

26th July 2020 VoS Worship

Revd Josephine Soon

Welcome to worship

Call to worship [Psalm 105:1-4]

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Hymn: Crown Him with many crowns

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.

Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for
thee,

and hail him as thy matchless king through all
eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty
glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never,
never fail throughout eternity.

Worship and Rejoice, 2003. CCL No. 515642

Prayers of Adoration

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we pause in this time to praise you for who you
are;

For your majesty, your authority,
your sovereignty, your power

There is no God like you.

There is no God beside you.

We praise you, the one true living Lord of all
creation.

You are `lord of all you have made.

You have authority over all that was, is and is to
be.

Yours is the power,
yours is the glory and
your name is above all other names.

We pause and praise you for what you have
done.

You have made us, and you love us,
Held us and healed us,
Forgiven us and accepted us.

You have made us your children;
You have given us your Son, whom we know as
both Jesus our Saviour, And Christ our Lord.
We praise you, our God, Father-Son-Holy Spirit,
for who you are and for what you have done to
make us your own,

Amen

Prayers of Confession

Dear God,

Like sheep, sometimes we have gone astray,
sometime we turning our own separate way.
We have all sinned and fallen short of your glory,
but your glory is what we desire to see and in
your presence is where we belong.

Oh Lord, show us your mercy and grace.

Take us to your holy place forgive our sin and
heal our land.

We long to live in your presence,
by your grace cleanse us through Jesus that
in your presence we may truly dwell.

Amen

Hymn: There's a quiet understanding

1 There's a quiet understanding
When we're gathered in the Spirit,
It's a promise that He gives us,
When we gather in His name.
There's a love we feel in Jesus,
There's a manna that He feeds us,
It's a promise that He gives us,
When we gather in His name.

2 And we know when we're together,
Sharing love and understanding,
That our brothers and our sisters
Feel the oneness that He brings.
Thank You, thank You, thank You, Jesus,
For the way You love and feed us,
For the many ways You lead us,
Thank You, thank You, Lord.

Words © 1973 Hope Publishing Company CCL No. 515642

Readings: Matthew 13: 31-33 & 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

The Parable of the Yeast

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Three Parables

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So, it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God and
His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

3 Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word that
proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

Karen Lafferty (b.1948) CCL No. 515642

Sermon: The Kingdom of Heaven

Introduction: Kingdom of God is....

- It is in **the reign of God** – God's rule [**God in control**]
- **Everything of goodness**, of joy, peace, love, pure etc. [**all hatred, violence cease**]
- **Partly future and partly present**. It is now and not yet fully manifest [**we still facing the temptations of lust, oppression, crime, suffering and dead.**]
- There are not two separate kingdoms. **Kingdom of God and kingdom of Heaven is ONE.**

- It is removed every obstacles and distraction between God and us. [In the full presence of God]

In order to be in the Kingdom of Heaven, we need to remove every sins [repent], get away from all things that distracting us from God; sometime this things may be referring to the people or friendship that pull us away from the love of God. [Lead us not into temptation...the Lord's Prayer teaches us so. Unless you feel God called you into that situation.]

In order to be in the fuller presence of God, it means we are to live a life that is under God's reign...that is in God's Kingdom, following God's rules and do as His will and according to His values.

You cannot live a life that is sometime in the Kingdom of God, sometime of the world. Lord Jesus has taught us that, one cannot serve two masters. Being a Christian means you know who your Lord/ Master/ King is, and you have decided to follow (obedient/ under the reign of God) Jesus.

The nature of Kingdom of God: alive/moving Matthew 13: 31-33

First sign: it can grow (like the seed) to become a blessing to others that come close to it – bear more fruits/seeds

2nd sign: it is contagious (like the yeast)

Those mingle/mixed with it will be influence/change and together will transform to be better

Is your life a blessing to those who come near you?
Is your life point people closer to Jesus?
so that they too, may received the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 13: 44-53

Kingdom of heaven is so valuable – having it, is worth us to give up everything we have. It is to the extend that even to give up all things (visible & invisible) still is a gain

Not for sale

The truth is that **The Kingdom of Heaven is something that cannot be bought or earned.** If by everything you can give up, you are willing to

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has **grown** it is **the greatest** of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

The Parable of the Yeast

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like **yeast** that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was **leavened**.'

Three Parables

'The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field**.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding **one pearl of great value**, he went and **sold all that he had and bought it**.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and **put the good** into baskets but **threw out the bad**. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and **separate** the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Treasures New and Old

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

give away so to get the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus says, this is a gain. This is a good deal.

Matthew 5:3: The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 10:7-8 NKJV

And as you **go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.**

The Kingdom of Heaven is a gift. Truly.... those who is not **received** the Kingdom of God, shall not get it.

Kingdom of God is not for sale. We cannot buy it. But, if by give away all that you have in your life...[remember Abraham willing to offer his son, Isaac, as a burnt offering in Genesis 22...God was testing Abraham's faith then] that we may received the Kingdom of God, this is a good deal.

Philippians 3:7-8

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had; these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

What does it mean to count everything as loss for the sake of Christ?

What does it mean to renounce all that we have for Christ's sake?

Paul said he does this. "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8). And a few verses later he said, "Brothers, join in imitating me" (Philippians 3:17).

Received only when you really wanted it so badly.

It is a gift; you can receive and only if you want it. Only if you wanted it so bad.

How desperate do you want God's heaven?

Illustration:

Will you willing to give up everything & your life to be Christian? Will you say yes?

Maybe we try to 'negotiate' with God, 'Why do I have to give up my life in order to be a Christian?' Perhaps, in our mind, we may think, 'This surely is not God – God would not ask me to do so....'

You are right.

As God do not ask the man in this parable to sell everything & buy the field/ pearl.

God do not ask you to sell everything & to buy the 'Treasure' or the pearl.

You see, the man, he wanted the treasure so badly. He was willingly, do not hesitate to sell everything he had in order to get the treasure, the pearl. He knows, it is still a gain.

Without God demand him to do so, he do it anyway.

How desperately do you want God's kingdom in you, in your life?

I do not know anything about you.

I see our Lord Jesus wanted the Kingdom of Heaven so badly that He is willing to come to earth, to live with us, to died on the cross, to live again, to give us His breath – His Spirit...because He was so desperately wanted the Kingdom of Heaven come into your life and my life.

I wanted the kingdom of heaven so bad that I give up my everything – in order to have Jesus and to follow Jesus.

I wonder, will you take up all those thing that distract you from following Jesus?

I wonder, will you willing to give all that you have – moneys, building, talents, time, hands & legs,

your wife/ husband/ children...
All your life label Jesus' name
and

to do what Jesus had shown us:

Matthew 10:7-8 NKJV

And as you **go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.**

Hymn: What kind of love is this that gave itself for me? (StF 286)

What kind of love is this
that gave itself for me?
I am the guilty one, yet I go free.
What kind of love is this,
a love I've never known;
I didn't even know his name –
what kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this,
that died in agony?
He who had done no wrong
was crucified for me.
What kind of man is this,
who laid aside his throne
that I may know the love of God –
what kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved;
it is the gift of God.
He destined me to be his own
such is his love.
No eye has ever seen,
no ear has ever heard,
nor has the human heart conceived
what kind of love is this?

*Words by Bryn and Sally Haworth © Bella Music Ltd.
Reproduced with permission. CCL No. 515642*

Prayer of thanksgiving & Intercession

*During the prayers, there will be places of silent,
please use them to speak to God/ listening to His
voice.*

Lord Jesus,
We come to you today and thank you for the

privilege of praying for one another.
We have been the recipient of others' prayers so
often,
We understand how powerful intercessory prayer
can be.

1st Candle Now, we ask you first to cleanse our
heart and show us if there is any unconfessed sin
in our own life so that our prayers for others will
not be hindered. {silent}
We thank you that through your name, we can
come boldly before you and pray with
confidence,
according to your will
and know that you hear us.

2nd Candle -We lift those in our
neighbourhood....
Those in our street, community and in our
church...[silent]

Those who follow Jesus, our Lord.
Please help them influence others for good.
Please let them be salt and light,
pointing others to you.

Please deepen their love for you and for the
people around them and
guard them from hypocrisy or from giving in to
temptations that could harm the cause of Christ.

Raise up leaders who will serve you faithfully at
all costs.

3rd Candle Lord God,
Turn the hearts of fathers & mothers toward their
children, and families toward you.
Help them to demonstrate your values and make
them bold in their faith. [silent]
Strengthen our own family,
and those closest to us, Lord.
May our love for you help us to love and forgive
others and make a difference in our world.

4th Candle We pray for teachers, for students,
and for all those in authority and leadership,
both locally and throughout the world [silent].
Give them your mind and
surround them with godly counsellors
who will exercise integrity and work for justice,
morality, and freedom.

Help them to esteem you, not dismiss you.
Send revival, O Lord.

5th Candle We pray for the lost, the hurting, the lonely, the sick, the bereaved, and those who are imprisoned—behind both visible and invisible walls [silent].

Send your comfort, your peace, and your calming presence to those who are without hope.

Protect the defenceless and hold them close to your heart.

6th Candle

We pray for your workers who tell the good news of Jesus to people around our world.

Jesus, we pray for the persecuted believers, too. [silent]

Make them brave and give them your powerful protection.

We pray you will bring swift justice to those who want to destroy the innocent and those who carry your name.

Blind the power of Satan and strengthen believers everywhere.

7th Candle So many needs, Jesus, but you are adequate for every need. [silent]
Your name is powerful, and your power is great. So, it's in your name that we pray—and believe.

Amen

The Lord's 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.

**Concluding Hymn: come set your rule and reign
(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
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

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

*Christopher Dean Llewellyn / Gareth Andrew Gilkeson /
William Herron © Capitol Christian Music Group
CCL No. 515642*

Blessings

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
May the LORD make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
May the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Amen