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**Weekly Letter - 24 September 2023**

**Matthew 20.1-16**

**'Christ loves us and he loves for ever'**

People suggest this extraordinary parable is about a spectacular reward, 'or does it mirror the magnificent', Luke 1.46-55, and express the great reversal, 'the last shall be first and the first shall be last'? Matt 20.16.

Perhaps Christ is once again saying 'I love you and I will love you for ever? For the life of Christ and all his teaching state, oh so clearly, 'He loves you even when you disappoint him, when you fail to meet his expectations for you. So, he never fails to embrace you with his mercy. And this truth, if we really know it means, how can we be grateful to God who redeems us. How can we show our gratitude to God who has come to our side and who stayed with us to the end? Perhaps his answer is , just come, even if it is late in the day, and yes, you will be first, because I know how difficult it has been for you to come!

Is Christ also saying, "If you dream of peace, he will always be waiting for you, because he knows nothing else will satisfy you. Christ is there waiting for you stirring up your desire to be alive, and he knows of your refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity. So come. Yes, at times it is hard, but there is no need to hide. Come.

***Stephen***

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling  
Bible Readings: Deuteronomy 7.7-11: Philippians 1.1-11.

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region** – we will pray for Christ Well

**Prayers for every household** – we will pray for Manselton Road, odd nos. 1-73

**Quarterly Church Meeting** – Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September – 7 pm in the Lounge.

## **Celebration of Harvest – Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Envelopes for donations to Christian Aid will be available, and donations of tins and dry goods will be given to St. Johns's Food Bank.

## **2024 Diaries and URC Prayer Handbook**

If you would like to order a pocket diary priced at £7.99 or a URC Prayer Handbook priced at £5.99 please let us know by 8<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you.

## **Manna rain from Heaven**

(Exodus 16.2-15 and Psalm 105.1-6, 37—45: Jonah 3.10-4.11 and Psalm 145.1-8: Philippians 1.21-30: Matthew 20.1-16)

Lord when the words from the voices of a few  
are dampening my spirit.

Let the manna rain from Heaven.

To strengthen my core,  
to nourish me for life.

I call out Your name in the midst of  
the tuts, murmurs and complaints.

Lord, your voice is sanctuary.

Refreshed, my thirst is satisfied.

Living water flows over me,  
cleansing niggling doubts and fears.

I will praise the one who sustains every sinew of the universe.

As manna fall from Heaven

I am blessed with the bread of life,  
enlivening my spirit, for the days and season to come. Amen.

Stephen Ansa-Addo (URC Prayer Handbook 2023)

