

Darlington District Worship at Home
Sunday 21st February 2021

For the need of restoration in body mind or spirit

Bring your healing Lord.

For a church in need of a new move of your Spirit.

Bring your healing Lord.

For those in need of a new beginning.

Bring your healing Lord.

For those affected badly by the pandemic

Bring your healing Lord.

I invite you to light a candle...

We light this candle for peace, Lord.

May your light scatter the darkness, bringing forgiveness and healing.

May the flame of this candle be a symbol of hope,
its burning be a sign of faith.

Amen

We join together in saying the Lord's Prayer: **Our Father...**

Hymn: StF 405 **Great is the darkness that covers the earth**

May the mystery of God beckon us.

May the wisdom of God direct us.

May the forgiveness of God heal us.

May the energy of God send us into the world to exercise justice and
love and be a blessing to the nations

Amen.

Created by Rev John Henry, Superintendent minister, Cleveland & Danby Circuit

Psalm 41:13 (ANIV)

Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

Hymn: StF 20 **Be Still for the Presence of the Lord**

Worthy of praise from every mouth

Of confession from every tongue

Of worship from every creature

Is your glorious name, O Father Son and Holy Ghost.

You created the world in your grace.

By your compassion you did save the world.

To your Majesty God, ten thousand times ten thousand bow down and
adore, singing and praising without ceasing and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,

Heaven and Earth are full of your praises,

Hosanna in the highest!

Adapted from a fifth century liturgy.

If my soul has turned to dark

If I have left someone wounded by the way

If I have preferred my aims to yours

If I have been impatient and would not wait

If I have marred the pattern for my life

If I have cost tears to those, I love

If my heart has murmured against your will

Lord forgive.

Adapted from a prayer by F. B. Meyer

Hymn: StF 255 / H&P 139 **The kingdom of God is justice and joy.**

Reading: [Mark 2: 1-12](#)

Reflection

There is no wonder that the crowds had gathered, people have been amazed by Jesus' words (look up chapter [1:21-34](#), [38-45](#)); however, this proved to be a problem to some people wanting to get their friend to Jesus who were prevented from doing so; you might say the way was blocked.

Their courage and resourcefulness must be admired, it clearly demonstrates their trust that Jesus could provide an answer to their friend's need.

Whether this man felt great 'sin' or there was indeed sin in his life. Jesus pronounces forgiveness; in ancient Israel, a priest could do this (you can find more about that in Leviticus chapter 4, chapter 5, and chapter 16); now, Jesus seems to be claiming to be able to forgive sins as though he were God. There were really only two responses to make: either Jesus was ushering in the kingdom of God, or he was being incredibly blasphemous. To quote one of my commentaries, the answer is: *"He skirts the issue of blasphemy with a riddling question of his own, in effect saying, "Which is easier, to make a theological pronouncement about the forgiveness of sins or to provide proof that the man's sins have indeed been forgiven by virtue of his ability to get up and walk away?" (Mark: David Garland)*

I wonder what these things might have to say to us today. I believe that Jesus offers to us a model: we note in Jesus one who declares the forgiveness of sin and a chance of reconciliation with God, in turn this can bring tremendous healing. What a wonderful model to follow.

In fact, a model and a ministry for us to embody in all that we do within mission.

I absolutely love the way that Tom Wright puts it:

"We have to find ways of bringing healing and forgiveness to our communities. It can be done—think of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa...Forgiveness can also, of course, change individuals. ... Often people think healing and forgiveness is impossible. They find God distant or uncaring. But true faith won't be satisfied with that. This story is a picture of prayer. Don't stay on the edge of the crowd. Dig through God's roof and find yourself in his presence."

(Tom Wright, Mark for Everyone').

Although somewhat dated I still love William Barclay's Daily Study Bible. Barclay Offers three options concerning this story:

First that Jesus was conveying forgiveness to the paralysed man; secondly, that Jesus was acting as God representative; or thinking of a third possibility *"the whole essence of Jesus' life is that in him we see clearly displayed the attitude of God to men and women"*; I like that third option!

God is a forgiving and healing god, our mission 'should we choose to accept it is to bring that healing to the world.'

Hymn: StF 322 / H&P 257 **How sweet the name of Jesus sounds**

Prayer for others

For those caught up in unforgiveness of others or themselves

Bring your healing Lord.

For a world where conflict reigns and reconciliation is hard to come by

Bring your healing Lord.