

Worship for Sunday May 10th 2020.

Prepared by Mrs Sandra Collins

Good morning. We come to worship although not physically we come together spiritually in the name of Jesus. Our hymns are from Singing the Faith.

Our call to worship is based on Psalm 31 which is the psalm set aside for today.

Praise the Lord,
who has shown us the wonders of his unfailing love;
and who for the sake of his name, leads and guides us.
In you, O Lord, we put our trust.
You are our God,
our lives are in your hands;
Lord, let the light of your face shine on us
as we celebrate together in your presence. Amen.

Hymn 346 Christ is the world's light.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne5MOMp6W_Y

- 1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other ;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father :
glory to God on high.
- 2 Christ is the world's Peace, Christ and none other ;
no one can serve him and despise another ;
who else unites us, one in God the Father ?
Glory to God on high.
- 3 Christ is the world's Life, Christ and none other ;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother —
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father :
glory to God on high.
- 4 Give God the glory, God and none other ;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father ;
give God the glory, God with us, my brother :
glory to God on high.

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

Prayer Praise

by N Fawcett

Almighty God,
ruler of heaven and earth,
Lord of space and time,
creator of all that is and was and shall be,
Alpha and Omega,
we worship you.
Hear our prayer,
and receive our praise.

Everlasting God,
all good,
all truth,
all love,
all mercy,
we honour you.
Hear our prayer,
and receive our praise.

Sovereign God,
stronger than we can ever comprehend,
greater than we can ever imagine,
wiser than we can ever understand,
kinder than we can ever dream,
we acclaim you.
Hear our prayer,
and receive our praise.

Gracious God,
always helping.
always caring,
always renewing,
always blessing,
we thank you.
Hear our prayer,
and receive our praise.

Living God,
with joy and thankfulness,
awe and wonder,
commitment and faith,
we acknowledge you.
Hear our prayer,
and receive our praise.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading from 1 Peter 2: 2-10

²Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be

a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,
“The stone the builders rejected
Has become the capstone,

⁸and

“A stone that causes men to stumble
And a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God, once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Peter writes to give hope and encouragement to Christians who were suffering for the sake of Christ. Of coming out of the darkness into his wonderful light. . Once rejected Christ is the cornerstone the one in whom we believe and place our trust.

The image in the first part of this passage is of a newborn baby seeking milk. This reminds me of what it is like when we first come to know Jesus as our Saviour. We are sometimes like a child, a babe needing to be nurtured to be supported with a hunger to learn more of Jesus. I remember feeling like this when I accepted Jesus into my life and being filled with great excitement and impatience, hungry to learn and to be spiritually fed.

The second image includes being chosen, being people of God. Working together building a community. One of the things that I have enjoyed throughout this time when we have been unable to worship in our church buildings is the coming together to worship from our homes with others around the circuit. A new way and yet one that began many years ago, when people gathered in each other's homes for worship. A feeling of being part of a wider community coming together. Throughout the year we sometimes gather together for a circuit service but now we are coming together for Sunday worship and daily. I feel truly blessed and thankful for this time of sharing with others. build our faith.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pause for a moment as we come to God to make our personal prayer of confession.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Hymn 492 Christ be my leader by night as by day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ix2iPB1cfh8>

- 1 Christ be my leader by night as by day ;
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care,
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him ; though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me ; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Saviour in calm as in strife ;
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation ; with Jesus I reign.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

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Gospel reading John 14: 1-14

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus said "In my Father's house there are many rooms," there is room for all who follow him. **This is the Gospel of Christ, Praise to Christ our Lord.**

In the second part of the reading Jesus is speaking to his disciples before his death. This passage from the Gospel of John begins with Jesus offering reassurance and comfort to his disciples. He had previously foretold of Peter's denial of him. The disciples were worried and upset by the thought of betrayal and the thought of Jesus leaving them. He calms their fears telling them he will come back. He will not abandon them. The teaching is in question and answer form with Thomas being honest enough to admit he did not understand what Jesus was saying. Thomas asks Jesus where he is going. Jesus then asks a question of Philip v9 "Don't you know me Philip."

The disciples had travelled around the countryside with Jesus this is coming to an end. Here he is commissioning them for service, for the work they would continue after he has gone. The work as followers of Christ we continue today in his name.

In the past few weeks we have seen many thousands of people coming forward offering their services by volunteering to help others. Neighbours delivering food to people in isolation. Others making scrubs for front line medical staff. Sometimes what might seem like small things, taking in the bins for a neighbour after they have been emptied. Acts of kindness appreciated by the recipients.

The reassurance Jesus gives is particularly relevant for us today with what is happening in our world with many in need of comfort and reassurance.

Thomas asks v5 “Lord we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

At present we are encouraged not to travel. Let us think back to times when we were planning a journey. How did we find the way to reach our destination? Often we plan our route with the aid of a map, we have technology to help us in the form of sat navs there are road signs to guide and direct us. That doesn’t mean we don’t get lost but we usually reach the place we set out for.

The passage ends with a promise, You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. Pray in the name of Jesus.

Jesus calls us to believe, to come to Him he is the way to the Father.

On our walk of faith we sometimes talk the wrong route, we may stray from the path and lose our way. There is a way back. Turn to Jesus. He tells us I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.

Lord Jesus,

We follow you because we trust you;
you are the Way.

We follow you because we believe you;
you are the Truth.

We follow you because we cannot live without you;
you are the Life.

We worship you because trust, belief and the desire to live your life
brings us to your feet in adoration and praise.

Amen.

Prayer of Intercession – Let us pray

Heavenly Father,

We thank you that you that you hear us when we come to you in prayer.

We give thanks that you love and care for us and stand beside us in all that we experience in life.

In the good times and in the difficult times. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
We pray for all in need today.

We pray for the governments and leaders of our world at this difficult time as they make decisions that impact on the lives of many, we ask for strength, courage, wisdom and honesty as they seek to find solutions for the good of all people.

We pray for all who are suffering at this time. Those who today are finding life difficult, for those worried about the health and well being of loved ones. We think about those for whom isolation is becoming hard to deal with. We pray for all who have lost loved ones and ask that they may be comforted.

We pray for all medical and care workers, working long hours treating and looking after the vulnerable and the sick. We thank you for their compassion and dedication and ask for your blessing upon them.

Heavenly Father,
Help us to show your love through our words, actions and deeds today and every day.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

As Jesus taught us we pray-
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.
And lead us not into temptation:
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 503 Love divine

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hmfqe_8SEI

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art ;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive ;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be ;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee :
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise !

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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Blessing – May God bless you, guide you and direct you.

May God bless you, give you strength and the assurance of his love.

May God bless you and fill your life with his presence today and always.

Amen.