

Church Together

A New Start With Jesus!

7th September 2025



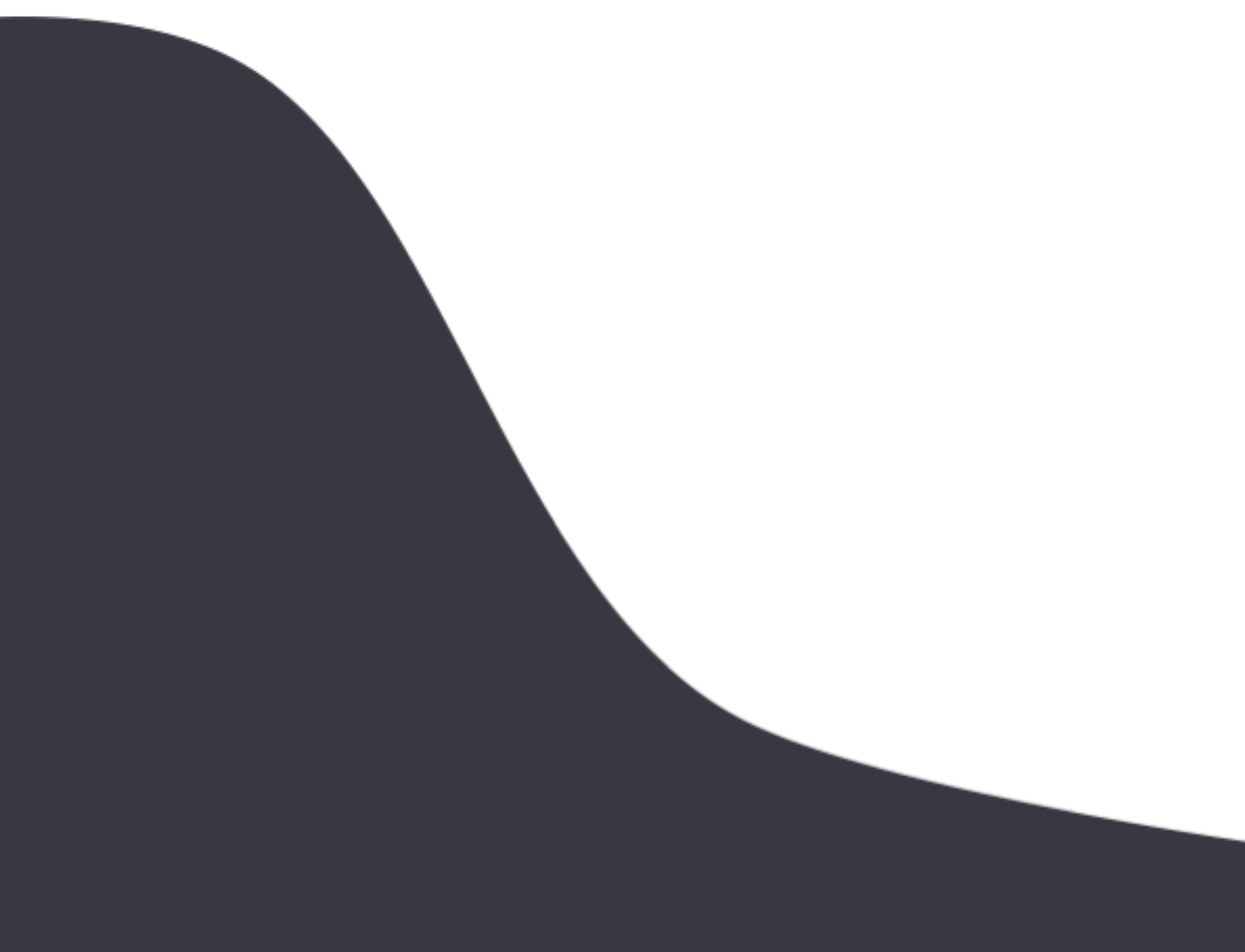
Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **Matthew 9 v. 9 - 13**

The theme for our service today is: **A New Start With Jesus!**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Know The Joy And Blessing Of Having Jesus In Your Life!**



Call To Worship

Psalms 23 v. 1 – 6 NLT

The Lord is my shepherd;

I have all that I need.

He lets me rest in green meadows;

he leads me beside peaceful streams.

He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,

bringing honour to his name.

Even when I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff

protect and comfort me.

You prepare a feast for me

in the presence of my enemies.

You honour me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will

pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Opening Prayer

Thank you Lord for the opportunity of being able to worship you today. Thank you for the freedom to be amongst your family of believers here today, meeting together in the warmth of your presence.

Lord God, you are the creator of all things and we thank and praise you for your love for each person here today: for the great and mysterious opportunity of life: for the life of your Spirit within us: for the gifts of your Spirit: we praise and worship you today; Lord Jesus.

Amen

Song Suggestion

From Heaven You Came



Bible Reading

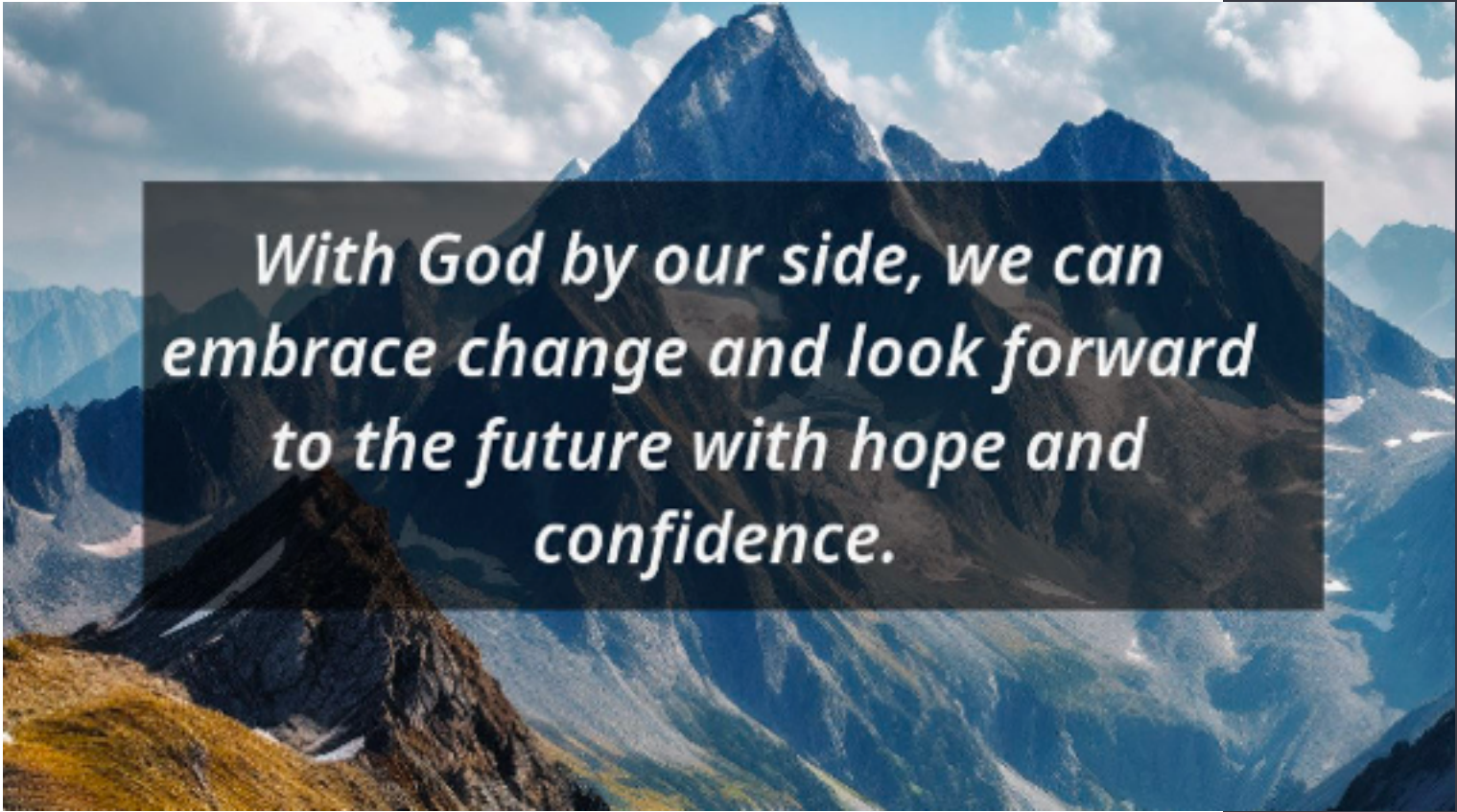
Matthew 9 v. 9 – 13 NIV

The Calling of Matthew

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."



*With God by our side, we can
embrace change and look forward
to the future with hope and
confidence.*

Church Together

Thought

Someone once said: 'One of my roles within my church is to advise on who should go into which fellowship group. Usually, we put people into groups where the other members are of a similar age, or have similar interests, so that they find it easy to settle down and learn together'. However, when Jesus chose his team, how could he have thought that the fishermen would feel comfortable with the tax collector who had exploited them? How did he expect Simon, the Patriot a member of the local Resistance movement, to be in the same team as Matthew, the Roman collaborator?

In **2 Corinthians 5 v. 17**, Paul tells us that: 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here'!

Jesus' choice demonstrated that he expected change – changed attitudes, changed priorities, forgiveness and restoration of past wrongs. How much do we expect change in our own lives and in the lives of others? How much do we allow for it? How much do we work at restoring relationships?

Matthew's initial response to Jesus' call was to invite him to a meal. Luke tells us that this was a great feast as we read in **Luke 5 v. 29**, with Jesus as the guest of honour. Matthew himself was much more modest in his description of the event. How do we describe things that we've done?

Most of us need some sort of recognition and encouragement for what we do, but how do we ensure that the glory goes to God?

Part of the reason for the dinner party was for Matthew to invite his friends and colleagues to meet Jesus for themselves. Meeting Jesus had been such good news that he had to share it.

New Christians are often very effective in sharing their new – found relationship with Jesus with friends and neighbours, whereas those who have been Christians for longer don't seem to be quite so successful.

Have you ever wondered why that might be? Is it because we have become so involved in the church that we have fewer meaningful relationships with people who don't yet know Jesus personally? Or is it because we have become a bit blasé – we've forgotten what good news it was to discover God's friendship in our own lives to begin with. How can we 'sharpen up', restore the enthusiasm and get busy introducing more people to Jesus?

It is interesting that the Pharisees did not bring their objections to Jesus himself – did they lack courage to confront him directly? Perhaps they found it easier to snipe in the background, to try and undermine Jesus, rather than to have a direct debate about his methods. What was the position of the disciples in this situation – were they uneasy about being taken by Jesus to eat in the house of a tax collector? This is the first record of public opposition to Jesus, so perhaps they were unsure as to whether Jesus or the Pharisees were in the right. By going to the disciples, did the Pharisees hope to persuade them round to their own point of view, against Jesus? When we face questioning that undermines our

faith, do we see that as opposition to Jesus himself? If someone has a genuine query, helping them find the answer can only bring them closer to Jesus for themselves.

If they are just trying to cast a slur, we need to be confident in our Lord and put into practice what we are told in **1 Peter 3 v. 15** which says: 'But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect'. God's salvation is for every type of person, regardless of who they are. A new start with Jesus is always possible!

JESUS FOUND TIME FOR NEW PEOPLE

Jesus was made welcome by Matthew and his friends as he talked and ate with them. It has often been said that you gain friends by being one!

In our busy world, giving time to new people is often low on our agenda, but hospitality to strangers was prized in the early church, as we read in passages such as **Romans 12 v. 13; Hebrews 13 v. 2** both of which say: 'Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality' and 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it'.

Maybe we need to rediscover the habit.

JESUS DISPLAYED FRIENDSHIP WITHOUT RETURN

Jesus was not networking here. He deliberately went to Matthew's house to meet people who were 'sick'. The aim of Jesus' visit was to confront these men with his person and to offer them his forgiveness. To do that he treated them with respect.

We are called to go to people with the good news, not to

wait for them to come to us. But that must be more than shouting at them from a distance: they will listen to us only when we get alongside them as people and show we value them.

The Matthews of this world often assume that the church and hence God isn't interested in the likes of them.

JESUS COPED WITH MISUNDERSTANDING

Surprisingly it was the religious leaders who couldn't cope with his actions. Those who should have known better and who should have practised God's love were blind to it. They were stuck in their own ways; that's always a danger for both churches and individuals.

And there's always a risk that church members, or the media, may misunderstand us when we seek to share our faith in new ways – but that doesn't mean we're wrong to do so.

Song Suggestion

There Is A Redeemer



Communion

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. **Romans 5 v. 8** also tells us: 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

An Invitation to the Table:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

A prayer of Approach:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper, when he says: 'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the

same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 – 26

A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP

A Final Prayer of Acclamation:

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ.

Amen.

Prayers Of Intercession

Let's pray together this day for:

Everything you give us Lord, for the sunshine and the changing seasons, and the resilience to walk with you in these times.

Those families that are known to us. For those who are young, working, elderly. Those who struggle in their mental health and their physical health.

For you being there in every circumstance and situation that we find ourselves in.

Those without homes, through eviction, or the inability to pay rent, those dispossessed through migration in Europe and throughout the world, particularly those affected by wars and natural disasters in their home country.

That Your kingdom is founded on love and that you welcome all people there. We remember the promise in John 14 that your house has many rooms and we are assured of our forever home with you.

Those who are marginalised and live on the edge of society. Praying for their dignity and well-being.

One another. Praying for health and strength today.

Finally, let us pray for King Charles III and the Royal family.

Let us also pray for our Prime Minister Kier Starmer and his Cabinet. Give both of them wisdom and guidance in the days that are ahead.

Amen

Song Suggestion

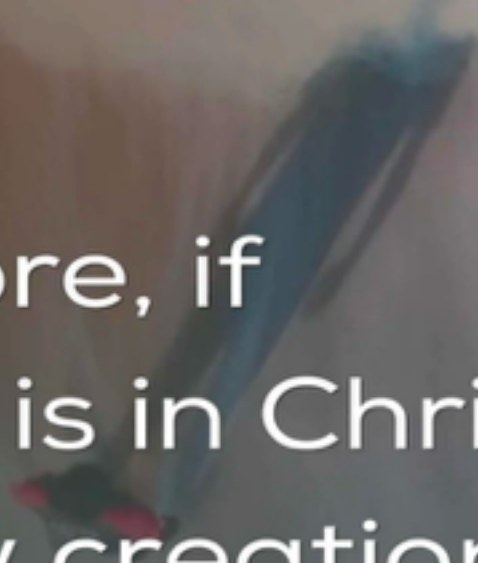
We've A Story To Tell To The
Nations



Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.





2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if
anyone is in Christ,
the new creation
has come: **The old
has gone, the new
is here!**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

Song Suggestion

When We Walk With The Lord





Blessing

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek God's will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

Amen

