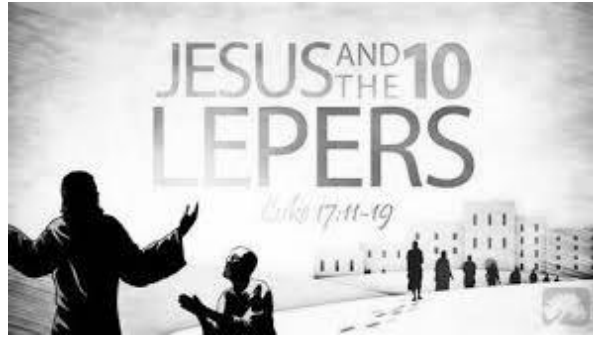




The **Methodist** Church

Nottingham North East Circuit - Sunday 9th October 2022



This short act of worship, based on the service which would have been held at Church today, has been prepared for you by Rev John Wiseman, to use at home. If you are well enough, why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

I have included some links to allow you to access versions of the hymns / songs / music via YouTube

Let's begin by singing STF 255

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

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.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOrkdW5NAM0

Opening prayer Psalm 111

¹ Praise the LORD.

I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the
assembly.

² Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who delight
in them.

³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures
forever.

⁴ He has caused his wonders to be
remembered;

the LORD is gracious and
compassionate.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear
him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of
his works,
giving them the lands of other
nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and
just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ They are established forever and ever,
enacted in faithfulness and
uprightness.

⁹ He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—
holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning
of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good
understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.

Bible reading Luke 17: 11-19 Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus
travelled along the border between
Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going
into a village, ten men who had leprosy
met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and
called out in a loud voice, "Jesus,
Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go,
show yourselves to the priests." And as
they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was
healed, came back, praising God in a
loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus'
feet and thanked him—and he was a
Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten
cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to
God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he
said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has
made you well."

Let's sing again, a new song but to the familiar tune of 'What a friend we have in Jesus'

Ten who suffered sought out Jesus
when they saw him travelling through:
"Jesus, Master, show your mercy!
Hear our cry, we beg of you!"
When he saw them, Jesus answered,
"Find the priests. See what they say."
As they did what Jesus told them,
ten found healing on the way.

Ten were healed, and saw the wonder!
Nine kept going, homeward bound.
Only one despised by others
took the time to turn around.
Finding Jesus, singing praises,
he said "Thank you!" on that day.
Jesus said, "Your faith has healed you.
But the others where are they?"

Where are we, O God of mercy?
For your Son has blessed us, too.
He has given life abundant,
offered healing, made us new.
Like the nine, are we distracted
by our homes, our work, our play?
Or do we return and thank you,
taking time to humbly pray?

Jesus, make us truly grateful
for the blessings we receive.
Like that one, may we say, "Thank you!"
like that one, may we believe:
Give us faith to see your mercy,
and through all we do and say,
May our lives become our "thank you!"
as we follow you each day.

A Reflection

Today I just wanted to pose a few questions / thoughts about the passage rather than deliver a sermon...so here goes.

Although quite difficult to catch, leprosy is a disease that not only causes damage to the nerves in peoples, hands, feet and noses but it is also a disease that carries great social stigma. People suffering from leprosy were (and still are) forced to the fringes of society...perhaps that's why in this story we find ten leprosy sufferers together. Maybe this is the only community they have. And that made me wonder...**who are the people, the groups that are pushed to the fringes of society today...and why?**

One of the ingredients of a good story is often the inclusion of a hero or heroine. And the story that Jesus told was no exception any yet there was something exceptional about the person Jesus chose to be 'the hero'...a Samaritan, the one who came back to say thank you. **Why was this unusual and who might be the unexpected hero / heroine in our society today?**

In the story although it is Jesus who has performed the healing, he insists that the group of ten suffering from leprosy must go and show themselves to the priests. **Why do you think he does that? What role would the priests have in helping the lepers reintegrate back into society...think laws of purity and cleanliness.**

And finally...just like that one leper who turned around and came back to say

thank you to Jesus...**who do you need to say thank you too today?**

Prayers of Intercessions

Please pray for the stories and situations that have dominated our news over the past week

Please continue to pray for those 'major' stories that no longer appear to be news

Please pray for World Mental Health day

Please pray for the Circuit Sharing day on Nov 5th

Please pray for the transitions of leadership at Sherwood, Arnold and Rise Park

Please pray for Thurgarton Methodist Church which will close at the end of November

Please pray for any that you know who are in need of healing

We join together to say the words of the Lord's prayer...Our Father.....

Let's conclude this act of worship by singing again a new song to the tune for 'the king of love my shepherd is'

O God of life, your healing touch
brings wholeness and salvation!
In you, this world you love so much
becomes a new creation.

Through Jesus Christ you blessed the
poor,
unleashed your gifts of healing.
You gave new sight, new strength, new
life
to all, your love revealing.

O Christ, the loving healer still,
you gather us for mission
To serve your people who are ill,
whatever their condition.

You send us to the suffering
with medicine and caring;
Now make our lives an offering
to those who are despairing.

How long, Lord, shall we serve the poor
a week, a month, a season?
We ask the question, hoping for
a limit to our mission.

But open wide our hearts anew
and show us, as we're giving,
Your life-long call to serving you
in daily, generous living.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU3HhioN

O-4

A blessing...

Knowing that you are forgiven, freed
and forever loved, go forth into this
week to serve the Lord in all you do, say
and be