



‘Conference Sunday

Reception into Full Connexion for Deacon Sally Wheadon’

Sunday 28th June 2020 13th in Ordinary

Revd Danny Wheadon

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use as you are unable to attend church. 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.

Call to Worship

Lord calm my thoughts as I come into your presence to worship you. Open my heart to welcome you in and to receive the blessing of Jesus’ love, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

StF 451 Open the eyes of my heart

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do_wLviNO4M

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,

Open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,

Open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love;

As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Refrain...

To see you.....

Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy,

Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

Paul Baloche (born 1962) © 1997

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Let us pray together

Creator God, I praise you for the beauty of the world that you have made, for richness of texture, colour and form in nature, and for the caring communities around me. Forgive me when I fail to be thankful for the good things in my life.

God is full of grace and mercy;
I receive his forgiveness and his love.
Amen.

Today’s Gospel Reading:

Matthew 10.40-42

40 “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Time to Reflect

Have you ever been sent out to knock on a stranger's door with a message or a request? If so, did you wonder what sort of a welcome you might, or might not, receive?

The disciples were about to take the good news of Jesus' love into the wider world. In these verses Jesus reminded the disciples that as his followers, they were representing him and the one who sent him, his Father, God. For those who received and accepted them, it would be as if they were welcoming Jesus himself into their homes.

The concept of welcome and hospitality in the Middle East is of high importance. Visitors are treated as honoured guests and food and drink is generously shared. That generosity can be a humbling experience. On a fact finding visit to Jordan in 2015, Claire Hargreaves was welcomed into a damp and shabby basement by Nahla, a young Syrian refugee mother of six. There was very little in the way of furniture or equipment and nothing of comfort in this makeshift home.

The older children were out in the streets scavenging for whatever scraps they might make use of or sell. Yet Nahla insisted Claire had some tea with her. Not wanting to take from her meagre supplies, Claire refused politely, but Nahla was

offended by this. It was deeply embedded in her culture and tradition to offer hospitality to guests. Poor though she was, she wanted to share what little she had with her guest.

Generosity and welcome may come from the most unexpected sources, often from the poorest who understand what it is to have nothing.

Claire did not find knocking on doors for a house collection for Action for Children easy. It was even more challenging to find that those who lived in larger houses gave far less, or even nothing, than those who lived in more crowded or less affluent conditions.

Jesus gave an example of how people should show unselfish generosity to others through the giving of a cup of cold water to "little ones", arguably not just children but the adult poor or marginalised too. (*see Matthew 18.6*).

Not everyone welcomes Jesus' offer of love and salvation. Some may reject us and our gospel message. For those who choose to welcome Jesus into their lives, there is an amazing reward in heaven, eternal life and peace with Jesus Christ. Like the disciples, our lives should reflect God's generous love to others. How will you receive the one who knocks on your door? It might just be Jesus!

Take a time to sit quietly

StF 670 We have nothing to give

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

Sung by Julie Yeeun Kim

We have nothing to give - that didn't first come from your hand, we have nothing to offer you which you did not provide. Ev'ry good, perfect gift comes from your kind and gracious heart, and all we do is give back to you what always has been yours.

Lord, we're breathing the breath that you gave us to breathe, to worship you, to worship you. And we're singing these songs with the very same breath, to worship you, to worship you.

Who has given to you that it should be paid back to him? Who has given to you as if you needed anything? - From you and to you and through you come all things, O Lord, and all we do is give back to you what always has been yours.

Chorus

We are breathing the breath that you gave us to breathe.

Matt Redman (p.1994)

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**Sally Wheadon
is received into
full connexion.**

A time of prayer

Let us pray for the church, for the world and for ourselves.

Loving God,
We pray for your guidance and wisdom as your church finds new ways of reaching out into the world with the good news of your generous love and forgiveness. Gift leaders with the innovation and inspiration that comes from your Holy Spirit so that your church may be more effective witnesses of your saving grace.

Lord Jesus, as the world continues to suffer the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, we pray for compassion and fairness in sharing practical resources and medical expertise so that there might be healing and wholeness for all.

We pray that all those who have influence over the lives of others, might make decisions based on kindness and for the common good. We pray Holy Spirit that you infuse with love the hearts of those who use war as a weapon of power. Hear our prayers for an end to all conflict, and for recognition and support to be given to refugees and displaced people around the world.

Compassionate Christ, we pray for comfort and strength for those who are still isolated, for parents and children, for the elderly and those suffering long term illness.

Lord, lift anxiety from those who are worried about the future, their jobs, businesses and their financial situation. May they know that they are not alone, that Jesus is always with them.

Holy Spirit we pray for ourselves, for our plans that have been changed, for the people we have lost and miss still, for our hopes and dreams for the future. Strengthen our faith, deepen our commitment to your ways and help us to better serve God and to see Jesus in everyone we meet.

Thank you Lord that your love never fails.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

StF 082 O Lord my God

O Lord my God!
when I in awesome wonder
Consider all
the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout
the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods
and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down
from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook,
and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think
that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die-
I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross
my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation
And take me home-
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim,
my God, how great Thou art!

Stuart K Hine (1899-1989)

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A prayer of blessing

Receive these words into your heart. Jesus opens his arms to welcome and accept you, whoever you are and whatever your circumstances. Open your heart and your hands to receive him now, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love, now and always. Amen.

Original Materials by Claire Hargreaves

Join us for Coffee & Chat,
on the phone by dialing

02203 481 5240

Meeting ID: **878 0011 0669 #**

Participants ID: #

Password: **336542 #**

