

How good is the God we adore

Our faithful unchangeable friend

His love is as great as His power.

And knows neither measure nor end.

For Christ is the First and the Last

His Spirit will guide us safe home

We’ll praise Him for all that is past

And trust Him for all that’s to come.

Joseph Hart (1712-68) CCLI 150801

May the blessing of God almighty,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

rest upon us and upon all our work

and worship done in his name.

May he give us light to guide us,

courage to support us and love to unite us,

now and for evermore.Amen

