**Printed material for Sunday 22nd August 2021**

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**Opening Words**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Heaven’s armies, I long, yes I faint with longing, to enter the courts of the Lord, with my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young, at a place near your altar, O Lord of Heaven’s armies my God and King. What joy for those who can live in your house always singing your praises.

Hymn No 69 (StF) – Ye Holy Angels bright www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7gVCTKnSQM

Prayers:- Lord God we come to worship you in the places where we are at, physically, emotionally and most of all Spiritually, because we know that’s how you call us to be. Lord as we think about being wholly prepared to enter into worship, open minded and open hearted, we firstly bring to you those things that are heavy on our hearts because they’re not in line with your will for us. We know there have been times when our thoughts have not been in line with those of one in your Kingdom, Lord we are sorry. Lord we know there have been times when our actions have not been in line with those of one in your Kingdom, Lord we are sorry. Lord we know there have been times when we have thought we could go it alone, Lord we are sorry. Lord we ask you to forgive our wrongs as you promised through your death and resurrection.

Lord thank you for the cleansing of our hearts and thoughts, thank you for saving us from a world of sin and guiding us toward eternal life, thank you Lord that you love us, care for us and fill us with you everlasting Spirit, thank you for filling us with your Grace that we can aspire to be faithful servants here on earth. Amen

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn No 34 (StF) – O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytBTMr0K\_\_I

Reading:- John 6 : 60 – 69

Thoughts:- This week’s reading from John’s Gospel follows on from last week, where Jesus taught His followers that his Body was bread and His Blood was wine, that we may be fed following His death and resurrection. This week we hear that many of His followers couldn’t understand and couldn’t continue to follow Him. It was beyond what they knew, it was different to what they had been taught, they couldn’t see beyond their own preconceived ideas, they didn’t want to be open to what Christ could offer, if they couldn’t deal with this message they couldn’t possibly cope with His ascension. Sad that their inability to have their minds opened and hearts lifted was a barrier to the Life being offered to them, not just the offer of Love, Peace, Grace, but also the offer of eternal life, eternal peace.

There are many people in our world today who are blind to these truth’s, and not just people who don’t have the knowledge of what Jesus offers but even those who are followers. When God requires change, progress, a different way, some are still sat on the side, denying that it is even possible for anything to be God’s will if it doesn’t conform to what has always been the way, Jesus didn’t die in the Bible He was resurrected, the completion of the Bible wasn’t the end of the story, God is in the world now, He’s not stagnating in the past, He’s moving ahead into the future, there is still words of prophecy, there are still messages from God through the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised, God still speaks through prayer to those who are willing and open to hearing.

When Jesus turns to the remaining disciples (The twelve), and asks them if they are going to leave, Simon Peter makes that amazingly forward thinking reply “Lord to whom would we go, you

have the words that give eternal life”. There is no other real-life option, only God can show us the way to eternal life.

Those that speak prophecies, those that bring about change, don’t do it just for the sake of ‘doing something’, they do it through prayer, through being open to God’s word’s, being willing to stand up and be counted, things happen

and change comes about that maybe we sometimes struggle with, but it doesn’t come about lightly, it is tested and I truly believe if God is not in it then it won’t happen successfully.

Where are you today, are you ready to flea because things happen that you don’t want, don’t understand, goes against YOUR principles, your thoughts about what is right and wrong, or are you willing to say “God this is you world, You are alive the same today as you were when Jesus came to earth, alive when the Gospel writers wrote their accounts, alive when disciples of today move through the resurrected power of Jesus”. God has a plan; we have free will to accept and move forward or deny and remain static.

Are you ready today to say, as Simon did “Lord whom would I go to, where would I go to, only You hold the key to eternal life”. Amen

Hymn No. 663 – I the Lord of sea and sky www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcxOkht8w7c

Prayer:-

Lord God, as You look upon your world you must weep, Call your disciples to spread you Good News, to shine as a light in the dark corners.

Lord Work through us. **Open our heart’s and mind’s to hear you**

Lord God, look upon all the nations who have infighting, all the nations that fight with each other, pour your Spirit of peace and calming balm, help people to understand that war is never the way to peace.

Lord Work through us. **Open our heart’s and mind’s to hear you**

Lord God, look upon all the casualties of war, famine, greed, and disasters, those left homeless, jobless, or in despair. Pour you loving Spirit into each one, surround them with your healing arms.

Lord Work through us. **Open our heart’s and mind’s to hear you**

Lord God, look upon families, that are outwardly fine, inwardly in turmoil, those families that are dysfunctional causing pain and torment for many years. Pour your life giving Spirit into all those who are in need.

Lord Work through us. **Open our heart’s and mind’s to hear you**

Lord God, look upon those who are suffering, physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually. Pour you healing uplifting Spirit into the lives of all who are suffering.

Lord Work through us. **Open our heart’s and mind’s to hear you**

Lord God, look upon all who have passed from this life, be with their loved ones as they grieve. Lord open Your arms in welcome as Your servants come in to Your Kingdom through the promise of eternal life, given through Christ’s life, death and resurrection.

Lord Work through us. **Open our heart’s and mind’s to hear you**

Lord accept all our prayers, give us the time to hear your will, we offer all through our ever loving everlasting Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn No. 397 (StF) – The Spirit lives to set us free www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDcbYk-9C-Y

May God surround you with his amazing love as you go forward with and through the power of the Holy Spirit, have a Spirit filled week. Amen