



The Methodist Church

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 26th April

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Mr Gareth Evans.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, though we cannot see each other face to face, unite us as your children in your Spirit and strengthen us by your everlasting truth and love.

For wherever we are, we are indeed your family, the children of God.

Amen

Hymn: Praise the Lord, His glories show

To listen to this hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the hymn.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Praise the Lord, his glories show,
saints within his courts below,
angels round his throne above,
all that see and share his love. | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |
| 2 | Earth to heaven, and heaven to earth
tell his wonders, sing his worth;
age to age and shore to shore,
praise him, praise him evermore! | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |
| 3 | Praise the Lord, his mercies trace;
praise his providence and grace,
all that he for us has done,
all he sends us through his Son. | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |
| 4 | Strings and voices, hands and hearts,
in the concert play our parts;
all that breathe, your Lord adore,
praise him, praise him evermore! | Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia! |

Prayer

Our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death, we praise you for changed lives and new hopes at Easter.

You came to Mary in the garden and turned her tears into joy.

You came to the disciples in the upper room and turned their fear into courage.

You came to the disciples at the lakeside and turned their failure into faith.

You came to the disciples on the Emmaus road and turned their despair into hope.

You come to us in our unworthiness and shame and turn our weakness into triumph.

Lord Jesus, wherever there are tears, or fear or failure, or despair, or weakness:

Come, reveal to us your love, your mercy, your forgiveness, your hope, and your risen power;

for the glory of your name.

Alleluia! AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Psalm 116:1-4 and 12-19

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway, in a new tab press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

- 1 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.
- 2 **Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.**
- 3 The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- 4 **Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!"**

- 12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?
- 13 **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**
- 14 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
- 15 **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.**
- 16 Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.
- 17 **I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.**
- 18 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,
- 19 **in the courts of the house of the Lord - in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.**

1 Peter 1:17-23

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway, in a new tab press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reflection

Over the past few weeks, one of our Ministers has been sending out a daily “Thought for the day”. These are intended to help us with personal prayer and reflection and to comfort and reassure us. And, believe me, they’re much needed and they work!

Several have focussed on the back story of popular hymns, written as the result of their respective authors’ despair and adversity. They remind and reassure us of the constancy of God’s love and presence in our lives, at all times. Like many of you, I’m sure, I’ve needed and, importantly, experienced this reassurance during the past few weeks and, indeed, the past year.

One of the Minister’s messages last week, opened with the words: “Hope all is well with you?”. (As an aside, our Minister and his wife, have three lovely daughters whose names are Grace, Hope and Verity.) I, too, have used this phrase many, many times in recent weeks.

Hope is defined as a “feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen”. But there’s a real danger that HOPE has lost its meaning in our modern use and over-use. I hope I pass my driving test. I hope I pass my exams. I hope that this difficult lockdown comes to an end in the next few weeks.

More and more, we’ve come to use it as short-hand for describing nothing more than our wishful thinking, especially with regard to the passing things of this world. If I want to pass my driving test, I can’t just wish it so. My desire for it to happen must be seen in my willingness to take driving lessons, to learn my driving theory and to get plenty of supported driving practice! In reality, it calls for careful, thoughtful and determined commitment on my part.

Peter’s Letter is, throughout, a buoyant and confident message of true Christian hope. Its purpose is to comfort, reassure and encourage Christians, then as today, who are facing trouble, torment and persecution. He argues that in the midst of such difficulties and challenges, we are drawn into closer fellowship with Jesus, and so become progressively, more like him. We are to take Christ as our example. He suffered and gave his life for us; he triumphed over death, so therefore will we and our sacrifice, like his, will not be in vain.

Peter shows us the permanence of Christian values and the certainty which underpins Christian hope. The hope that we are born into, as the children of God, is embodied in the resurrection of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. This hope says and reveals **EVERYTHING** about God's love for his children. A love so amazing that he was prepared to let his only Son die on the cross for you and for me; but a love so powerful that, in the certainty of Christ's resurrection, it brings the guarantee of a new order, a new and better way of living, today, tomorrow and for eternity, for those who believe.

But let's return, momentarily, to my hope of passing that driving test. At a passive level, we are, indeed, recipients, beneficiaries, of this **LIVING HOPE**, as a gift from God. But we're also called to do **OUR** bit. That's the active part, where, you and I are privileged to be **AGENTS, CONDUITS** of hope, alongside the risen Jesus, in his name and to his glory.

Strangely, there's so little that we can do in this period of lockdown. We can't visit family and friends. We can't gather in fellowship on Sundays and mid-week. We can't move about freely within our neighbourhoods and communities. And yet, there's still so much that we **CAN** do; as we ring, message and chat to each other; as we run errands for our friends and neighbours; as we gather on doorsteps on Thursday evenings to applaud and give thanks for **ALL** those, in the public eye and hidden away, who are working hard to keep us safe and to maintain essential services. And we can pray, on behalf of others and ourselves, for strength and courage to face and to manage each day, as, with the confidence of God's children, we hope for and look forward to a safer, happier and brighter tomorrow.

"Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so YOUR FAITH and HOPE ARE IN GOD."

Amen



Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray in confidence for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

God our Father, as Jesus entered the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, so enter our hearts and move us to faith in Jesus the risen One.

Convince us of the reality and significance of the resurrection and free us from all fear. Give us courage to face all that we have to and to trust in Jesus.

Lord in your mercy, [hear our prayer](#).

Be with your Church throughout the world, so that its preaching and works of love may continue to testify to Christ's resurrection.

Lord in your mercy, [hear our prayer](#).

Bring peace to all parts of your world. Wherever your people are divided or at war, bring true and lasting reconciliation through the love of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy, [hear our prayer](#).

Visit and comfort the sick and suffering. Heal and strengthen weak and diseased bodies. Calm confused and fearful minds.

Give compassion to those who attend and care for those who are unwell and those whose lives are nearing the end.

Give comfort to those who mourn the passing of loved ones. We pray especially for those we know with particular needs, naming them in the silence of our hearts.

Lord in your mercy, [hear our prayer](#).

Support, love, encourage and keep safe all those who at this difficult time, are working hard to keep us safe and well and working hard to maintain essential services within our communities.

Lord in your mercy, [hear our prayer](#).

And as we pray, we ask that we may take the joy and hope of being loved and forgiven and made whole into the world, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour.

AMEN

Hymn: Crown Him with many crowns

To listen to this hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the hymn.

- 1 **Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

- 2 **Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high;
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives, that death may die.**

- 3 **Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

4 **Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side -
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.**

Matthew Bridges (1800–1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823–1903)

Reproduced from United Methodist Hymnal number 327

Closing Prayer

May God bless you and fill your home with peace.

May God bless you and fill your heart with love, joy and hope.

**May God bless you and fill your life with his presence and his
resurrection power.**

This day and every day.

AMEN.

