

Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit
SERVICE AT HOME: Sunday 3rd September 2023
Prepared by Revd Dr G Howard Mellor

Welcome to this week's service at home.

A Prayer for the Church:

O Lord Jesus, whose saving love
is revealed in many ways
by word and sign and sacrament;
come, transform our lives,
envision our ministry together,
empower your calling in us,
equip us to serve in Jesus' name,
graced by the love of the Father
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Listen, read, pray or sing along

Our hymn is 'All Praise to our Redeeming Lord' (StF 608)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9VTysZ1nT8>

Hymn:

All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;
and gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.

(Charles Wesley 1707-1788)

Bible reading:

Matthew 16:21-28 – read the passage through in your bible.

Jesus and his disciples are at Caesarea Philippi, a hill town looking down the Jordan river. Imagine Jesus looking down the valley and saying in effect – this is the path I have to tread, a journey to Jerusalem and crucifixion.

None of us would want that for our friends. So Peter's response is understandable, but quite wrong. Peter has only just declared with faith and enthusiasm 'You are the Christ!' Jesus goes on this journey for us.

What is wonderful about the way Jesus deals with Peter is that he is always given another chance. There are things we get wrong, but Jesus always welcomes our turning back to Him, 'setting our mind' (verse 23) on following him.

'Divine things' (verse 23), can be very practical! What do you think of as 'divine things' that you can be doing this week? Set your mind and heart on doing those things.

Prayers:

Let us hold before God all those who hold faith in Christ.

Those who follow Christ with firm tread,
and those whose step is less steady.

That among God's people,
all will be welcomed, young and old, friend and stranger
that joys may be celebrated and tears may be shed.

May God's kingdom be both sought and lived

and the good news of Jesus shared and proclaimed.

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done**

Let us hold before God those places where Christ's teaching is ignored;

praying for peace where there is hatred.

We pray for all who are suffering injustice or violence.

We pray today for

May those in authority seek peace,
and those with resources bring aid to the needy.

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done**

Let us hold before God all those to whom Christ offers his kingdom

Come with peace to those who are fearful,
come with guidance to those who are troubled,
come with healing to those who are unwell,
especially we remember -----

and to all of us bring your wholeness in body,
mind and spirit

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done**

We pray for continuing vision and hope that as congregations

we may live out the good news of Jesus,
encouraging faith, engaging in community issues
and enabling deep discipleship

to spread 'Scriptural Holiness' throughout the land.

Come risen, glorious Christ

Your kingdom come, **Your will be done, Amen!**

Listen, read, pray or sing along

Our next hymn is 'I will offer up my life'
(StF 446)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG5EVeGtOQ>
0

Hymn

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love, as my worship to you
In surrender I must give my every part
Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Savior, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You
have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this
thankful heart

You deserve my every breath, for You've paid the
great cost

Giving up your life to death, even death on the
cross

You took all my shame away, there defeated my
sin

Open up the gates of heaven and have beckoned
me in

Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Savior, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You
have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part

Of the debt of love that is owed by this
thankful heart

(Matt Redman b. 1974)

Blessing

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Church Copyright Licence No: 30794