

Matthew 6: 28-34

One of the first things we did in this morning's service was to say sorry to God for the mistakes we have made and then Reverend Judy prayed a prayer for us, which you'll see in the middle of page 3, for our forgiveness ... *(see prayer over page)*

I want to look at what it might mean, using some words from that prayer 'to inhabit – or live in – God's world, **wisely and generously.**'

We'll look at wisely first.

During the procession, when the flowers were brought up, we heard words of Jesus when he was teaching. He said: **'Why do you worry about clothes? Look at the flowers in the field. See how they grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon (who was known for being a very rich and wise King) was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers.'**

The reading we just heard began with those words and continued. Jesus said: **'God knows that you need to eat, to drink and to wear something so don't worry about those things.'**

To live wisely he says: 'The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and to do what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you. So don't worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own'.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't plan ahead, on some days what God will want you to do is to put some organisation and planning in place. **It does mean** that you should begin each day asking God to show you how to put into practice his one rule – to love one another as God loves us. If you live each day trying to do that, everything else will fall into place.

And now to living generously.

God loves to deal in big numbers.

I wonder if you know how old Noah was when he died? **950, he was 500 before he became a Dad!**

How many times did Jesus tell Peter he must forgive someone, that is let someone say sorry before getting mad at them? **70 x 7 490 Matthew 18: 22**

How many did 2 fish and 5 loaves feed? **5000 men Mark 6: 44**

I asked on the internet how many apples an apple tree can produce in its lifetime **7500 – 12000**

Most apples have at least 5 seeds in them. If an apple tree produces 500 apples in a year, which seems a lot but I found lots of references that supported it being that sort of number, how many new apple trees could be grown from the seeds **2500**

To keep the maths simple, if we said that an apple tree could produce 10000 apples in its lifetime, and we have 2500 new apple trees from that one year of pips, how many apples is that ... **25,000,000**

Do you remember that we were looking about living generously? God gives with generosity. He gives us the seeds and the sun and the rain. It is because we have responded with wanting more and more for ourselves and not responded with generosity towards everyone else on our planet that we find ourselves having to worry about climate change and the damage that plastic has done. If we return to the plan of living wisely and generously, seeking to bring God's kingdom, which we sometimes call heaven, into daily living here and now, then we will get back the balance that God intended.

So please can we, each day, keep trying anew, to live wisely and generously in God's world ... *(prayer over page)*

'Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and say sorry for the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.

Father, in your mercy:

All: Forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:

All: Forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but sometimes ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

All: Forgive us and help us.

We are sometimes thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

All: Forgive us and help us.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sins *that you may inhabit his world wisely and generously* through Jesus Christ our Lord'

Amen.