

ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



30 OCTOBER 2022

PENTECOST 21

CHANGE

95

*possible*

# WORSHIP AT HOME

*This time is an opportunity to be still, seeking to be aware of the presence of God within.*

*Carve out a time for this practice; prepare yourself, as you might for a usual Sunday morning and remember that there are others from the congregation gathering at the same time as you. There are also many from the church around the globe who are gathering to seek the presence of God as we are.*

*Prepare a space in the house; find a comfortable chair, light a candle, turn off distracting noises and close the door if that will help you to be still. This is something that does not need to be hurried.*

## Prayer for today

Lord God of love and peace, open our hearts today to receive the invitation of Jesus to come and be present in our lives. Release us from our smallness and create an atmosphere of confession and healing love in our hearts and our spirits. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

## Hymn

At the name of Jesus  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him  
King of Glory now:  
This the Father's pleasure  
That we call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning  
Was the mighty Word. (CM Noel)

## Scripture

**Luke 19: 1-10 Jesus and Zacchaeus**

1. He (Jesus) entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." 6. So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8. Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." 9. Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

# Hymn: Tis 447 Lord, your almighty word...

## Reflection

Zacchaeus was a wealthy man. He had grown wealthy by cheating other people. He had arrived at a time in his life where this was no help at all. He was cut off from other people, his life was empty. We are told he went to see Jesus. He must have been pretty desperate because he ran and climbed a tree so that he could get a better view. Disgrace? - but he is beyond caring. As Jesus passes underneath he sees Zacchaeus and realising that something is wrong. Jesus calls him down. Jesus tests out what is going on by challenging the man - I must come to your house. Zacchaeus welcomes Jesus, his life is changed for ever.

What about us today?

Are we like Zacchaeus climbing a tree to get a better view or have we not even got that far yet? Do we still see Jesus as the one for us - the one who can bring a new life?

Jesus waits for us, calling us down from the tree, away from whatever is blocking us from seeing the one whose love is for us all.

## Prayers – prepared by Dianne

Thank You, Lord God, for Your promises made and kept even when we have failed to keep our side of the bargain. When it feels the world teeters on the brink of disaster we know that You will never abandon Your people. You have shown us again and again that You are a faithful God and that change is possible.

We pray for our world - for all the millions of people whom You know, though we do not. We are blessed that we can worship in peace and safety. We pray for those around the world who cannot worship safely and publicly.

We pray for our world, its leaders, its policy makers and its protectors, thinking especially of all those working for peace in Ukraine. Help them to make wise decisions based on justice and tolerance.

We pray for the flood ravaged communities in our country – for those whose homes and livelihoods have been devastated and for the many people, paid and volunteer, who are providing support and comfort.

We pray for our local community and give thanks for those who so generously stock our pantry so that others may be cared for.

Here in our own church community, we pray for those who are unwell, grieving, struggling with life changes or lonely. May they know the comfort and gentle touch of Your love, the love that calls us by our names and says, "You are mine".

Today is the Sunday closest to All Saints' Day. We remember those who have gone before us in this church and beyond, paving the way for our faith. We miss them and remember them even as we take comfort that they are in Your care. We name them silently now, in gratitude for all that they have given and every way that they have been a blessing.

Help us to be aware that we are part of that same long line of witnesses to your love.

Help us to remember that you are continually present to us, watching and guiding our steps. Be with us in our speaking and thinking, our hearts and souls today and this week.

## Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

## Thought for the week to come

May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight. (AW Podlich)

## Hymn: Tis 779 May the feet of God walk with you...

## Note

Formation Group would like to know if there are other types of resources you would like included with the worship resources that are delivered (eg more prayers, less Hymns, etc)"

## Postlude

You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.

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Music: Karen Roberts

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NEWS AND NOTICES