

Sunday @ Seven September 2021

Telling the story

Welcome & introduction.

Opening prayer

We thank God for His Word, written and spoken, revealed to us in and through His Son, Jesus.

We thank God for our freedom to open the Book; to read, to share, in any place, at any time.

We thank God for those who carry His Word to others; messengers of Good News, story tellers, bringers of hope and assurance.

We thank God for being able to meet together in His Name, in His Love, receivers of all He has to give. Amen.

Tell me the stories of Jesus
I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me
if he were here;
scenes by the wayside,
tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus,
tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children
stood round his knee;
that I may know of his blessing
resting on me;
words full of kindness,
deeds full of grace,
signs of the love found
in Jesus' face.

Tell me, in words full of wonder,
how rolled the sea,
tossing the boat in a tempest
on Galilee.
Jesus then doing
his Father's will,
ended the storm saying
'Peace, peace, be still.

Into the city I'd follow
the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree
high in my hand;
worshipping Jesus,
yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas,
for he is King!

Show me that scene in the garden,
of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour
for me was slain;
and, through the sadness,
help me to see
how Jesus suffered
for love of me.

Gladly I'd hear of his rising
out of the grave,
living and strong and triumphant,
mighty to save:
and how he sends us
all men to bring
stories of Jesus,
Jesus, their King.

What the Bible stories can tell us.

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we
meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of his spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing our
friend.

So light up the fire.....

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, his spirit is near.

So light up the fire

Ruth 2 v 8-20a

***Kindness and compassion; looking out
for the needs of others.***

***Pause for reflection - who are those
who are in need of our kindness and
compassion today?***

When I needed a neighbour, were you there,
were you there?

When I needed a neighbour were you there?

*And the creed and the colour and the name
won't matter, were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty were you there?

I was cold, I was naked were you there were
you there?

I was cold I was naked were you there?

When I needed a shelter were you there,
were you there?

When I needed a shelter were you there?

When I needed a healer were you there were
you there?

When I needed a healer were you there?

Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there

Wherever you travel I'll be there.

1 Samuel 18 v 1-9

***Friendship and jealousy; highs and lows
of relationships.***

***Pause for reflection - give thanks for
our friendships; be on our guard against
jealousy and envy.***

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged:
take to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness,
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?

Jesus only is our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield thee,
thou wilt find a solace there.

Acts 5 V 17-21

Telling the story.

***What Bible story would we particularly
want to tell others? Do we have a
favourite?***

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him king:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
this gospel message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Acts 26 v 1 - 3

Paul is given opportunity to tell his story.

How would we feel about having an opportunity to tell our own story?

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,

Prayer to say together:

Lord, we have heard of all that you have done in and through the lives of your people. You have touched and changed people's whole way of living. We have read and heard their stories. We too have a story to tell. Give us, we pray, the courage and help we need so that we can tell all these stories to others. Amen.

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**

We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and sweetness,
a story of peace and light: *(repeat)*

*For the darkness shall turn to
dawning,
and the dawning to noon-day
bright,
and Christ's great kingdom shall
come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.*

We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord;
a song that shall conquer evil,
and shatter the spear and sword: *(repeat)*

For the darkness.....

We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love: *(repeat)*

For the darkness....

We've a Saviour to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow has trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God: *(repeat)*

For the darkness.....

We say the Grace together.