

## Darlington District Worship at Home Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Jesus was compassionate and gracious to all people, while seeing the need to reach all who had yet to hear. He is more than able to meet whatever needs we face, and provide the strength and wisdom to serve Him. If there are needs in your life, bring them to the Lord.

He showed great love, grace, and compassion. Whether it was a private moment, or a very public moment, Jesus always responded in power and grace. He continues to meet our needs according to His gracious provision.

Amen

### Prayers of Intercession

*Refrain between prayers:*

**Loving God, this is your world.**

**May your light shine and your hope prevail.**

We hold before God:

situations around the world;  
needs in our own community;  
those known to us.

We name places, people and situations where the light of Christ is desperately needed today.

Finally we pray for ourselves. May we carry your light in a hurting world.

We share in **The Lord's Prayer**.     **Amen**

Hymn: StF 495 / H&P 673     **Dear Lord and Father of mankind**

### Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen**

### Numbers 6: 24-26

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Acknowledgements: Thank you to Local Preacher Sean Conroy for his reflections.  
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### Psalm 147: 1-12

Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. (Psalm 147 v1 NRSVA)

Hymn: StF 653 / H&P 395 **O Christ the Healer we have come**

### Prayers

Lord God, I bring my praise with the psalmist, acknowledging your glory,  
your presence, your power. **Hallelujah, praise the Lord!**

In the light of your magnificence I realise my own smallness,  
insignificance and failings. You made me to reflect your glory and yet so  
often I fail to share your love and celebrate your majesty. **I am sorry.**

*Silence for reflection*

When we confess our wrongs, God wipes the slate clean. We are united  
with God through God's mercy and forgiveness. **Thank you, Father.**

*(You may wish to set aside your weekly offering at this point.)*

I give a little. You, Father God, give me so much.  
You are worthy of all praise. **Amen.**

*In our worship this week, Local Preacher Sean Conroy reflects on two  
passages from the Gospel according to Mark:*

### Mark 1: 29-34 (NRSV)

The first verses describe a private moment within Simon Peter's house.  
I am thankful for those private moments with our Lord. In the passage  
we see Jesus invited as a guest to the home of Peter's mother in law  
and we hear of her healing from a fever. Jesus did not neglect her need.  
He had power over the fever within her body and provided the healing  
she desired. His touch brought immediate healing and she rose and  
ministered to them. There is no problem we face that Jesus can't handle.  
Whether they appear big or small, the Lord is concerned with our need

and able to provide for us! However I would like our thoughts to think over the immediate aftermath of this event, thinking over 3 issues:

Curiosity  
Prayer  
Ministry

Word had spread through Capernaum that Jesus had power to heal and cast out unclean spirits. The people began to recognise there was something special about this man, and they came to find Him. I am thankful for the moment I heard of the power of Jesus and responded by faith. I had witnessed His power in the lives of others and eventually saw my need for His gracious touch!

The entire city of Capernaum had gathered at the door of Peter's house. Granted, Capernaum was a small town, but everyone in town had come to see and benefit from the presence of Jesus. Clearly many came because they had need; some likely came out of curiosity, and others came because they felt drawn to Jesus. I am reminded this was the result of people telling others about Jesus. As His fame spread, people came to see Him. We must be committed to telling others of our wonderful Saviour. They might show up one day to see for themselves!

Jesus did not turn the people away, or demand they come back at a more suitable hour. He immediately began to heal the sick and cast out many devils. He met the needs of the vast multitude in a miraculous way. This reminds us of His compassion toward our individual needs and the awesome power He possesses. Regardless of what we face, whether it be sickness, disease, or the need of salvation, Jesus is able to provide.

We may never encounter His miracles in a manner such as this, but I am thankful for His gracious touch and redeeming power in my life!

#### [Mark 1: 35-45](#)

Then we find that Jesus rose early in the morning, a great while before daylight to spend time with His Father. He knew the importance of such communion and was determined to start His day in fellowship with the Father. He had experienced much the day before and was compelled to talk with the Father. This is encouraging and also very convicting. Jesus is God in the flesh. He was fully God and fully man, and yet He recognised the need to fellowship with the Father. How much more should we desire to spend time with the Lord? If Jesus made it a priority, we certainly should as well. Jesus rose early and went to this solitary

place for one purpose – to pray unto the Father. He felt the need to spend quality time in prayer. We don't know how long He was there, but I am sure He enjoyed this time of conversation with the Father. Jesus knew the Father intimately and longed to talk with Him. We too should possess an urgent desire to commune with our Saviour in prayer. If Jesus felt the need to pray, we should be compelled to pray. Surely He sought strength from the Father. We stand in need of His strength and wisdom as we strive to serve Him among the distractions and stress of life

Jesus was a Journeyman. A man who moved from place to place. In today's passage we hear of Jesus wishing to leave Capernaum and journey on. The multitudes from Capernaum remained and the disciples assumed the Lord would need to return to the city and minister unto them. However, Jesus had another plan in mind. He was not unconcerned with the needs in Capernaum, but He realised He must go into the other towns and villages to preach the Gospel. That was the purpose for His coming.

It is easy for us to develop "tunnel vision" at times while serving the Lord. If we aren't careful we will focus on current or pressing needs and fail to see the big picture. Staying in our Capernaum can do a lot of good for certain individuals, but often the Lord has something else in mind. Many times we allow good things to hinder us from doing the best things. Capernaum is comfortable and familiar, but the Lord may want us to extend our influence to other areas of need.

He preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils. Jesus set a precedent very early in His ministry. He would return to Capernaum and minister there again later, but He did not allow His ministry to be confined to a specific area or group of people. He preached throughout Galilee, revealing Himself as the Christ in towns and villages wherever He went. Jesus knew all men needed to hear the Gospel. He would command the disciples to take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth and He set the example for them to follow.

There is no room for contentment or satisfaction when it comes to sharing the Gospel. We cannot focus on one geographic area or a certain group of people alone. I do not minimize the individual needs of anyone, but we must follow the Lord's example and command. As long as there are people who have yet to hear the Gospel, we have a work to perform. May we be as Christ was, and share the Gospel wherever we go, with whomever we meet!