

19th July 2020

Hearsall at Home

Hello, and welcome to Hearsall at Home.

Today's service includes Holy Communion. Please arrange for some bread and wine or juice to share at the appropriate moment.

We hope that you listen to this service either on a Sunday morning, or at another time, and you will worship, sing, pray and reflect on the scriptures along with all of us.

A written copy of the service is also available as a download on our website, so if you know anyone who would like that please let us know.

Afterwards you'll find me in my Whereby room: Bring your cup of coffee to whereby.com/sutcliffechat and see who's there. There's still room for more!

So sit down, be still, and prepare yourself to worship God with us.

Morning Worship 19th July 2020

Living Together

Invitation to Worship

Psalm 139: 7 – 12

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,'

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

Loving Lord, thank you that even when we go through dark times, you remain with us. We draw close to you now and lift up our hearts together in praise of your holy name.

Hymn **Immortal, Invisible**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,

Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;

Thy justice like mountains high soaring above

Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;

In all life thou livest, the true life of all;

We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
But of all thy rich graces, this grace, Lord, impart –
Take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee,
And so let thy glory, Almighty, impart
Through Christ in the story, Thy Christ to the heart.

Prayers

Dear Lord, holy and mighty as you are, we dare to enter your presence again today
and every day, for you are filled with steadfast love your heart abounds with mercy.

We worship you.

As far as the East is from the West, so far you separate our sin from us.

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is your love for us.

In a moment of silence we acknowledge our sin.

And we rejoice to receive your forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ, and to be
filled again with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

And we speak to God now in the words our Saviour taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

On earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

Behind Closed Doors

Graham Walker

Hello everyone. My name is Graham Walker, and for those who attended the morning services before "Lockdown" and don't know me, I'm easily recognisable as the bearded man with the shiny head, who sits on the right hand aisle seat row 5. Well it may be row 4. Sorry but it has been a while and I am not noted for my memory or my perception.

It is now 17 weeks since the closure of the church and I suppose that you are wondering how I fill my time. I'm wondering that myself. Initially listening to constant bulletins regarding the danger to people of a certain age, to people with underlying illnesses and others who were considered vulnerable, and the need for isolation. I became a little paranoid, and fearful of venturing out. I remember phoning Peter Fearn concerning our weekly visit to church to test the fire alarm. The previous week Peter was unavailable, so I had to complete the procedure on my own and received an ear bashing from my son, who had convinced me on how irresponsible it was. It was quite pleasing to hear that Peter's daughter Kate was of the same mind and, after speaking to the fire authorities, we decided to delay those weekly tests. For the first few weeks both Sue and I anxiously followed the governments daily televised reports at 5 o'clock in the evening, hoping to hear of improvements in the statistics.

Unable to shop for ourselves, we were very fortunate to have Peter's lovely daughter, Kate, volunteering to do all our shopping for us. Every week we would get a call to write out the list of all that was needed. With a little help from my son and further help from a close friend's daughter, we felt very blessed. A little strange at first, as through panic buying, shelves were left quite empty, but we were never left wanting.

Having listened to others talking of their behind closed door experiences, it would seem that there has been time for plenty of gardening, working the allotments, decorating and D I Y projects. Well, Sue and I were never ones to follow the trend and have a relaxed way of life but if visitors do venture into our home in the near future, they will no longer be able to write their names in the dust. (It's a little joke from Peter Fearn's late wife, Iris, who used to say that she didn't mind people noticing the dust but that they were not allowed to write their names or date in it).

Regarding the garden, we have spent some time tending the numerous pot plants and probably becoming more aware of their beauty and development. The hedgerows separating us from our next door neighbours seem to have grown considerably larger and have been a haven for birds this year. We have never been short of sparrows, blue tits, goldfinches and pesky pigeons, but this year we have had blackbirds, thrushes and dunnocks nesting and producing chicks. Our only disappointment was that having watched the blue tits eagerly building the nest in the bird box, they seemingly disappeared overnight. Apparently sparrow hawks were about. Unseen before, we watched as blackbirds made a lot of noise attacking the wood pigeons to protect their chicks. Quite comical to see an overweight pigeon cowering in terror, and in desperation to escape, damaging a plant. There is one bird that I haven't mentioned, and that is the robin. Noted for their friendliness, I have been amazed at how one has been within touching distance on many occasions. It sat on a branch one day at eye level to me so I started to talk to it. I don't know what the neighbours thought when every time I spoke, the robin answered me. I do believe, had I persevered and armed with mealie worms, the robin would have been eating from my hand. One problem that I did have was to make sure that I closed the garage door when working in there, as it seemed to appear from nowhere every time I went in. Entered very easily but objected to flying out again.

So what else have I been doing? Really from day one I have been out for my walks, come rain or shine. I try to do 10,000 steps, which is about 4 miles, more than enough for me but a mere stroll for my dear friend Peter, who often suggests different challenging routes. If nothing else, this COVID has opened my eyes more to the beauty of nature and how near some woodland areas are to our home. The only problem I have found is that I get so absorbed in some of the surroundings that I venture "off track". On more than one occasion my 10,000 steps have nearly doubled and one day I actually walked 8 miles. I didn't dare tell Sue and moan about my aching knees, as I would have had to contend with earache as well. Oops, I've let the cat out of the bag. I'll be in trouble now.

Joking apart, Sue and I have been as close as any married couple but I believe if it's at all possible during this time, we have grown even closer. She has been that caring listener and my hairdresser. It was growing quite long at the back and I wondered whether I could train it and bring it over the front but I was convinced that Sue would make a good job. I wasn't allowed to view the handiwork, so have no idea whether

there were any pretty patterns carved in the back, but to be on the safe side I wear a cap when I venture out!

With the furlough I have been in need of a paediatrician and missed Peter's daughter, Kate, looking after my feet. Sue, bless her, took over that job also. I did volunteer to reciprocate or even paint her nails, as I have plenty of gloss in the garage, but the offer was refused.

Two weeks ago we ventured to the local supermarket for the first time and have twice visited the city centre to shop at Sue's favourite shop, Marks and Spencer's, so a little near normality. I don't believe things will ever be the same again but I do thank God for opening my eyes and awareness to the wonder and beauty in nature, which I will never take for granted, and most of all the love and friendship from our Hearsall family. Finally I will take this opportunity to thank God for the gifts that he has given to so many at Hearsall, who have worked tirelessly in the production of our Sunday morning services.

God Bless you all.

Thanks Graham; it's great to hear from you again.

And now we sing a song about letting the love and forgiveness flow and sharing the life of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour...

Song Freely, Freely

Verse 1

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.

Chorus

He said freely, freely
You have received,
Freely, freely give.
Go in My name
And because you believe,
Others will know that I live.

Verse 2

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name,
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His pow'r as He told me to.

Chorus X2

Offering

Lord for all your bountiful gifts we give you our thanks.

Help us to be generous in our turn. Receive the gifts we make to church and charity and use them to build love, harmony and peace in our world. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Sandra Noel, read by Jo Allmand

Dear Father, though we are all separate in our homes this morning, we are joined in spirit by Your love, a love that knows no bounds but holds us together in fellowship, one with another and with You.

At this difficult time we realize that no matter what race, colour or creed we are, we are all equal and that **all** our lives matter. The world seems a small place and we bring before You all nations that are suffering—from America to Brazil, from Britain to Vietnam; so many not knowing what the future will hold. Bring Your healing power and peace to all.

We pray for scientists working on developing a vaccine. Give them the inspiration, team spirit and patience as they strive to solve problems, bringing results that will be beneficial to all.

We bring to you our N.H.S. staff working all hours to bring healing and comfort to their patients. Bless all who keep this wonderful service in action, from the porters and cleaners, to the nurses, doctors and surgeons. We hold them all before You now.

We pray for our government, making decisions to ease the lockdown safely, so that the economy of the country will start to regenerate. Even then, Lord, we know that

many will lose their jobs and will face financial hardships. May the challenge of new enterprises to redirect skills and expertise, give them hope for the future.

During this period of lockdown we have realized how important family and friends are. We have missed their company so much. We look forward to meeting them once again, even though at a safe distance. Bless our fellowship at Hearsall from the youngest to the oldest. Keep them well, Lord, and keep them safe. We pray especially for Val Taylor who has been poorly in hospital this week. We hold her before you now Lord.

We pray for Lee, Sarah and their family as they spend time near Sarah's parents in Germany. We thank You for the safe arrival of their new baby daughter. May the love which surrounds them show in all they do in Your name.

And now we will have a time of quiet, as we bring our own individual prayers to God at this time.

Hear our prayers Lord, for we ask them in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

And we thank Sandra for those thoughtful prayers.

Bible Readings

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed ears, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ 'The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?"

²⁸ "An enemy did this," he replied.

'The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?"

²⁹ "No," he answered, "because while you are pulling up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: first collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.'

³⁷ He answered, 'The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ 'As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Our gospel reading reminds us of the tensions we live with in the world, with good and evil existing alongside one another. The reading no doubt also inspired our next hymn...

Hymn Come, ye thankful people, come

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in
Soon the winter storms begin.
God, our maker will provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield!
Wheat and weeds together sown,
Until 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!

For the lord our God shall come,
And shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day
All offences purge away,
Give the angels charge at last
In the fire the weeds to cast,
But the fruitful ones to store
In his storehouse evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,
Bring thy final harvest home!
Gather now your people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified,
In your storehouse to abide;
Come, with all your angels come,
Raise the glorious harvest home!

And now, O Lord, we thank you for the preparation of our brother Roger, and, as we listen to his words this morning, we ask that we may each hear your living Word.
Amen.

Sermon

Living Together, by Roger Woodward.

This is a first for me, sitting in my study, preparing a full text for a sermon, knowing I am going to preach it to the screen of my laptop, with no congregation to encourage me. How fortunate we are that David has been able to make this adjustment so well and bring to us, through this medium, some inspiring and challenging sermons. Well, here goes, let's see how we get on.

The parables are a series of word-pictures told by Jesus, of scenes that were familiar to those who first heard them. He took incidents from everyday life that would be familiar to his hearers and through those incidents expressed truths of the Kingdom. Jesus avoided tedious abstract teaching which can be so difficult to absorb or retain in the mind. By His stories he made people see situations in a new light, and his listeners went away with questions niggling in their minds.

In this parable there is both drama and crime. The field had been planted with wheat but unknown to the farmer someone, perhaps with some grudge, wanting to get his own back for something that had happened in the past, came at night and scattered darnel seed alongside the wheat. An evil deed, which by its very nature could not be discovered for a very long time. This is a story of life as it was in those days. There were Roman laws to punish such acts, 'I will sow bad seed in your field', was a known expression of that day. A curse one person would threaten another with. That is how life was and to some extent still is. Good and evil are very much a part of the mixture we call life.

Jesus is calling us here to be realistic about the world in which we live, a world where good and evil live alongside each other and we have to live our lives in this tension. This is true not just for the world in which we live, but also personally, for there is that inner conflict of right and wrong within each one of us. In our best deeds how pure are our motives?

In facing this dilemma there are two errors into which we can easily fall. We can be sentimentalists and deny this tension. We can live in a Christian bubble that refuses to recognise the tensions of life. We can stay within the warmth of the greenhouse of the church and not become involved in the challenging icy cold winds of the real world. This is the world which God made but it is not a paradise or anything like it, and we must not pretend it is. Too easily we can sing of the wonder of nature and the natural world may move us, but through education we are well informed of the ugly and cruel streak which runs throughout the natural order. There are things like earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions which bring destruction to buildings, take many lives cruelly and destroy whole communities. How can this be squared with the loving God we see in Jesus? We have to be honest about this tension and accept it as a fact of living, and continue to struggle to a deeper understanding of this gift of life which God has given us. We can so easily close our eyes to the cruel reality which for many people is part of everyday life.

The other error to which our generation is even more prone, is that of falling into cynicism and despair. Goodness is seldom news but evil always hits the headlines. Modern forms of mass communication tend to spotlight cruelty, violence and evil, while the modern play or novel, which claims to hold up the mirror to life, seldom

shows in that mirror an inspiring character. There is an over emphasis on the evil, and this leads to the grey mood of our generation.

The Christian realist avoids both pitfalls - he celebrates the steadfast love of God, he believes in the good seed of the Gospel, but he does not look at life through rose coloured spectacles, but boldly battles all the time with these tensions.

So what do we do about the weeds?

First, we recognise that because of the life of Christ, his cross and his victory over the most deliberately planned evil of all time, we are assured that goodness and love are ultimately the winners. This must be our starting point. Therefore greed, violence, cruelty, in fact evil, in all its various facets, is like a foreign body in the bloodstream of humankind. It must be cured, 'An enemy hath done this'.

The parable brings out the Christian dilemma of how to overcome evil, 'Let them both grow together', Jesus said. What does this mean? I understand that darnel and wheat in early growth are alike; only when both produce grain can the poisonous weed be detected. By that time the roots have become entwined, and to pull up the darnel would ruin the wheat.

Does this mean then that we have to submit to evil and live with it?

Wherever evil can be clearly seen, we fight against it, controlling it by law, or where necessary using punishment in a redemptive manner to control it, but it is easier to lop off the heads of weeds than to get at the roots. The parable emphasises that good and evil are so often alike and interwoven; our motives are so mixed that above all else we must seek a sensitive conscience; a clear understanding between good and evil. The sin against the Holy Spirit was to call evil good and good evil.

In this time of muddled morals, true worship should wake up our conscience to what is right in God's eyes.

The common sense of Paul advises us to concentrate on the things of good report. When doing this we experience the glory of God's creative acts which brings to us an experience of calm, tranquillity, renewal and assurance. Dr. Wilson, formally Bishop of Birmingham, was tortured for three weeks by the Japanese and was in a state of semi-consciousness. When consciousness returned, the first thing he saw through his tiny cell window was a flowering shrub and this lifted him up, "beauty was eternal, the torture of evil men is temporary", he said. Jeremiah in his despair saw the blossom of the almond tree, the first to awaken into new life after the deadness of winter, and received the assurance of God being alive in his world.

There are occasions when the defeat of evil may be accomplished only by the costly way of suffering. Paul also said; 'Do not let evil conquer you but use good to defeat evil'. Martin Luther King, following the costly way of nonviolent protest to awaken the world to the inequalities between black and white, and losing his life, is still stirring deeply the conscience of mankind today, fifty two years after his death.

This story of realism is continued in the parable that follows in Mathew's Gospel. The tiny mustard seed grows into the mustard tree, standing twelve feet high, and shelters the birds as they peck away at its seeds. Here is an impressive Christian symbol of the confident belief in the power of the good. A tiny seed sown in the ground becomes so strong and powerful that the birds are able to sit in its branches. Here is the optimism of the Gospel confirmed over- and over again in the story of the Church, and the life of the individual Christians, irrespective of time or place, and most clearly confirmed on Easter morning. With renewed zeal we continue to sow the good seed of the Gospel, undaunted by the weeds, and to expect, in spite of evil, a good harvest in our work for our Lord.

Song **Jesus, Stand Among Us**

Verse 1

Jesus, stand among us
At the meeting of our lives.
Be our sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes.

Chorus

O Jesus, we love You,
So we gather here.
Join our hearts in unity
And take away our fears.

Verse 2

So to You we're gathering
Out of each and every land,
Christ the love between us
At the joining of our hands.

Chorus

Verse 3

Jesus, stand among us
At the breaking of the bread,
Join us as one body
As we worship You our Head.
Chorus (and repeat last line)

Invitation to Communion

We gather at this table to celebrate life: the life of the God of the world, made flesh and blood in Jesus, embodied in us. We come to remember the body that was broken: the hands that touched the untouchable, healed the hurting, and did not violence; the feet that got dust along city streets and at the lake's shore; the arms that welcomed the stranger and embraced the outcast; the legs that entered homes and synagogues and danced at celebrations; the eyes that blazed against injustice, knew how to cry and saw the potential in everyone; the belly that shared table with unexpected people and shook with laughter; the lips that wove stories and painted pictures of a new community and a better world.

This blessed body that was broken, abused and rejected, we come to remember, for we are called to be the body of Christ. As you, Risen Christ remember our loves, so we remember you. And not only at this table, but in our life together, may we embody your kingdom and remember your life in the world.

Bible verses

Romans 8: 12 - 35

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation – but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with

Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

How the Lord's Supper came to be

1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and

said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Thanksgiving prayer

O God, we give thanks for the bread and wine or juice we have in our homes today; a timeless reminder of the flesh-and-blood life of Jesus: broken, rejected, yet unstoppable. In Christ we see a life that could not be ended by death; a purpose that could not be silenced by the forces of violence; a desire deep within you for the transformation of the world. And so, in a few moments, we will eat the bread and drink the wine.

We thank you for the acceptance and tenderness with which you have transformed our shame into dignity and loved us into life; we thank you for cherishing the potential in us and for calling us to be partners in your vision for this world. In our communion together we call on your Spirit to come alongside us, so that together, in the company of your Spirit we may give ourselves afresh to the task of remembering you, of being the body of Christ, of living your life in this world. Amen.

Sharing

We are about to share bread and wine together in our various houses. Let's pause and take a moment to think of each other and to pray that God's presence unites us in remembering him:

Lord, we remember one another, and in this time of communion we affirm our unity and celebrate the love that binds us always together in love. Amen.

It's time to share the bread. Please take it in your hands and break it now as I say:

Jesus said, this is my body which is for you. Do this in memory of me.

One minute of silence as people share

So let's share the bread together, and think of all our brothers and sisters sharing bread in homes around Coventry and beyond.

So now we share the wine or juice. Lift it up as I say,

Lord Jesus we drink from this cup which is the new covenant between you and humanity. We drink with glad and thankful hearts, for our sins are forgiven and you fill us once more with your Holy Spirit.

Let's share the cup together.

One minute of silence as people share

After taking the bread and wine, we pray once more.

Post communion prayer

We have taken bread and wine into our bodies.

Now may these hands be the hands of Christ in the world, may they do no violence. May these eyes see those who are overlooked, may these ears listen to those who are unheard; may these voices be raised for the voiceless, lest our songs of praise be empty. May these feet take us where Christ leads, and may these hearts and minds be open to your Spirit. Christ has remembered us. Let us remember Christ. Amen.

Hymn **Here I am, wholly available**

Chorus x 2

Here I am, wholly available,
As for me, I will serve the Lord.

Verse 1

The fields are white unto harvest
But oh, the lab'ers are so few,
So Lord, I give myself to help the reaping,
To gather precious souls unto You.

Chorus x 1

Verse 2

The time is right in the nation
For words of power and authority.
God's looking for a people who are willing
To be counted in His glorious victory.

Chorus x 1

Verse 3

As salt are we ready to savour?

In darkness are we ready to be light?

God's seeking out a very special people

To manifest His truth and His might.

Chorus x 2

As for me I will serve the Lord.

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;

The love of God;

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be with us all

Now and always. Amen.

Sung blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

Wherever he may send you;

May he guide you through the wilderness;

Protect you through the storm;

May he bring you home rejoicing

At the wonders he has shown you;

May he bring you home rejoicing

Once again into our doors.