



WATERSIDE CHURCH PRAYER MEETING AT HOME TUESDAY 29th June 2021 7.30 PM – 8.30 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 862 3611 1850 Passcode: 506655

Dial In: 0203 481 5240

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86236111850?pwd=ZHg3QVVnaCtOT0tEZSs5c0hrZTg1dz09>

It would be great if as many of us as possible could set aside this hour to pray together in our homes, especially as Rev'd Trish will be leading us in a meditation.

(If you can't manage this time, choose a time that works for you, and read and reflect as indicated below)

There is also a ZOOM option if you wish to share the prayer time 'virtually' on-line with others.

Settle down: Find yourself a quiet spot; grab a Bible, a pen and a piece of paper; maybe a cup of tea... Ask God to quieten your heart and mind. Mentally put aside the thoughts that are running about in your head. If you find you don't get to the end, that's fine; leave it there, or finish off at another time.

Theme: Very much to the fore at the moment is the delay in releasing the lockdown restrictions, and the great disappointment felt by those whose economic, mental / emotional or physical wellbeing is dependent on that release and the associated freedoms to travel, work, visit and receive medical attention.

Such folk need to be lifted up in prayer; please do so as we think about the disappointment of some of the workers in the vineyard, as described in Matthew 20: 1- 16 below. Think also on God's view of the situation.

Opening Prayer:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Church of England)

Read / Listen: Matthew 20:1-16

What words or phrases jumped out at you? What was your reaction to what you heard / read? Share your thoughts or note them down, and ask God what He might be saying through them.

...a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard... 'you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day' (v1, 12)

Reflect on the first labourers to be hired; were they excited to be working so early and therefore earning good money? Disappointed because their extra hours did not earn them extra?

Think about, and pray for, those who feel their labour is in vain, or who feel promised rewards have not been delivered. Pray for those who do valuable work, but are poorly appreciated, stigmatised or ignored.

About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around... "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard'... 'I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you' (v6, 7, 14)

Reflect on the last labourers to be hired; were they disappointed to be hired so late in the day?

Appreciative that a little work was better than no work at all? Amazed when they were paid the same as those who had been working all day?

Think about, and pray for, those who have lost their jobs during lockdown, or are anxious about their economic situation once lockdown relief packages have stopped, such as those in the travel, leisure and entertainment sectors. Pray also for those who are not aware of how significant is the contribution they make, that they may realise how much they are appreciated.

Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? (v15)

Think about, and pray for, those who do not acknowledge God's kingship over the earth, those who do not recognise Jesus as Lord as well as Saviour. Pray too for those who do not trust in God's capacity and willingness to look after His own, for those Christians who feel let down by Him or His people.

Closing Prayer of Praise:

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever. (Psalm 30:11-12)