

18th April 2021 6 pm Evening Prayer: See My Hands and Feet

Led by Val Whiteman, Talk by Sam Whiteside, Readings by Geoff Whiteman & Rosie Lee, Intercessions by Val

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Welcome

[Val:] Hello everybody! Hi Rosie! [Rosie:] Evening Val!

[Val:] How are you doing? [Rosie:] I'm good.

[Val:] Excellent. [...]

Right. Welcome to our service. Oh hi Sam. [Sam:] Hi.

[Val:] So Rosie and Geoff are going to read, and Sam will preach to us in a little while. We welcome you very much, Sam, and we're looking forward to hearing what you have to say. If I go and do the notices now, I'll see you later.

[Rosie:] Okay, thanks.

Notices

[Val:] So welcome to our 6pm service of Evening Prayer from St John's in Kenilworth. It's the third Sunday in Easter, and the title is, *Look at My Hands and Feet*. So, thank you for joining us on this beautiful evening. We hope you've had a really good week.

Very brief notices:

- Denise has sent round the updates for the week, but something's happened to her email list. So if you were expecting a usual update and didn't get one, please can you contact her by email and let her know. And also she says check in your spam before you do that, because several people have noticed that church emails are for some reason going in there.
- The church is open for private prayer as usual on Wednesday, 10 till 2 and Sunday 1 till 3.
- And also a reminder that our church's APCM is to be held and it will be on Zoom on the 28th of April, which is a Wednesday at 7:30 in the evening. If you check on the church website there are all the links to all the documents about the APCM on there.

Preparation

So, before we start our service ourselves, let's have a moment of quiet, so we can remember that we're entering into God's presence, and we're going to worship Him, and to learn more from Him. So let's be quiet for a moment.

[pause]

So we begin with the sentences.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

All **Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.**

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Confession

So now we spend a little while remembering the things that we may have said, done or thought, which are displeasing to God, that our time where we have a time of confession.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, sovereign God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You led your people to freedom
by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
May we who walk in the light of your presence
acclaim your Christ, rising victorious,
as he banishes all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Opening prayer

The day is almost over, and the evening has come;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your Spirit come down upon us
to set us free to sing your praise
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

1st Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary, rest,
And to the weary, rest. | 2. Dear Name! the Rock on which I build;
My shield and hiding-place;
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace.
Jesus, my Saviour, Shepherd, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.
Accept the praise I bring. |
| 3. Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.
Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!
Refresh my soul in death! | |

1st Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. **5** But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. **6** No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

2nd Hymn: Cornerstone (My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less)

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

Repeat Verse 1

Chorus:

*Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong, in the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord, Lord of all*

2. When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

3. When He shall come with trumpets' sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless, stand before the throne.

Chorus

2nd Reading: Luke 24:36-48: Jesus Appears to the Disciples

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39** Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. **41** And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Word of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Talk

[Rosie Lee:]

I'd like to introduce Sam now, who's going to do our sermon for this evening.

Hi Sam.

[Sam Whiteside:]

Hello.

[Rosie:]

Before Sam does his sermon. I'm just going to pray for Sam. Dear Father God, we thank You for the gift of Your Word this evening. And as Sam comes to talk to us about Your Word, help us to think about these things. Open our hearts to the Lord, and our minds, to hear You. Bless Sam, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

[Sam:]

Amen.

Thank you Rosie. Thank you. Our subject tonight is 'Look at My Hands and My Feet'. These are the words of Jesus.

I wonder, have you ever thought about some of the stories that go on? One of the stories that was told recently was of a man who went along to his doctors, because he had burnt his ears. And the doctor said, "How did you do that?" and he said, "Well I was ironing, and somebody phoned me - the phone rang. And I put the iron up, of course, and burnt my ears." He said, "But how did you burn the other ear?" He said, "He rang back!" And, you know, when we think about what Jesus is saying to us tonight, we can think about that saying too, about, "someone was talking about you and your ears were burning!"

"Look at My hands and feet," Jesus said. Is He talking about you tonight? Is He talking to you? And I want to begin by sharing with you about the appearances of Jesus after His resurrection. First was Mary Magdalene. Then there was Mary the mother of James and Salome. There was Peter. There was the two going to Emmaus. There were the gathered disciples recorded in Mark 16 and John 20, and in our reading tonight, in Luke 24. There were, of course, others, including the disciples, again a week later. The disciples at the Sea of Tiberias: how could we forget that! The 500 brothers, the 11+ and others on the mountain. James of course, referred to in 1 Corinthians 15 and verse 7, and the disciples before Jesus' ascension; and you could add Paul on the Damascus Road. But that probably wasn't a bodily experience - well it certainly wasn't, it was a light.

And for our thoughts tonight, I'm going to concentrate on Jesus' appearance about midway through that list. It starts, or we start, tonight at Luke 24 and verse 36.

While they were still talking about this

God's Word says. What was it that they were talking about? They were talking about, "How is it true that the Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon," and of course, the story of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. And then, when Jesus broke the bread. But why were they talking about these things? Some were excited. But some had doubts. We know they had doubts, because Jesus said,

"why do doubts rise in your minds?"

Luke 24:38. And the other thought is that Jesus stood *with* them. That's very important. Jesus stood among them, or He stood with them, and His greeting was also important:

"Peace be with you."

He said. Notice that He didn't admonish them for running away, or even Peter for denying Him. He ministered them with a blessing. "Peace be with you," He said. He didn't admonish them, He didn't criticise them, He ministered to them with a blessing, "Peace be with you." Notice also that Luke records in Acts 10 and verse 41,

He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen

It was important that people who witnessed were those who were there during Jesus' ministry, first-hand witnesses.

You know, doubts can really lead, actually, to new levels of faith. Their leader had been killed. The bottom had dropped out of their world. "Was it really Him?!" And then Jesus gave them a real visual aid: "Look at My hands and feet. They're real!" The time of doubt had become the opportunity for learning. "Look, touch, see: it is I Myself!" He said. He showed them the eyes of faith. He showed them the eyes of faith. "Look at My hands and feet."

Now as Jesus stood among them with them, He showed them. When we have doubts, they can lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus. He shows us that He is with us. It said in our reading, they were startled and frightened. It doesn't

say they were all frightened and startled. But as Jesus addressed them all, it's implied isn't it? Even those who had met Him already, after His resurrection. Even Peter: was he afraid and startled? Was he frightened?

And even the Emmaus Road disciples, and they'd dashed all the way back from Emmaus. "How did He come to be in our assembled group?" they might have thought. "How did He get there?" Or an even bigger question was, "Why was He there?" Why was He there. I think there might be two answers that I can suggest to you this evening. Number one was that He told them from the Scriptures. He told them that the Scriptures were fulfilled. They were fulfilled so much that He shared them again with them.

- Maybe He referred that He was born in Bethlehem, as prophesied by Micah.
- Maybe He talked about the virgin birth from Isaiah,
- or His resurrection,
- or others who had told Him that He would perform miracles,
- speak in parables,
- be rejected,
- be a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,
- enter Jerusalem on a donkey,
- be betrayed by 30 pieces of silver,
- that He would be in the grave, or the tomb, three days,
- and that He would rise from the dead.
- It was also told in advance by David, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, that there would be a new covenant.
- His kingdom would last forever.

And the second answer I might suggest is, He was there to show them, "You are blessed when you believe in spite of your doubts; that blessings come even when you doubt!" Even when you bring them honestly and faithfully to Jesus, because that's what you have to do with your doubts. The blessings come: face them! Face the doubts honestly, and bring them to Jesus and say, "This is difficult to understand. I have a doubt here."

He says, "Look at My hands and feet. Touch! Handle Me if you like. See! Don't just look but see! Learn, and as a result you will grow spiritually!" They were after all learners. They were disciples, that's what it means. You will grow more like Him.

The application applies to us as His disciples today. We become His hands and His feet: His hands and His feet in His service, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the promised Holy Spirit, the power enabling, in the case of those disciples, to continue, to carry on being disciples, but also in our case in 2021, as children of God, which was in our first reading tonight. Listen to this [Luke 24:49]: "And I, Jesus," He said, "am going to send you what My Father has promised. But wait until you have been clothed with the power from on high." So in these days in 2021, what are you, and I, going to do with this power that we are clothed with from on high? What are we going to do with it? Number one, we're going to witness: we're going to tell others about the Good News. How do we do it? Simply by having a relationship which is true and strong and personal with Jesus Christ.

You know there was once a competition, reciting something from the Bible, and the passage that was given was well known. Probably because everybody could recite it: Psalm 23. And in the final, one guy came and he recited, "The Lord is my shepherd." He put all the accent on the right words. He was sensitive about it. He did it so well that they applauded at the end, and brought him back for an encore, to recite it again. It was tremendous. It was lovely. It was wonderful. The other person in the final, he got up and he recited the 23rd Psalm also. And at the end, it was so emotional, the way he recited it, that there was a stunned silence. No one applauded. No one called him back for an encore. And then the other contestant got to his feet and he said this, "I know

the psalm, but he knows the shepherd." He knows the shepherd, Jesus. And that's what we have to do, and make sure when we're clothed with this power from on high, we're filled with the Holy Spirit, we're promised that we'll be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be effective, to be good witnesses, to tell others the Good News. When we come to know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, the Holy Spirit comes, and we are empowered to tell others, by the way we live as well as what we say.

Now I'm going to give you a challenge tonight. Are you willing to be encouraged this week with a daily dose of Jesus' love? We in recent days had jabs. A love jab, I suggest, for each day of the week. Try it:

First of all, jab number one, probably today, probably this evening, receive the gift of peace. We had that in our reading and in our thoughts: Luke 24:36: "Peace be with you," said Jesus. Have you received it? Have you received the jab? Have you received Peace?

Secondly, day number 2, joy, the joy that only Jesus brings. We had that also tonight, Luke 24:41: 'Joy and amazement'. The disciples, they might have doubted but when they realise who He was, they were filled with joy and amazement.

Thirdly, abiding in Jesus, just simply being a disciple, a learner. "Look, touch, see, learn."

And then accept the resources, number 4: jab number 4, resources that are available in Jesus' name. You know, you need to ask. "Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find," the Word says. Resources! Unbelievable!

And fifthly, achievements, because of the power of the Most High. "I'm going to send you Him," Luke records in verse 48 of that chapter 24.

And sixthly the companionship and empowering of the promised Holy Spirit, again, in Luke 24:48.

And lastly, and this is a wonderful jab of Jesus' love: the certainty of a heavenly home in the future as children of God: that was in our reading from John, 1 John 3 verse 1. Listen to what he said: "How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us." What a jab! How great is the love Father has lavished upon us. John says that in his epistle, 1 John 3 and verse 1; and then still in that passage, 1 John 3 and verse 2, it says, "Dear friends, now we are," (not maybe) "Now we are children of God. And what we will be has not yet been made known." (That's faith isn't it?!) "But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him." (I'd like to add there, 'without doubt') "We shall see Him as He is."

When they looked at His hands and feet in that disciples' assembly, they no doubt saw the marks of the nails in the hands and the feet. "Look at My hands and feet," said Jesus, "touch Me, handle Me," but the real reason was, "It's I myself," Jesus said, "I'm real! I'm real!" And we will know it's Him. I'm sure on that great day, we shall look at Jesus' face. We might look at His hands and feet, but we will look at His face. And the words of a well-known hymn¹ come to mind,

We shall see His lovely face, some bright golden morning.
When the clouds have lifted {not rifted, lifted!} and the shades have flown;
Sorrow will be turned to joy, heartaches gone forever;
No more nights, only light, when we see His face.

1 We Shall See His Lovely Face – by Norman J. Clayton 1903-1992(?) (published 1946 or earlier)

A prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Lord Jesus.

We pray that during this week, we may receive your gift of peace. "Peace be with you," Jesus said, Your dear Son said, help us to receive it.

Lord, help us also to remember the joy and experience the joy that Jesus brings: joy and amazement of what You can do.

Help us to abide in Jesus by being a disciple, a learner.

Help us to accept the resources with a gratitude that are available to us in Jesus' name and help us, if we're doubting, to ask for them.

Help us with the achievements that can only be achieved by the power of the Most High, that You have sent to each Christian.

Help us also to have joy in the companionship and empowering of the promised Holy Spirit,

and to certainly know the certainty of a Heavenly home reserved for us in the future as children of God.

And go out into this week, knowing that, how great is the love You have for us and want to lavish upon us as children of Yours. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

[Val:]

Thank you Sam. That was so good. Can we have a moment or two where we simply think about this first job that Sam was talking about, the gift of peace. So as we sit in the quiet of a Sunday evening, and if you haven't received it, ask your Heavenly Father for the gift of peace for this coming week, just for a moment or two.

Thank You, Lord, that You say that if we ask, You will give us what we need, and so therefore we thank You for the gift of peace, going into this coming week. Amen.

Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

So we continue in prayer now with the collect for the third Sunday of Easter. Let's pray.

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Intercessions

We offer our intercessions to Almighty God, our loving Father. When I say, "Lord in Your mercy," you might like to reply, "Hear our prayer."

We thank You for the gift of Your Spirit who enables us to know that we are Your beloved children. We thank You that in this uncertain world we know the certainty of Your peace, and we pray that we may take this knowledge into the coming week.

We pray for the Church across the world, thinking especially of those countries where the Church is persecuted. Thank You for the faithful witness of so many under such difficult circumstances. We remember before God now those countries which are on our hearts. Lord God give our brothers and sisters there courage and hope and a knowledge of Your peace.

We pray for our own church, for Christopher and for John our bishops, for Andrew our vicar, and for all those who lead in St John's. We pray for the APCM, and for the new PCC, that people may desire to serve You on the PCC and they do so faithfully, so that Your Kingdom in Kenilworth is extended.

Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world, for those who are trying to combat climate change, that we may all work together to protect the weak and vulnerable. We also pray for wisdom for those trying to combat the coronavirus, that we who are rich may be generous and helping those countries which are poor.

We pray too for the conflicts that mar our world, bringing before God those countries which again are on our hearts: we think of Ethiopia, of Syria, Yemen, and other places we bring before You in the quiet now.

Lord, we pray that You will bring peace to our troubled world.
Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our town of Kenilworth, for all who live and work here, and we thank You for the joy of living here. We pray for Churches Together, that we all strive to live in unity and to bring Your Kingdom closer. We pray for those activities that are starting up again, and for those who will be frightened to join in community after so long. We thank You for the many gifts You've given us here, and we pray that we may use them to Your glory.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are ill and for those who care for them. We thank You, Lord for the bravery and the endurance of those who work as carers and in the NHS and we pray that You will sustain and bless them. We bring before God those who are known to us who are ill, and who need our prayers and our care, and our love.

Father God, You care for all Your children and all our needs are known to You. We pray for healing for those for whom we prayed: for patients and for a sense of Your presence with them, and with those who care for them.

We pray for all those who mourn at this time. It's hard for us when we can't mourn as we would wish, when we can't see the ones we love and hold them. We pray for those whose loved ones have died, and especially today we think of the Queen, and pray that You will comfort her in the loss of Prince Philip, and we also pray for the many, some of whom are known to us, who died recently, and ask that You will bring Your comfort and Your love to those who mourn.

Merciful Father, accept our prayers for the sake of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

So gathering our prayers and praises into one, as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray together.

**All 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.**

The Grace and Blessing

Thank you for being with us tonight and for worshipping with us. We pray that you'll be blessed during the coming week. And as we go shall we say the grace together, and then I'll do a blessing, remembering that although we're separate, we're still a body of Christ in Kenilworth and elsewhere, and we can bless one another, even though we're at a distance. So we say together the grace:

**All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

And a blessing², which I love.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive, by the power which is at work among us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all ages.

3rd Hymn: Oh the Deep Deep Love of Jesus

So we remind ourselves now in our final hymn of how much Jesus loves us. *Oh the Deep Deep Love of Jesus*.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of your love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To your glorious rest above. | 2. Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread His praise from shore to shore,
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore;
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne. |
|--|---|

2 Ephesians 3:20-21 – translation from Common Worship [CW]

3. Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

Repeat last verse

[Transcribed by Hamish Blair with help from <https://otter.ai>]

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