



**Sunday Service**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Harvest Sunday**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord of the harvest, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons. As we praise you today for all your provision, help us to cherish our world and share your love and truth with all peoples. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Bible reading**

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said.

Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!"

Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ruth 4 : 1 - 17

**Reflection : A Faithful Redeemer**

**A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus**

Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious, be with all those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may find comfort knowing nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Final prayer**

Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise that you have again fulfilled your gracious promise and given us both seed time and harvest. Encourage us to remember that we do not live on bread alone; lead us, Lord, to share your Bread of Life, the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we trust and pray. Amen.

**Blessing**

And now, through your Holy Spirit, grant to us your grace, that we might be wise and generous with all the gifts that you provide.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, this harvest time and for ever more.  
Amen.