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**WEEKLY LETTER – 30 OCTOBER 2022**

### **Luke 19.1-10**

#### **He sought to see who Jesus was**

This story of Zacchaeus is truly a gem, in part because it is full of such memorable details. He was a teeny-weeny, rich and despised man who was good at climbing trees! One wonders, how did Jesus know Zacchaeus? Had they met before? Why was our diminutive fellow so excited about seeing Jesus? What did Zacchaeus hope to gain from seeing Jesus?

Thinking about Zacchaeus up a sycamore tree is puzzling, because he would have known that if the locals saw him up there, they would either have a good giggle at his expense, or possibly throw things at him. Why would such a rich and powerful collaborator of the Roman Empire even think of risking his dignity and allowing the locals to humiliate him? Here in this extraordinary scene is one of the most hated men willing to put his reputation on the line, simply in an effort to see Jesus, Luke 19.3. It's one of the greatest verses in Luke's Gospel!

Because wanting to see Jesus means I would like to know Jesus. I believe Jesus would like to help someone like me. I wonder what he could do for me?

Having a desire to see Jesus also means Zacchaeus is not bothered what people think of him. He only has one desire, which is to open his heart to a man. He just has to do this.

Zacchaeus' choice reveals hope and wonderful enthusiasm, and I'm sure you can see that he a magnificent example of a Christian.

#### ***Stephen***

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Linda Woollacott  
Bible Readings: Habakkuk 1.1-4: 2.1-4: Luke 19.1-10**

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

**MORE LIGHT** (Lectionary Readings – Habakkuk 1.1-4: 2.1-4: Psalm 119.137-144: 2 Thessalonians 1.1-4, 11-12: Luke 19.1-10)

Envisioning God,  
when darkness has blotted out the light, when we can't see a path to lead us forward,  
or we are stuck in the ruts of routine, hear our cries when we call to you.

When we feel burdened by the weight of the world's problems,

When we are overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis

Or we are worn out from trying to make a difference for good,

hear our cries when we call to you.

"There is still a vision for the appointed time," says God.

Envisioning God,

Help us to discern the vision you hold for us, give us patience to wait, yet preparedness  
to act that everyone might experience your generosity and abundant life.

May we be steadfast in faith and may our love increase.

Free us from self-imposed limitations and doubts.  
Give us ears to hear new ideas and eyes to see new paths,  
and help us to make decisions based on hope not fear.  
May we be steadfast in faith and may our love increase.

**Lindsey Sanderson** (URC Prayer Handbook 2022)

### **Warm Centres Project in Manselton & Brynhyfryd, Part 1**

From 7<sup>th</sup> November the venues listed below will be open to offer a warm place for members of the community to meet up. Residents are welcome to visit the different venues where a range of activities will be taking place:

**Mondays:** St Michael's from 2pm – 6pm

**Tuesdays:** Tea & Chat at Christ Well URC from 2pm – 4pm and Creative Writing from 4-6pm

**Wednesdays:** Circus Eruption at the former St Luke's from 2pm – 6pm

**Thursdays:** Wesleyan Church Eaton Road from 1pm – 5pm

**Fridays:** St Michael's from 2pm – 6pm

**Saturdays:** Brynhyfryd Library from 10am – 1pm

**Sundays:** Indoor Community Picnic, 12pm – 4pm

A Sunday indoor picnic will alternate between available venues. The first one will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Manselton Community Centre, and the next will be on November 20<sup>th</sup> at Mecca.

### **Praying at Christ Well Church**

As I explained in the service on Sunday, the church now has a lovely prayer tree, which has been donated by Ros complete with origami peace birds made by Ros & Cynthia. The idea of this tree come from Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand.

When you attend church, if you want to, please use the coloured labels on the tree to write your prayer requests and the requests will be added to prayers in the following Sunday service. If you are not able to be in church, you are very welcome to ask someone else to write your prayer request for you.

The tree will be on display throughout the week on the concourse and so if you visit the church in the week, you can write prayer requests then too.

Blessings

Adella

