

## Pent 7 July 12th 2020

Led by Fiona Bennett

Musician Mike Holroyd

### Gathering & Welcome

#### Call to worship:

One: The Holy One is here; the transforming flame of God is amongst us;

Warming our imaginations with vision

Refining our hearts with hope

Forging the shape of our world with justice and joy

ALL: Spirit of God, with all that is in us, we raise our voices to praise you...

#### Hymn: The Kingdom of God R&S 200 (tune : Out Skerries)

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!

His 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.

*Bryn Austin Rees (1911-1983).*

#### Prayer

*Introduce Focusing Movement:*

ALL: Above and below (*hands - up to down*)

Within and beyond (*hands - from stomach to outstretched*)

The Spirit of God is at work.

*We unite our prayers together in the Jesus prayer or Lord's prayer...*

Source of Life,

Father and Mother of all,

Creation honours you!

May your Realm of

Justice and Love

sustain our hope

and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed

us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.

In times of temptation and test,  
strengthen us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory

of the power that is love,

now and forever. Amen.

## **Time for all ages: Parable of the sower**

### **Short Song: Chorus from CH4 257**

Singing we gladly worship the Lord together  
Singing we gladly worship the Lord  
This who are travelling the road of life  
Sow seeds of peace and love.  
(repeat)

### **Reading: Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23 The Message (MSG) read by Sian Jones**

13 1-3 At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

3-8 "What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

9 "Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

18-19 "Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn't take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person's heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

20-21 "The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

22 "The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

23 "The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams."

### **Sermon: Fiona Bennett**

### **Music for Reflection: Mike Holroyd**

### **Prayers of the People: Stephen Hoare**

### **Offering & Dedication**

**Hymn: In our live plant seeds CH4 349**

*In our lives plant seeds of hope,  
in our homes plant seeds of love,  
in our church plant seeds of joy.  
Tell the world about God's love,  
tell the world about God's love.  
Jesus said, 'If you have faith  
small as a mustard seed,  
in my name you'll do great things,  
you'll do great things indeed.'*

*In our lives plant seeds of hope,  
in our homes plant seeds of love,  
in our church plant seeds of joy.  
Tell the world about God's love,  
tell the world about God's love.  
'If a seed falls to the ground,  
lies buried like the grain',  
Jesus said, 'until it dies  
it cannot grow again.'*

**Blessing & Sung Amen**

*In our lives plant seeds of hope,  
in our homes plant seeds of love,  
in our church plant seeds of joy.  
Tell the world about God's love,  
tell the world about God's love.  
'Some words fall among the thorns  
and some on stony ground;  
some are carried off and lost,  
but others find good ground.'*

*In our lives plant seeds of hope,  
in our homes plant seeds of love,  
in our church plant seeds of joy.  
Tell the world about God's love,  
tell the world about God's love.*

Carol Dixon (b. 1947)