



Hymns:

- 123 Come, you thankful people come
125 Praise and thanksgiving
10,000 reasons
254 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
130 We plough the fields and scatter
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Readings: Deuteronomy 26.1-11
Matthew 6.25-34

Milk and Honey

The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Let us pray. Holy God, break your word among us for the feeding of our souls. And may the words of my lips, and the mediation of all our hearts, be acceptable in your sight o God our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

Milk and honey! Sweetness, succour, ready food and drink – this is more than mere survival, it is feasting. And the more sweet because we have travelled.

How many here were born within five miles of where we are right now?

Fifty miles?

How many here were born in the Continent of Europe?

How many of us were born further away, to travel to get here?

However far we have travelled in life – we all are people whose portion is this kingdom of God, this land flowing with milk and honey.

Milk and Honey.

This is about home. And a particularly sweet kind of home, the home for people who know what it is like not to have a home. Education. Freedom to worship, and to love. Safe accommodation. Health care. If we have any of these things, (and we do not have all of them, all of us), then we can give thanks – because Our forefathers, fore mothers were a wandering Aramean, the text says – we come from people who have been displaced, have travelled.

But here is the problem. The land is not always flowing with milk and honey. It does not mean it is not our portion, just that God's kingdom must still be SOUGHT.

Seek ye first, the kingdom of God – in London, in the USA, in Indonesia, in Saudi Arabia. In Pakistan and in Elsalvador – seek and you will find.

Listen to what Jesus said – expressing a deep truth, and deep paradox – who by worry can add an hour to her life? Do not worry about home, food, clothing – and all these things will come to you as well – seek first the kingdom of God.

Well friends, the kingdom of God is the land flowing with milk and honey – but not just for us, for all people. And recognising that milk, honey are gifts of creation. From God. SO today we gather thanksgiving gifts, out of the milk and honey in our lives, for the whitechapel mission. They do not serve once a year, they serve every morning.

In our harvest today, one simple message – thanksgiving – not that life is easy, but that milk and honey are our portion. And that they are for all the world. For each man and woman today at Whitechapel. And for each of us, no less.

In the USA, in Indonesia, in Nigeria, and Congo, and in the most forgotten side street of any market town in this country. In Saudi Arabia, and El Salvador, which today welcomes the newest Catholic Saint, Oscar Romero –

Milk and honey are our portion. Tell this aloud and for all the world, and give thanks.