

Sunday 6th November 2022 An all-stage service

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God is love, let us adore God by sharing God's love.

God is ever present, around us and within us, we worship together in God.

Readings Mark 10.35-45

Reflection 1

Imagine you are at a Teddy bears Party what happens. There is not usually a seating plan, it is all very informal and teddies are arranged on a blanket (surrounded by their 'parents') and they share together. Children and adults have a different approach to party planning. Children don't expect anything other than fun and food. Adults also expect food, and hope for fun but know it will be ordered and possibly have a lot of formality, there are different expectations.

If you could invite anyone to a dinner party who would you invite? Would it be someone famous or a celebrity. When we consider this we recognise that in the world today there are a lot of people who want their fifteen minutes of fame and we have lots of celebrities because the media picks up on this. Fame is usually associated with achievement or talent, perhaps a discovery or invention which has transformed the way we live, or music which has inspired our thinking. So is the person you would invite a celebrity of famous?

Reflection 2

Big houses often had lots of servants, and people in the Bible often had servants if they were rich. Servants are people and they work is to help other people. Our reading tells us something important about Jesus. Jesus was famous, Jesus did amazing things but he did not want people to serve him, he wanted to serve other people. Jesus made friends with lots of people who were disliked by others, he helped them, and he shared God's love with them. His message was that everyone is within God's love.

Story –

Hundreds of years ago, during the American Revolution, it is said that an officer not wearing his military uniform was passing by where a small company of soldiers were at work making some repairs on a small fort. The corporal of the squad was giving orders to the soldiers as they tried to raise a piece of timber to the top of the Fort. It was hard work and progress was slow, and because of this the corporals voice was often heard shouting, " Heave away! There she goes! Heave Ho!

The officer who was passing stopped his horse to watch, and seeing the timber sometimes scarcely move, asked the corporal why he did not take hold and help. The corporal appeared to be somewhat astonished, and turning to the officer with the pomp of an emperor, said "Sir, I am a corporal! You are not though, are you?" said the pompous little corporal."

"I was not aware of that," said the out-of-uniform officer, taking off his hat and bowing, I ask your pardon, Mr. Corporal!" Then he dismounted from his elegant horse, tied the reins over a post, and helped the soldiers lift the timber. It was very hard work and he was soon sweating.

When the timber was finally in place, the officer turned to the corporal and said: "Mr. Corporal Commander, when you have another such job and have not enough men, send to your Commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you a second time." The corporal was speechless and too overcome to do more than stare. The out-of-uniform officer was General George Washington.

George Washington showed what Jesus meant, being famous does not mean we should not lend a hand when it is needed. We are all servants to one another.

There is another story in the Bible about serving others – we call it the Good Samaritan – recall the story and consider how we are called to love our neighbour, and love means serving our neighbour

Reflection 3

Jesus did not seek celebrity, in fact he often told people not to tell what he had done. He was happy to serve people. He often asked people what he could do for them. We read about him healing people but sometimes what we want is much simpler. Imagine a little girl with a pet rabbit and one morning she wakes to find a storm has damaged the rabbit hutch, what do you think she might ask Jesus for?

There are lots of children around the world who don't have all the nice things we have, some don't have three meals a day and certainly don't have sweets, some are ill but cannot go to the doctor for medicine, some don't have a safe and warm home, some have to drink water from a polluted river or lake and certainly don't have squash to add to it. What might they ask Jesus for? Jesus says we are to be servants for one another, and loving people means sharing what we have so that others can have what they need. We can be the answer to someone else's prayer. What could you share with someone to answer their prayer?