

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday July 5th.

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on

Unlocking the lockdown.

Matthew 10v20 ESV Jesus said 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them'

With the government allowing Churches to open for services from 4th July we at Rugby road hope to gradually open up our building for worship and other meetings. On Sunday 5th July there will be a live stream on Facebook of the service from the Church. As we learn lessons, as the restrictions become less and our confidence in managing the situation grows we hope to gradually build up the congregation. For those who watch it on the website there will be a link to the facebook page.

The live stream will also be recorded with some additional items so people can watch it later and also CDs will be distributed as usual with the Chronicle. In July Dennis will lead the service and preach on the 5th, David on the 12th and 26th and Jim on the 19th.

Particularly for those unable to get to Church or watch the service on the website the Corona Chronicle will continue to be published. The prayer meetings on messenger will still go ahead. It is hoped that ways may be found to increase the numbers to the prayer meetings so please contact me if you wish to join and I will see if a way can be found. We already have a number in the prayer group joining by phone. So it can be done!

We are learning a great deal from being Church in a Corona Emergency. Up to 150 households have watched the service each week and for the time being live streaming will continue.



I am the bible book that says "I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on?"

I am the book from which comes the phrase "A lamb for the slaughter."

I am the book from which comes the phrase "A drop in the bucket."

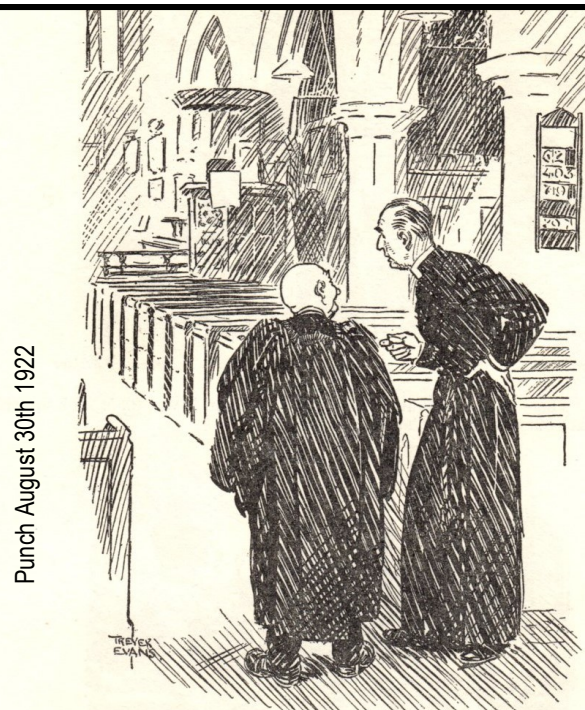
Only John mentions raising Lazarus from the dead. I am the city where it happened. What city am I?

I am the book from which comes the phrase: 'Can a leopard change his spots?,'

I am the book from which comes the phrase "The blind leading the blind."

The gospel of John has no information on the birth of Jesus. Other than 'the Word' who is Jesus, I am the first person introduced who am I?

I am the book that says; 'The voice of the turtle is heard in our land.'



Punch August 30th 1922

Aug. 30, 1922

Treyer Evans

A BROADCASTING PERIL

Time—Sunday Morning

Vicar. "This is terrible! Five minutes before the service and not a soul here!"

Vergger. "No, Sir; but I understand there are some thousands waiting in their own homes to "listen in." "

Open All Hours

Well, hardly!

However, having earlier allowed churches to open for private prayer, the Government is now allowing churches in England to reopen for services of public worship and weddings. It is not, though, going to be “business as usual” for there are still restrictions such as social distancing to be obeyed. The Government is also strongly recommending that people regarded as being in the vulnerable category should be urged not to attend public services as yet. Using that criterion about five of our normal congregation at West Worthing could be expected to attend at present!

I have to admit that I was underwhelmed with the emphasis that was being placed on private prayer being permitted in church buildings. After all, prayer between the individual and the Lord is not dependent upon locations but is possible and as real anywhere it takes place.

Corporate worship, however, by definition, does need people to be able to come together. In these days of Covid-19 churches have resorted to many approaches to give their congregations a sense of community in their services. But, helpful and innovative as these attempts have been and are, they can never replace actually coming together.

So why is public worship so important? The answer lies fundamentally in the nature of God.

He has revealed himself to be a sociable God, a God who delights in relationships. This is seen in his very being for he is the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is communication between the three Persons, (see Genesis 1:26 “Let **us** make man...”) love (see Jesus’ words in John 14:31; 15:9) and interaction as demonstrated in the work of salvation.

The Father plans it, the Son achieves it, the Spirit enables it (John 3:16; 10:14-18, Hebrews 9:14).

That, of course, is a unique relationship. But God’s sociability does not end there, he extends it to us. He has created a new family through the cross and he invites his people to fellowship with himself. He wants two-way communication and relationship. He loves company! This is not because God is in desperate need of companionship! I have seen it represented that way: that God was lonely and therefore created mankind. That is not only ludicrous but heretical; it is to make God in our own image. We are dealing with the eternal God who called a universe into being from nothing, a God totally self-sufficient and self-reliant, upon whom **we** are dependent! (Check out Isaiah 40). God calls us into relationship with him and into worship together out of sheer, undiluted, wonderful grace.

A prevailing mark of our modern society is its individualism and self-absorption; maybe Covid 19 has dented that attitude for some but it is still rampant. Christians, too, can fall into the same trap. Remember, however, that we are made in God’s image and that means we are sociable beings too. Christians are not meant to be self-sufficient, we need our fellow believers. We enrich our worship **together**, we encourage one another **together**, we learn **together** in ways we do not always achieve apart.

And then, of course, worshipping together turns our eyes outwards and upwards to our wonderful God. If you’re anything like me you know how often we get taken up with the inward (what’s going on in me) and the horizontal (what’s going on around me). And often that’s depressing! But to worship truly in the company of other flawed saints is a great reminder that for God’s children God’s heart and ear are open all hours!

Dennis R. Read

Summary of Service for Sunday, 5th. July 2020

Call to worship: When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:12-14)

Hymn 14 Mission Praise All heaven declares

Prayer: Thanksgiving and Confession – think of things for which you want to thank God and things you need to put right with him.

The assurance of God's promises to his penitent people:

"I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist." (Isaiah 44:22)

"I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:34)

Communal Bible reading: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (Psalm 34:1-8 ESV)

Prayers: (1) Our needy world (Covid-19 is not the only calamity at large on our planet). Think of areas of concern you are aware of in other countries – the economic poverty and hardship. Pray about the misunderstanding, divisions and hostility that disrupt relationships and communities. Think of nations where governments are corrupt, where freedom of thought and belief is suppressed brutally, and regimes operate with an inhuman disregard for justice.

(2) Our Queen and the Royal Family; the Government, national and local, - wisdom and skill in dealing with Covid-19 and all its effects, including the economic situation. Christian politicians, that they may faithfully and effectively promote godly viewpoints on the often libertarian legislation that is presented.

(3) Churches – that they may use every opportunity to reach their communities with the life-giving gospel. For missions and Christian organizations that their financial support may hold firm so they can continue their ministries.

(4) The Christian Family Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Bible reading: And when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And

he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say, 'Take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – he said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" (Mark 2:1-12 ESV.)

Song 335 Praise: There's no greater name than Jesus

Sermon

Hymn 1072 Mission Praise: In Christ alone

Closing prayer: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself; may the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service; may the joy and peace of the Lord Jesus fill your lives and homes and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen

Hymns

All heaven declares

The glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare with
The beauty of the Lord?
Forever He will be
The Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee
And worship Him alone.

I will proclaim
The glory of the risen Lord,
Who once was slain
To reconcile man to God.
Forever You will be
The Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee
And worship You alone.

Noel and Tricia Richards
C Thankyou music

There's no greater name than Jesus,

Name of him who came to save us;
In that saving name so gracious
Every knee shall bow.
Let everything that's beneath the ground,
Let everything in the world around,
Let everything exalted on high
Bow at Jesus' name.
In our minds, by faith professing,
In our hearts, by inward blessing,
On our tongues by words confessing,
Jesus Christ is Lord!

Author Michael Baughen

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In Christ alone my hope is found,

He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone — who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain,
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend c2001 Thank you music

Digest of Sermon

Scripture passage: Mark 2:1-12

Title: Our greatest need.

Introduction: What want most? Many choose wrongly. This incident homes in on the answer.

1. Our greatest need is forgiveness

What did this man come for? What did Jesus focus on in verse 5?

In midst of all the problems we face today does this mean Christianity is irrelevant?

No -other problems are important, need to be addressed, but Jesus saying this is the greatest because our sin is the cause of all the others. We are at odds with our Creator – Psalm 14;2-3; Isaiah 59:2.

2. Our most urgent need is forgiveness

(a) *Because of the possibility of death*

Covid-19 brought vividly before us the uncertainty and frailty of life

What use healing if on the way home he was killed?

Then too late for spiritual healing; see Hebrews 9:27 and II Corinthians 5:10

And no further possibility of forgiveness– too late.

(b) *Because the lack of forgiveness affects our whole life*

Jesus' words in verse 5 emphasize all evil and disaster exists because live in a fallen and broken world. He knows if the man is only physically healed he will remain spiritually paralysed, unable to be the person he should be as made in the image of God.

3. Forgiveness can only be found in Jesus Christ

Jesus speaks with authority – no hesitation in verse 5 “your sins **are** forgiven”.

The scribes' question was a valid one for everything hinges on who Jesus is. He shows his right to forgive sins by healing the man. “Son of Man” is a pointer back to Daniel 7:13-14. It is because Jesus is God that he is the answer to our need. God can only forgive and reconcile to himself rebellious sinners by taking human nature, living perfectly amongst us and dying on a cross, taking his own judgement on our sins upon himself. And that's what Jesus did.

Conclusion

Thrilling reality is that forgiveness is there for all if face up to own sin and seek forgiveness through Lord Jesus. Then go on to live in a relationship with him that transforms our life.