

Worship for Sunday 26th July 2020. Central MC. Kettering

Music is played up to 10.30 a.m.

Lydia Barratt: Let us come to God as we hear words from John 4 19-24.

Andrew:

The women said, "Sir, I can see that you are a Prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain. But you do say that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship,"

Jesus said, "Believe me, woman! The time is coming when you will not have to be in Jerusalem or on this mountain to worship the father. You Samaritans worship something don't understand. We Jews understand what we worship, since Salvation comes from the Jews. But the time is coming when the true worshippers will worship the father in spirit and in truth. In fact, that time is now here. And these are the kind of people the father wants to be his worshippers. God is spirit so the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Lydia: **THIS TRACK MAY BE VERY QUIET ON THE DISC – PLEASE ADJUST VOLUME**

In this reading the woman was discussing with Jesus where the right place to worship could be. The Jews say to worship in the temple in Jerusalem, but the Samaritans say to worship on the mountain. During COVID-19 churches have been shut so some people may have found it hard to worship God.

As a child I never really saw worship as something that can be done outside of church or anything other than singing hymns and reading the Bible. It wasn't until later when I was a little older that I began to understand that worship is what you make it. Personally, I feel closest to God when I'm out walking my dog through fields, watching the sunset on a bike ride with my brothers or swimming in a lake with my friends. It's in these moments that I understand a little more how great God is and what an incredible planet he's created for us.

It can be easy to take this planet for granted but its important to be grateful for the all the things it supplies us with; air to breathe, food to eat and water to drink. I'd like you to think of three things you want to thank god for in your surroundings and next time you go outside look around and remember that god created this for you and in return we should look after it as he wanted.

In Colossians 1 verse 16 it says :*Many people of no or little faith will talk of the awe and wonder of a sunset or forest glade or the intricacy of a flower or beetle. Indeed, the whole of the cosmos has been made by and for Jesus.* It is easy to feel close to God when in nature, you can see his power and love in what he has created. So, just because the churches have been shut, doesn't mean that we can no longer worship. Take time to notice nature and use your walks to talk to Jesus.

Let us come together in prayer. (prayer taken from 'The word in the world')

Creator God,
we thank you for the beauty and wonder
and complexity and diversity of creation:
For all it gives and promises.

We thank you for our place in creation.
With shame we recognise the abuse
we have hoped to happen;

With shame we recognise our misuse
of power and influence and disregard for life.

With shame we recognise that
we sometimes think more highly
of ourselves then we ought,

And more lonely of others than is just,
And less caring of your whole creation than is
right.

yet we still hear your voice
calling us to stewardship:
to care for creation –
to play a part in its fruitfulness.

We thank you for your trust
and pray for wisdom to fulfil Our Calling.
In Jesus' name

Amen

Andrew Whilst we hear the hymn, you are asked not to sing or hum, but try and speak the words silently.

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed :

Caroline: (and at each chorus)

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee : how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee : how great thou art, how great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees ; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze :

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3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin :

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home — what joy shall fill my heart ; then shall I bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim : my God, how great thou art :

Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989)

vv. 1, 2, 4 based on *O store Gud* 1885by

Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859–1940)

WE MAY NEED TO OMIT A VERSE

If possible, we watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBUF51c1T04> . This is recording, the style of Godly Play, of the account of the 7 days of creation found in Genesis chapter 1. This recording is suitable for children also. Alternatively, please read Genesis Chapter 1.and Chapter 2: 1-3.

Andrew Farrington: A brief resume of the Godly Play video. ‘Creation’ – the biggest present. In the beginning there was nothing, expect a big smile. On the first day God gives the gift of light, all the light that ever was or shall be. And it was good. On the second day, God gives the gift of water above and below. And it was good. On the third, God gives the gift of dry land, and green and growing things. And it was good. Fourth day God gifts day and night (sun and moon and stars) and we are able to count our days, mark day and night, time and space. It was good. The Fifth day we are given the gift of everything that flies in the air and swims in the waters. It was good. Sixth day bring the gift of living creatures and God placed his image within us. And it was all very good. On the seventh God rested and gave us the gift of rest, and time to give thanks for all of the other gifts.

We are asked the following questions:

“I wonder, which do like the best? I wonder, which day is the most important to you? I wonder, which day could we leave out?”. Take time to consider these questions

And I wonder, does the smile still smile? How are we at receiving the biggest present and being thankful?

Three months ago, you could walk around town and not have to stop for traffic. The skies were clear of jets roaring and vapour trails. We heard and watched the springing of new life: the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and every living thing. And we rejoiced. We could rest by still waters, encounter hills and valleys, and find places of stillness and near silence. The pattern of our days and weeks evaporated. Gradually we a returning to the hustle and bustle, the weekly routines, the rounds of meetings and family gatherings. And it is all good.

But, does the smile still smile?

For a brief period we were once more at one with creation. Air pollution decreased. There was hope of a respite from global warming. We consumed less and bought locally. And we were content with what we received. Now traffic trundles on by, planes fill the sky, trains hurtle past. And the polar bears are losing their habitat, forests are pulled down, habitat lost, seas are filling with plastic and nature is in peril. And is it good?

And, does the smile still smile?

We have been gifted the whole world. We are stewards of creation. What can you do to make sure that the smile still smiles? Travel less? Consume less or consume more carefully? Reduce waste? Use less fuel and resource? Recycle? Support environmental campaigns? Challenge the misuse of creation?

For after the greatest gift, came the ultimate gift. The Light that shines in our darkness, exposes our sinfulness, removes the stains, and grants us light eternal. Two great gifts: life, and life eternal. All from God our creator, Jesus our redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our sustainer. And it is good. And we can smile and rejoice. And the smile will smile as we do so too.

Amen.

A newer hymn to the tune Bethany (God is here as we his people):

Caroline

1 In the wonder of creation,
when all nature shares one song,
showing God's imagination,
all may see his love goes on.
Through the Holy Story spoken,
of God's people called as one,
gathered, exiled, saved and broken,
this we learn: his love goes on.

2 In the Christ who died to save us;
in God's risen, living Son;
through the Spirit, whom he gave us;
this we know: his love goes on.
In the telling of the gospel
Matthew, Mark and Luke and John
join the Church in testifying
through the years: his love goes on.

3 From the perfect days of gladness
when the sun has brightly shone,
to the slog of working madness,
all the while his love goes on.
Through the times of harsh temptation,
seeking strength but finding none,
in our human desperation,
mercy comes: his love goes on.

4 In the joys of celebration,
of new birth or victory won,
in the deep peace of salvation,
tell the world his love goes on!
Through the dark days of depression,
when all sign of faith is gone,
hope may find no fresh expression,
but we trust his love goes on.

5 Through the hopes of our tomorrows,
and the things we've left undone —
future joys and present sorrows —
through all time, his love goes on.
In our Kingdom-shaped endeavour,
when God's glorious work is done,
to the promise of forever,
God is here: his love goes on.

Andrew T. Murphy (b. 1981)

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Words: © Andrew T. Murphy

Andrew

We pray:

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.
Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. Amen

Lydia

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,
See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days,

Amen.

(The Revd Barbara Glasson, Past President of the Methodist Conference)

(depending on time: The Lord's Prayer)

SUNG Caroline:

May God's blessing surround you each day, as you trust Him and walk in His way. May His presence within, guard and keep you from sin. Go in peace. Go in joy. Go in love.

Andrew

May the peace of God be with you, now and ever more. Amen.