

<b>Order of Service</b>		
<b>Preacher:</b> Richard Vincent		
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<b>Church:</b> North Kent Circuit On-Line Worship Service		
<b>Date:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2021		
<b>Time:</b> 10.30am		
Aim: to inspire our congregation to dream of the kingdom		
Theme: Kingdom is the Yeast		
<b>Call to Worship Psalm</b>		
<b>Hymn</b> – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	<b>STF</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Prayers</b>		
<b>Lords Prayer</b>		
<b>Children</b>		
<b>Hymn</b> – Rejoice the Lord is King	<b>STF</b>	<b>335</b>
<b>Reading</b>		
Luke 9:1-6 Luke10:1-11		
<b>Hymn</b> – Seek ye first the kingdom of God	<b>STF</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>Sermon</b>		
<b>Hymn</b> – Beauty for brokenness	<b>STF</b>	<b>693</b>
<b>Prayer of Thanks</b>		
<b>Intercessions</b>		
<b>Collection</b>		
<b>Hymn</b> - Now thank we all our God	<b>STF</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Blessing</b>		

#### Prayer of Adoration

- O lord we come to you this morning in wonder and amazement at your abundance and generosity in your provision of everything we need. We cannot explain why you are, we cannot conceive of the size of your bounty, we cannot even describe to our friends and family the slightest idea of who you are or what you do for us.
- All we can do Lord is to sing our praises of your goodness in once more bringing the harvest home, all we can do Lord is to Glorify your name in our worship, all we can do Lord is to tell your stories of the great things you have done through your Son Jesus Christ and by your Holy Spirit.
- O Lord at his Autumn time of the year we celebrate the harvest of the produce from the land and from the sea, we also celebrate your Kingdom incarnation and how you harvest souls from each generation and throughout time, how in each newborn baby the seed of your love is planted and in some nurtured and in some a rich harvest is fulfilled.
- Lord we praise your Kingdom, we praise you as Jesus and we praise you as Holy Spirit.
- We Praise you in the name of our Saviour Jesus
- Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- PRAYER OF CONFESSION
- Gracious God,
- We offer you those times when the thought of being inconvenienced
- Has prevented us from responding to the needs of others.
- We bring before you those we have looked away from,
- Those we didn't notice, those we didn't listen to.
- The times when our busy agenda means we have hidden behind our responsibilities and passed you by on the other side.
- Forgive us,
- And grant us the compassion of the Good Samaritan,
- That in giving, we may also receive from you,
- And be blessed by the all-inclusive love
- That Jesus came to proclaim and embody.
- We pray in his name., **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

If we confess our sins,  
God is faithful and just  
And will forgive our sins  
And cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hear the words of Grace

Our sins are forgiven.  
Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer Words (traditional)**

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Prayer of Thanks**

We have many things to thank you for Lord, but in our hearts, we give thanks for your wondrous Grace. That you came into this world as a human being content that you would bear the weight and pain of Crucifixion so we would be set free from the power of sin and evil to corrupt and destroy our lives. We thank you Lord that in that moment of desolation in the Garden of tears you turned defeat to a glorious victory when you broke out from the cave where you had been entombed into the glorious triumphant victory of Life over Death, of Light over Darkness, of creation over desolation.

Yes, Lord we thank you because you are who you are. We thank you for you love and we respond to you in Love. Life without you is not life but death, Life with you is Life in the Holy Spirit, Life with you is to live in the Kingdom of Heaven. Yes Lord, we thank you, for all your goodness and for all you are.

We thank you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen

Luke 9:1-6

New International Version

### **Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

**9** When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup> He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. <sup>4</sup> Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>5</sup> If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>6</sup> So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

Luke 10:1-11

New International Version

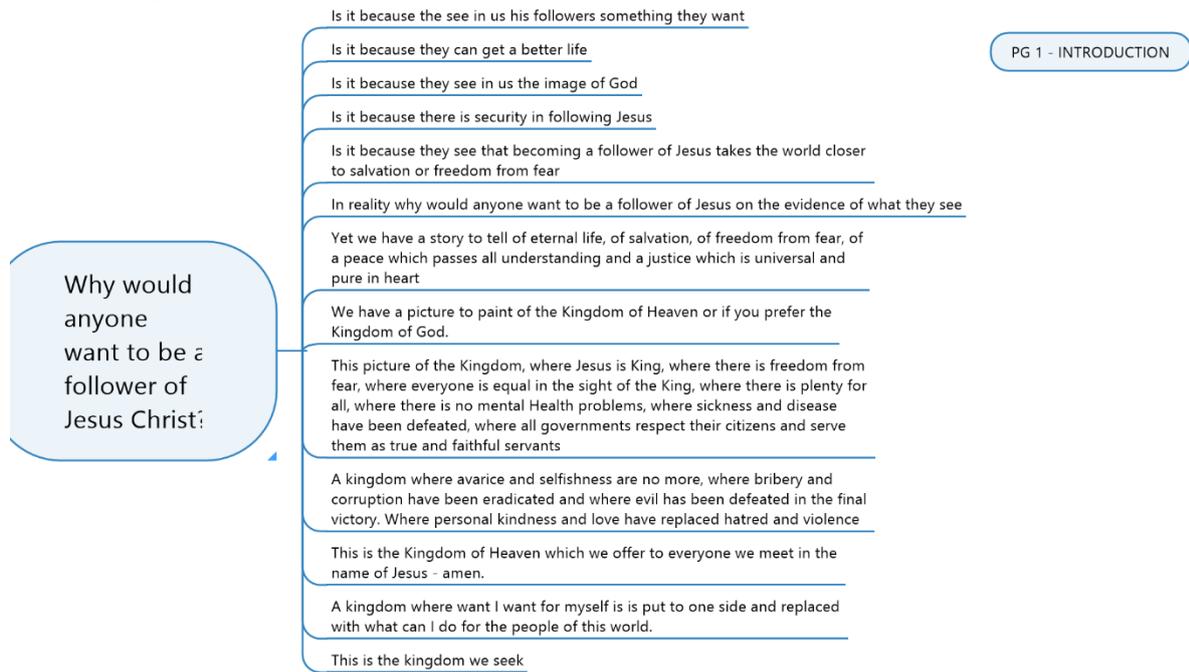
### **Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two**

**10** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two<sup>[a]</sup> others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

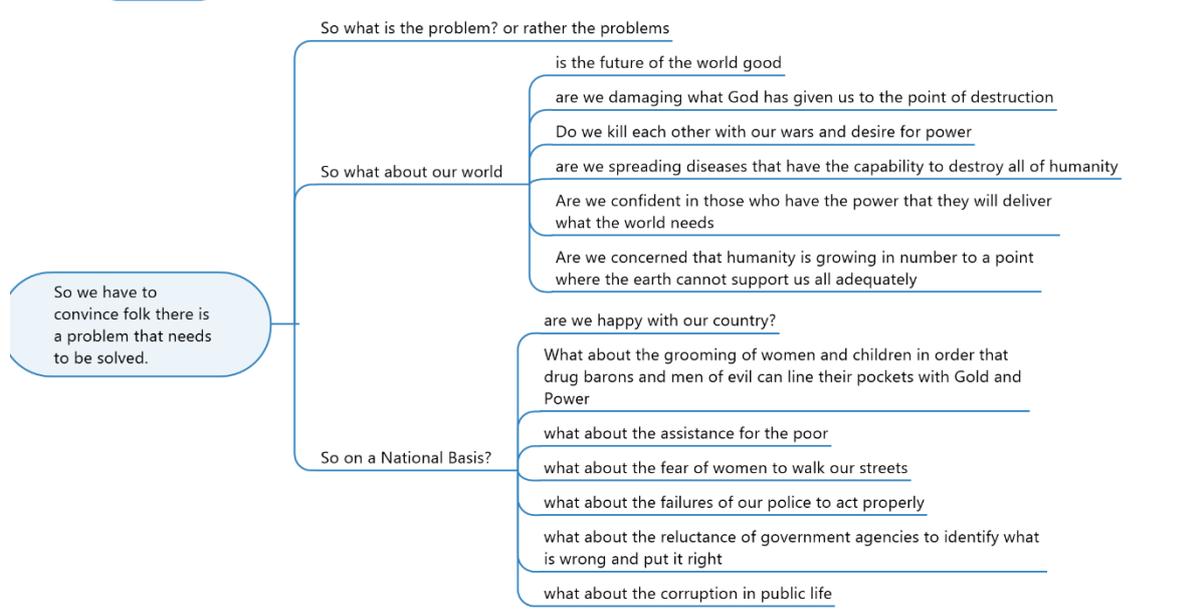
<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

<sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.'

## Preaching THE WORD



**POINT 1A**



**POINT 1B**

So we have to convince folk there is a problem that needs to be solved.

So on a personal basis

- do you know people who are suffering
- do you know people whose lives are a mess
- do you know people who are suffering with their mental health
- do you know people who are suffering injustice because of the colour of their skin or their birth parents, their gender their disability
- what about your family,

I could go on and on and so could you.

we are not doom and gloom merchants but we do believe in a better world, a world where freedom from fear, justice and peace are a given

we do believe that each and every individual human being can enter into this kingdom , to day right now and they will know that love for themselves right away.

This is the story we have to tell, a story of inspiration, a story of love, a story of forgiveness and baptism, a new start for all.

**POINT 2**

So what does Jesus have to say about the ...

Hidden treasure in a field, sell everything and buy the field

the pearl merchant who found a great pearl and sold everything so he could buy it

you see Jesus tells us the kingdom of heaven is so marvellous that people will give anything to own it to be a part of it.

He creates the story, the dream for people to desire, to seek, and never to give up

when people commit to following Jesus they are immediately welcomed into the Kingdom, his Kingdom

when we enter into his kingdom a healing takes place. Mental health improves, people lose their fears, they experience a peace and joy which is beyond description or imagination

This is the truth but it begs another question?

POINT 3

do we believe it?

so here the real question, how strong is our faith?

You see Methodism in the 18th century contributed to real change in our society

because people were Methodists they were regarded as special people

they were trustworthy, hard working, kind, generous.

they helped save people from alcoholism, poverty, prison, and so much more

the preaching of John Wesley was part of a call for change brought about by many Christian folk that led to the abolition of slavery, a reduction on alcoholism and addiction

Aneurin Bevan who founded the NHS was brought up in a Welsh mining family where his Dad was a Baptist and his Mum a Methodist

Lord Soper A Methodist who throughout his life preached salvation from addiction, abolition of nuclear weapons, he was a pacifist and was deeply concerned with the political implications of the Christian Gospel

I myself can bear witness to a young man who has turned to Jesus and as a consequence he is seen, day by day, his acute schizophrenia become less and less uncontrollable and who is losing his fear of the dark places of his mind,

Yes we believe, yes we have faith, yes we have a story to tell in our own language in our own words - a story of the power of Jesus to change everything

yes we can offer folk that if they change the way they think, if they are able to commit to change in their hearts and brains that they will be welcome in the kingdom - where they will know the Peace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, where they will learn the love of Jesus and where they will lose their fear of the dark.

And yes in becoming a follower of the way, they will take the world closer to realising the wonderful day when Jesus will reign supreme over all

And so where does all this talk leave us this morning, what is the direction we need to travel in as a consequence?

CONCLUSION

My opening question was: Why would anyone want to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

I believe I have answered the question like this, if people knew about the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, if people understood about the true secret meaning of the Kingdom then they would seek it as the highest priority in their lives.

If they understood how close they stand to the kingdom they would demand admittance.

If they were knocking at the gate they would do whatever it takes to gain admittance.

They would realise as they seek the kingdom for themselves, their families and their friends and for all the citizens of the world, that they need to change the way they think. They need to review those founding values on which they base their lives. They would realise that Jesus is the source of life, life eternal, and that by following him they enter into the Kingdom and are healed and they find peace and justice and freedom from fear because God is good.

And so we need to live out the joy of the Kingdom in our lives, to tell people the stories of the Glory of Jesus Christ and to sow the seeds of the Kingdom once more in the hearts and minds of men, women and children everywhere.

so the Kingdom will grow again, like good seed sown on fertile ground, like yeast in the dough, like the mustard tree

and so once more we are in the presence of the Risen Jesus and our land is indeed the Kingdom of Heaven and each of us walks with Jesus in his green pastures. Amen

## INTERCESSIONS

**Introduction**

O God - our inspiration and Lord,  
grant us the help of your Spirit in our  
prayers for the salvation of all people.

**We Pray for The church/ Kingdom**

We pray for all the Church throughout the world, for this church and all its members, and for those who know your kingdom through the Holy Spirit even though they may be divided from your church.

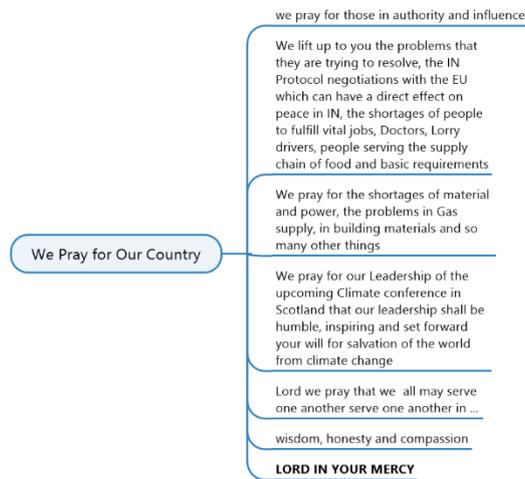
We pray in faith and unity we may be renewed by your holy spirit to seek your kingdom

and to inspire others to always seek your kingdom and son come to know you face to face.

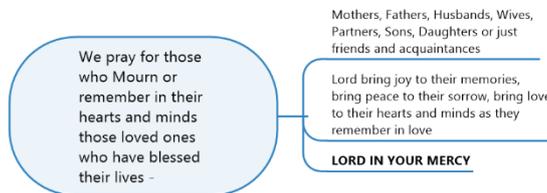
We pray that we the Church of the people called Methodists who have gathered together here this morning at St Lukes, join with our Methodist brothers and sister in Christ in North Kent, that we unite in seeking the kingdom for all our community in Kent and encouraging everyone we meet every day to join with us in seeking a better way of life for the world, for our country and for us as individuals.

**LORD IN YOUR MERCY**

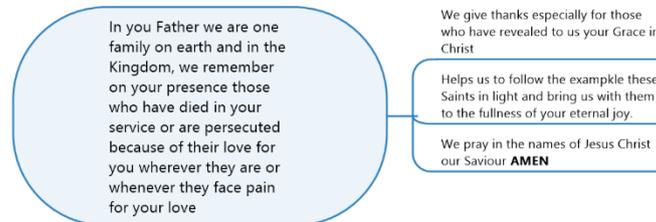
INTERCESSIONS (Cont'd)



INTERCESSIONS (Cont'd)



INTERCESSIONS (Cont'd)



**BLESSING.**

Go, and know that the Lord goes with you: let him lead you each day into the quiet places of your heart, where he will speak with you;

know that he loves you and watches over you, that he listens to you in gentle understanding, that he is with you always, wherever you are and however you may feel:

and the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be ours for ever and ever.

**Amen.**