



‘Some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred’

Sunday 4th October 2020 10:30 am

Rev’d Tony and Cathy Morling.

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.

Welcome:

**The Lighting of a Candle
& Call to Worship**

Hymn 94 To God be the glory

1 To God be the glory,
great things he has done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life
in atonement for sin,
Who opened the life-gate
that all may go in:

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son;
And give him the glory—
great things he has done!*

2 O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood,
To every believer
the promise of God!
And every offender
who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus
a pardon receives:

Chorus

3 Great things he has taught us,
great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher,
and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture,
when Jesus we see:

Chorus

Opening Prayer

O God,
We gather together in Your
presence with expectation,
hungry for an encounter with You,
eager to hear Your Word.

Open our eyes and ears to the
presence of Your Holy Spirit.
May the seeds of Your Word
scattered among us this morning
fall on fertile soil.
May they take root in our hearts
and lives, and produce an abundant
harvest of good words and deeds.
We pray this in the name of Jesus
Christ, our teacher and our Lord.
Amen.

Introduction Seeds Growing
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zst08tm9s6M>
Ellen & Sally clip
Toddler Church out and about.



Gospel Mark 4:13-22

Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word.

Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.

Address/Reflection:

I want to share with you the story of Lillian Grandin whose courage and compassion lived out Jesus's teaching to be, 'good seed, bearing fruit: some thirty, some sixty and some a hundred'. It is a story with which Jersey Methodism has strong connections, because she was educated at Jersey Ladies College, whose founding meeting took place at what was then Grove Place, and because she was a Methodist Missionary.



She was born in Regent Road, St Helier in 1876, educated at Jersey Ladies College and in 1896 was accepted by the United Methodist Church to become a medical doctor in the West China Mission. For this, she left Jersey to study medicine and chemistry in Edinburgh, midwifery in Dublin and finally tropical eye diseases in London.

Once qualified as a doctor, she made the long journey to Shanghai where she began the 2,000 mile journey to the mountainous Yunnan province in China where she was the only

qualified doctor in a district as large as France. It was there that she spent the rest of her life, founding a clinic, a leper colony, and training many Chinese women as nurses. The clinic that she founded is now a hospital, and to this day she is still remembered locally as, 'The Angel of Zhoutang.'

In 1924 she contracted Typhus and a short time later died of the disease after giving away her last bottle of Typhus medicine to someone she thought needed it more than her. Here well-tended grave in China is inscribed, 'A beloved Physician'. Within Jersey she is remembered for her courageous compassion, and as the island's first female doctor. On the centenary of her birth Jersey Post Office in 1976 produced these commemorative stamps. Perhaps you have a set stored away somewhere?



The story of Lillian Grandin is one of remarkable determination, courage and self-sacrifice which ultimately

bore great fruit. Her life is a fulfilment of Jesus' words that one seed that falls into good ground can offer a harvest that is far greater than can be first imagined.

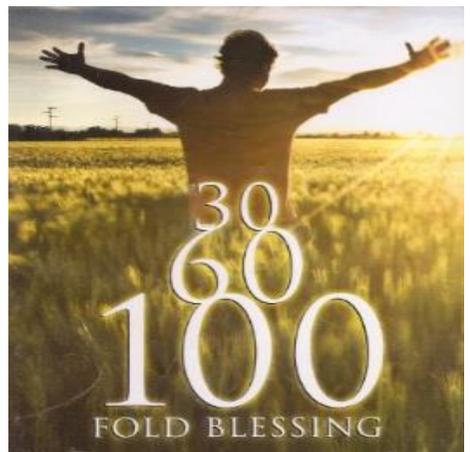
Not many of us will be called to China to become a medical missionary, but the Spirit of Christ does prompt us all to become involved in working, speaking and giving for the Kingdom of God. Take for instance the lad in John chapter 6 who offered his five loaves of barley bread and two fishes. Can you imagine the surprise on his face when 5,000 were fed, or how about the wedding at Cana when the best Merlot was served last? It would seem that God's Holy Spirit has the power to change and multiply with abundance the ordinary and bring about transformation beyond our dreams.

The call of the kingdom is therefore not just to believe, but act, and act in ways that show courage and compassion. That is why the St Helier Methodist Centre is delighted to offer a new award to Jersey College for Girls for students that embody those same qualities today. This will be offered to students who continue in the footsteps of Lilian Grandin. My hope and prayers is that over the years there will be many recipients of this award discovering that they can

make a difference with Godly courage and compassion.



God won't let us off the hook by simply remembering the good actions of previous saints. The Holy Spirit is calling you and me to make a difference and everyone is included. We all have a part to play- no one too old, no one too young. Might we this coming week ask the Holy Spirit to take our words and actions of courage and compassion, large or small, to bring forth a harvest. May you find great fulfilment as you sense God's pleasure and blessing on all that you offer in His name.



Hymn 407

Hear the Call of the kingdom

1 Hear the call of the kingdom,
lift your eyes to the King;
let his song rise within you
as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy,
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

2 Hear the call of the kingdom
to be children of light,
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ;
walking justly before him,
loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ
may shine through us.

*King of heaven,
we will answer the call.
We will follow,
bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion,
filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.*

3 Hear the call of the kingdom
to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion
in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness,
and a hope yet to come: - let
the nations put their trust in him.

Keith Getty (born 1974), Kristyn Getty (born 1980) and
Stuart Townend (born 1963)
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Prayers of Intercession

Lord, we would grow with you
New shoots reaching out
Hands stretched upward
Like leaves newly formed
Soaking up your light and warmth
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you
In sunshine and rain
In darkness and light
In cold days and summer days
From Springtime to Winter
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you
And bring forth fruit
That is pleasing to you
Fed by your living water
Giving sustenance to others
Lord, we would grow with you

Gracious God, we hold before you
the items that are dominant in the
news:

For students leaving home
and starting university
And university staff
and administrators
as they seek a way forward.

For elections in America
And justice and peace for all citizens

For David Attenborough's
programme, 'A Life on our Planet'

And the UK cities going into
lockdown

For a just peace in war torn
countries

And strength for the family of
Police officer Matt Ratana.

In these and many other places,
may good people full of compassion
and courage sow seeds of hope.

In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 for ever. Amen.**



Hymn 122

Come ye thankful people come

1 Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

Fruit and crops are gathered in
safe before the storms begin:

God our maker will provide
for our needs to be supplied;
come with all his people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

2 All the world is God's own field,
harvests for his praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown:

first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear—
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be

3 For the Lord our God shall come
and shall bring his harvest home;
he himself on that great day,
worthless things shall take away,
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his care for evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come—
bring your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there together purified,
ever thankful at your side—
come, with all your angels, come,
bring that glorious harvest home!

Henry Alford (1810-1871)

Closing and a prayer of blessing

Bless us Lord as we seek to see that which is beautiful in the changing seasons, and seek to do that which is faithful in the passing of time.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and all whom you love and all those you are called to love, this day and for evermore.

Amen.

Note:

There will be no more afterservice Coffee via Zoom.



Margaret Tarrant -
Vintage Illustrations – Children's Books

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