

*St. John's (Winona)*  
**MORNING LITURGY**  
*August 5, 2020*

The Acknowledgement – The Reverend Rob Towler (Rector)

***Gathering Song : We Cannot Measure How You Heal***

We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer.  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hope to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

So we have come who need your help  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.

Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind, and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make your broken people whole.

**Opening Affirmation**

Leader : Among the poor, among the proud,  
among the persecuted, among the privileged,  
ALL : CHRIST IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW !

Leader: In the private house, in the public place,  
in the wedding feast, in the judgement hall,  
ALL : CHRIST IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW !

Leader : With a gentle touch, with an angry word,  
with a clear conscience, with burning love,  
ALL : CHRIST IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW !

Leader : That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe,  
that the powerful might stumble, that the hidden might be seen,  
ALL : CHRIST IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW !

Leader : Within us, without us, behind us, before us,  
in this place, in every place, for this time, for all time.  
ALL : CHRIST IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW !

***Song Of Praise : Will You Come and Follow Me***

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me ?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,

and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

### Prayer

Leader : Let us pray ....

Because you made the world, and intended it to be a good place,  
and called its people your children;

because, when things seemed at their worst,

you came in Christ to bring out the best in us;

so, gracious God, we gladly say:

ALL : GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL,  
LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE,  
LIGHT IS STRONGER THAN DARKNESS.  
TRUTH IS STRONGER THAN LIES

Leader : Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith;  
because anger, tension, bitterness and envy distort our vision;  
because our minds sometimes worry small things put of proportion;  
because we do not always get it right, we want to believe:

ALL : GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL,  
LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE,  
LIGHT IS STRONGER THAN DARKNESS.  
TRUTH IS STRONGER THAN LIES

Leader : Because you have promised to hear us, and are able to change us,  
and are willing to make our hearts your home,  
we ask you to confront, control, forgive , and encourage us,  
as you know best.

(silence)

Then let us cherish in our hearts  
That which we proclaim with our lips:

ALL : GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL,  
LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE,  
LIGHT IS STRONGER THAN DARKNESS.  
TRUTH IS STRONGER THAN LIES

Leader : Lord, hear our prayer, and change our lives until we illustrate  
the grace of the God who makes all things new.

ALL : AMEN

### **The Word of God :**

Reader : In the beginning was the Word

ALL : AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD,  
AND THE WORD WAS GOD.OUR EARS ARE OPEN

Reader : A reading from St. Matthew's Gospel

*Matthew 15:21-28*

Reader : For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us;

ALL : THANKS BE TO GOD

**Reflection :** The Reverend Rob Towler

**Prayers of the People :**

Leader: Let us pray.

Holy God,  
though this world depends on your grace,  
it is governed and tended by mortals.

So we pray for those who walk the corridors of power  
in the parliaments of this and other lands,  
whose judgements we value or fear.  
(names may be said silently or aloud)

May they always consider those they represent,  
make decisions with courage and integrity,  
and resist any temptation  
to abuse the trust placed in them.

Lord hear us.

ALL : LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.

We pray for those who hold key positions  
in the worlds of finance, business, and industry,  
whose decisions may profit some, or impoverish many.

(names may be said silently or aloud)

May they always value people higher than profit;  
may they never impose burdens on the poor  
which they would not carry themselves;  
and may they never divorce money from morality  
or ownership from stewardship.

Lord hear us

ALL : LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.

We pray for those in the caring professions,  
who look after and listen to  
kind, cruel, and cantankerous folk,  
and for those who make decisions  
regarding the nations health and welfare.

(names may be said silently or aloud)

May they always sense the sanctity of life  
and every person's uniqueness;  
may they help and heal  
by their interest as well as their skill;  
and may they be saved from tiredness  
and an excess of demands.

Lord hear us.

ALL : LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.

And let us remember  
those for whom we are responsible  
and to whom we are accountable  
in what we do today.

(names may be said silently or aloud)

May we show to them  
the thoughtfulness, tolerance, and kindness of Jesus.

Lord hear us

ALL : LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.

Lord, hear our prayers,  
and if today we might be the means  
by which you answer the prayers of others,  
then may you find us neither deaf nor defiant,  
but keen to fulfil your purpose,  
for Jesus' sake.

ALL : AMEN

Closing Hymn : We Lay Our Broken World

We lay our broken world

in sorrow at your feet,  
haunted by hunger, war and fear,  
oppressed by power and hate,

where human life seems less  
than profit, might and pride:  
though to unite us all in you,  
you lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken hopes  
for lives of dignity;  
workless and overworked you love,  
and call us to be free.

We bring our broken loves,  
friends parted, families torn;  
then in your life and death we see  
that love must be reborn

We bring our broken selves,  
confused and closed and tired;  
then through your gift of healing grace  
new purpose is inspired.

Come fill us, Fire of God,  
our life and strength renew;  
find in us love and hope and trust,  
and lift us up to you.

## Closing Responses

Leader : From where we are  
To where you need us,

ALL : JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.

Leader : From the security of what we know  
To the adventure of what you will reveal,

ALL : JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.

Leader : To refashion the fabric of this world  
Until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

ALL : JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.

Leader : Because good things have been prepared  
for those who love God

ALL : JESUS, NOW LEAD ON.

Leader : (+ blessing)

Postlude :

Thank-you to all who shared in the leadership of this service:

Music Director – Nikki Shaw Huisman

Reader – Vanessa Seuss

Technical Coordinator – Vanessa Seuss

This service was adapted from **A Wee Worship Book** (*Wild Goose Resource Group*)