

**Kettering & Corby Methodist Circuit 23/19
Worship for Sunday 15th November 2020 prepared by Rev. Noel Nhariswa**

A gathering prayer

We gather here, at the end of one week
and the beginning of another.
O Lord of decades and days,
centuries and seconds,
we stop now, for this moment,
and turn together to you –
who holds all time in your hand.
Make us ready to receive you,
as we gather here today.

Amen.

A prayer of approach

Turning towards you, O God,
we also turn towards ourselves.
We think of what we bring, and what we don't.
And we know that even though you call us to be ready,
you also support us in bringing the little we have,
whether we feel ready or not.
O God of readiness, ready us, as we pray.

Amen.

A prayer of confession

You call us to a life of mercy, justice and humility –
but we do not always live like this.
You call us to a life of welcome –
but we do not always welcome.
You call us to a life of solidarity –
but we do not always offer a helping hand.
Have mercy on us, O God, for the times we have failed,
and for the times we have failed to care.
For your name's sake, and your mercy's sake.

Amen.

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

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

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee ;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not ;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be :
*Great is thy faithfulness ! Great is thy faithfulness !
Morning by morning new mercies I see ;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*
- 2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love :

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide ;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside !

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960)

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Reading from Gospel according to St Matthew.

Matthew 25:14-30 (New International Version)

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^a each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 25:15](#) Greek five talents ... two talents ... one talent; also throughout this parable; a talent was worth about 20 years of a day labourer's wage.

Prayers of intercession

We pray to God, who is always ready –
for those overtaken with demands.

Give rest, O Lord.

For those overburdened with anxieties.

Give rest, O Lord.

For those overcome with debt.

Give relief, O Lord.

For those oppressed by powers that despise them.

Give salvation, O Lord.

For those in situations they cannot see a way out of.

Give freedom, O Lord.

For those in need of hope.

Give hope, O Lord. Amen.

Hymn Give me the faith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHAPOs3IIW0>

1 Give me the faith which can remove
and sink the mountain to a plain ;
give me the childlike praying love,
which longs to build thy house again ;
thy love, let it my heart o'erpower,
and all my simple soul devour.

2 I would the precious time redeem,
and longer live for this alone :
to spend, and to be spent, for them
who have not yet my Saviour known ;
fully on these my mission prove,
and only breathe, to breathe thy love.

3 My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
into thy blessèd hands receive ;
and let me live to preach thy word,
and let me to thy glory live ;
my every sacred moment spend
in publishing the sinners' friend.

4 Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
with boundless charity divine :
so shall I all my strength exert,
and love them with a zeal like thine ;
and lead them to thy open side,
the sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788) Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 661

A sending out prayer

O God, you have made us your people,
we who once were not a people.
You have spread your arms wide and welcomed all.
Your invitation is always open, always ready to extend and expand.
Send us out, now, in the joy of your inclusion
and with the mission of your hospitality for all.
Father, Son and Spirit,
you dwell in community and call us to community.
Source, Light and Love, you welcome all.
Amen.

Prayers found at Rootsonttheweb.com

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