

The Beatitudes from the slums of Bangkok

(Life Group Harvest Session)

On Harvest Sunday at St Andrew's we'll be watching a video sermon produced by the Fletcher Family – our St Andrew's & All Saints Mission Partners working with UNOH in the slums of Bangkok.

If you or some members of your group did not hear the sermon, you might like to watch it together here (it is only 17 minutes): <https://youtu.be/EPPbN8vQNC0>

Read together the Beatitudes from **Matthew 5:1-12**

Then watch the video of Elise Fletcher's "KlongToey Beatitudes" <https://youtu.be/EmxHE6GusX0> (5 mins)

Questions:

- Discuss your reflections on the "KlongToey Beatitudes." What particularly strikes you? How does it make you feel?
- How does thinking about these verses in the context of the slums of Bangkok help you understand their true meaning?
- How do they help you encounter God's heart, particularly for the oppressed?
- Think about our own context here in Malvern. Who are the marginalised and oppressed and what issues do they face? Can you see any similarities even though we are thousands of miles apart?

Write your own Beatitudes

- Ask people to spend a few minutes writing their own Beatitudes, pronouncing blessing to a marginalised people. Remind people there are no right or wrong answers. Perhaps someone or some place comes to mind? Remember, Jesus pronounces people 'blessed' who the world (empire and church) usually pronounce as cursed
- You could listen to this beautiful setting of the beatitudes by Vladimir Martynov <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzqjhC2OYnM> while people come up with their own beatitudes.
- Suggest the format: Blessed are..... for you shall.....
- If on Zoom, get people to write their Beatitudes in the group chat
- If meeting in person, ask people to write on paper. Perhaps collect them in and read some of them out.

Pray

- Discuss together how this leads you to respond in prayer.
- What does it lead you to pray a) for the Fletcher family and those they are serving in the slums of Bangkok?
b) For our communities here in Malvern and for those marginalised and oppressed here?
- Spend some time together in prayer in response to this.

We'd love to have any copies of the 'Malvern Beatitudes' – do send any copies in to Dave and we can share them on the church mailing or website.