

A BETTER LIFE



THE MIGHTY MEEK
MATTHEW 5: 1 - 5

Call to worship

‘I will purify the lips of the peoples,
that all of them may call on the name
of the Lord and serve him shoulder to
shoulder. 10 From beyond the rivers of
Cush my worshippers, my scattered
people, will bring me offerings. 11 On
that day you, Jerusalem, will not be

put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. 12 But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the Lord.'

(Zephaniah 3:9-12)



The King of love

LOVE IS THE ANSWER



Opening prayer

God our source and guide and goal:
you have made us in your image and
set us in a world full of beauty; you
dwell in unapproachable light, yet
you have come among us, full of
grace and truth. You have revealed



yourself in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Help us by your Spirit to worship you
in spirit and in truth; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Confession

The Bible tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3.23). If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins (1 John 1.8-9). Let us confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness.



**Almighty God, we confess before you
our own sin, the sin of the Church and
the sin of the world, in which we
share. We have not loved you with our
whole being; we have not loved our
neighbour as ourselves. In your mercy,
forgive us when we turn to you;**



release us from the burdens of the past, and remake us in your image and likeness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation (2 Cor. 5.17). Through him your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Thanks be to God.



Offertory prayer

Almighty God, out of the fulness of your gifts we bring before you this bread and wine, our gifts and our lives. Blessed be your holy name forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Time of sharing



Reading: Matthew 5: 1 - 5

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



A person stands on a highly reflective surface, likely a salt flat, during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible, their peaks also reflecting in the water. The person's reflection is clearly visible in the still water.

REFLECTION:

A BETTER LIFE (3)

THE MIGHTY MEEK



**Bowthorpe
Church**

Prayer of intercession

These are responsive prayers

Glorious Lord,

Hear us and renew us.



Lord of life, in this pandemic we thank you for the scientists who have developed vaccines against covid. We pray that the world's richest countries would help the poorest with vaccines. Glorious Lord,
Hear us and renew us.

Lord of life, we pray for your people at this time, for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the wider church, especially those who are in fear of their lives and even facing death. We pray for the work of organisations such as the Barnabas Fund,



Open Doors and Release
International. Please bless their work
and ministry to those who live in fear
because they call you Lord.

Glorious Lord,
Hear us and renew us.

Lord of life, we pray for leaders of the world, not just our own leaders, and pray for a true meekness among them, that there would be humility before you and gentleness towards others. May they serve your purposes of justice and love.



Glorious Lord,
Hear us and renew us.

We pray for those in pain and who are ill in body mind or spirit. May each one know you are an ever present help in times of need.

Glorious Lord,
Hear us and renew us.

We pray for ourselves. You are the God who meets us in the risen Christ and by the power of your Holy Spirit. Through this time, as lockdown eases, give us the courage we need to speak and act in your name and for your glory.



Glorious Lord,
Hear us and renew us.

Finally, we pray for all who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time. We thank you that you are the God of hope through the resurrection of your Son, and pray that many may come into your eternal kingdom.

Glorious Lord,
Hear us and renew us.



All these things we pray in the name
of Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's prayer

**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.



I'm so amazed



Bowthorpe
Church

The peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace (Col. 3:15).

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.



Holy Communion

As we gather at this table, we remember that Jesus was born of Mary; he lived our common life on earth; he suffered and died for us; on the third day God raised him from the dead; and he is always present with us through the Holy Spirit.



In his presence, and in the company of all the people of God, past, present, and to come, we celebrate the Supper of the Lord. 'Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.'

(Revelation 3: 20)

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and
praise.**



We give thanks to you, O God, that from the earth you cause the grain to come for the making of bread and that you cause the vine to yield fruit. We praise you for Christ, the bread of life and true vine, whose body was given for us, and whose blood was poured out for us.



By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and
these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread which we break may
be the communion of the body of
Christ, and the cup which we bless
may be the communion of the blood
of Christ. As we share the sufferings



of Christ, so give us grace to know the power of his resurrection, that we may be made one and evermore abide in him, to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



When Jesus had given thanks he broke the bread and said: 'Take, eat: this is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' When Jesus had given thanks, he gave the cup to his disciples and said:



‘Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

Amen.



Giving of communion

The body of Christ broken for you.



Prayer after communion

**God of a love stronger than death,
you have given us new birth into a
living hope through the gift of your
Son. God with us, like a mother you
have fed us with yourself &
strengthened us for the journey**



**ahead. Now may the love which bids
us welcome at this table gather all
your children into one, in your eternal
presence. Amen.**



Meekness and majesty

COURAGE
DOES
NOT
ALWAYS
ROAR



Closing prayer and blessing

Lord, we give ourselves to you; and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all whom you love, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

