



The **Methodist** Church

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 24th May

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

Call to Worship:

`O come let us sing unto the Lord, let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In His hands are all the corners of the earth and the strength of the hills is His also. The sea is His and He made it and His hands prepared the dry land. O come let us worship, and fall down and kneel before the Lord our maker`.

Psalm 95

Hymn: Speak, O Lord, as we come to you

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

- 1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all your purposes, for your glory.**

- 2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built
and the earth is filled with your glory**

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 161

Prayer

`Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways; re-clothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives Thy service find, in deeper reverence praise`.

Our loving heavenly Father we come before you as we are, not claiming any goodness or worthiness in ourselves. We ask that you accept this simple act of worship and our humble sacrifice of praise. Please cleanse us from all sin and unrighteousness that hinders us from coming into your holy presence. For it is only through the blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we may know our sins forgiven and enjoy the peace of God which passes all understanding and keeps minds and hearts secure in You.

And so we offer our sacrifice of praise to you this day with glad and thankful hearts in the Name that is above every name our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

2 Chronicles 6:12-21

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.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. Now he had made a bronze platform, five cubits long, five cubits wide and three cubits high, and had placed it in the centre of the outer court. He stood on the platform and then knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands towards heaven. He said:

‘Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth – you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who

continue wholeheartedly in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it – as it is today.

‘Now, Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, “You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me according to my law, as you have done.” And now, Lord, the God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David come true.

‘But will God really dwell on earth with humans? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple that I have built! Yet, Lord my God, give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence. May your eyes be open towards this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays towards this place. Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling-place; and when you hear, forgive.

1 Peter 5:1-11

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.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because,

‘God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.’

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

New International Version

Reflection

We live in strange and challenging times with dramatic changes having taken place in the first half of 2020 which we surely could not have foreseen as the old year drew to a conclusion. My plan to go to watch Wales play football in the Euro 2020 Tournament in Azerbaijan has been thwarted and Carolyn and I are uncertain whether we will be able to travel to New England in September for a holiday eagerly anticipated following Carolyn's retirement.

However, these plans pale into insignificance when we consider the devastation caused by the Coronavirus pandemic to so many people including loss of life across this and many other nations around the world. So, what is the Lord saying to us at this time in History?

As I have been reading through the Bible this year I have been drawn to God's steadfast love for His people in good and bad times. My heart has been uplifted as I have read through the early chapters of 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles describing the construction and dedication of the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem. Solomon is the man chosen to build the Temple as scripture tells us that although his father was a "man after God's own heart" he had nevertheless been "a warrior and...shed blood" (1 Chronicles 28 v.3). Solomon acknowledged God's faithfulness and steadfastness in keeping His "covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Chronicles 6 v. 14). To be steadfast is to be "constant, firm, unwavering" (Concise Oxford Dictionary). This is a key characteristic of the "God of Israel" of whom there is no equal "in heaven or on earth" (1 Chronicles 6 v. 14) and His Word

throughout the Bible calls us to be steadfast in following Him day by day.

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently interviewed on TV spoke of increased anxiety in the population during the current pandemic whilst acknowledging his own struggles with such. God promises to deliver us from all fears and anxieties as John writes in his first letter for “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment” (1 John 4 v.18). Jesus gives us the recipe to be free of fear and anxiety “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me” (John 14 v.1). This must surely encourage us as we seek to make sense of all that is taking place in our neighbourhood`s, throughout the home countries and on a global scale.

Peter writes to “God`s elect, strangers in the world, scattered...” (1 Peter 1 v.1) encouraging them to “cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you”. Do you need to know God`s encouragement and care for you at this challenging time? Have you suffered yourself or lost a loved one as a result of the pandemic? He is only a prayer away and delights for us to bring our concerns, fears and anxieties to Him. Peter concludes his first letter by encouraging his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ with “the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” (1 Peter 5 v.10). A modern hymn puts it this way `The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness, O Lord, great is thy faithfulness` (Singing the Faith 66).

There have been many acts of kindness shown throughout recent months and as a society we are indebted to those who have nursed and cared for the ill and dying. Also, we give thanks for other public servants who have served us so well by continuing to collect refuse, all the emergency services, those in the retail trade and numerous volunteers who have assisted those in need. We give thanks and praise for them whilst mourning the loss of loved ones. Peter notes that we are to “love each other deeply...” and “use whatever gift” we have “received to serve others, faithfully administering God`s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4 v. 8,10).

As well as serving others we are called to pray and to read God`s word, to live faithfully in a world that is hurting and quite likely being

judged for casting aside His ways and purposes which are for our good. Solomon prayed “Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place (Temple). Hear from heaven, your dwelling place and when you hear forgive”(2 Chronicles 6 v. 21) and in the following chapter God responds by saying “if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7 v.14). Paul reminds us that if we are believers in Jesus Christ then we are “God`s temple and that God`s spirit lives in you...God`s temple is sacred and you are that temple” (1 Corinthians 3 v. 16-17).

We are therefore to continue serving the Lord with steadfast love in these challenging times, having confidence that “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1 v.6).

For we can be confident that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning and great is His faithfulness.

Prayer

Dear Lord and Father of mankind we pray for our nation at this time, that you will hear the cries of your people and give wisdom to those in authority and especially our Prime Minister Boris Johnson as he leads us through this critical period.

We pray for our Queen and other members of the Royal Family, giving you thanks for her faithfulness throughout her reign.

For those who serve us so well as members of the medical profession, for doctors, nurses and health care assistants. Also we give you thanks for residential care, nursing home and hospice care staff. We pray for their protection and mourn the loss of those who have died whilst caring for those affected by coronavirus.

Lord we pray for all the loved ones of those who have died as a consequence of the pandemic across all nations and pray that you will minister your peace to each of them.

Our loving father we ask that our nation might once again be a God-fearing nation, loving your ways and seeking to honour you in our thoughts, words and actions. That we may honour and protect life

including those yet unborn, the elderly and infirm and marriage as you have ordained so that your Name may be lifted high in the home, places of learning, workplaces and within the local community.

We thank you for our families and neighbours, asking for your blessing upon them and that those who do not know you may come to experience the joy of your salvation Lord Jesus.

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*

Hymn: May the mind of Christ my Saviour

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

1 **May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.**

- 2 **May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.**

- 3 **May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.**

- 4 **May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self-abasing —
this is victory.**

- 5 **May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.**

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859–1928)

Closing Prayer – ‘The UK Blessing’

To listen to the full sung ‘UK Blessing’ in a new tab: press **Shift** and **Ctrl** together and click [here](#).
Close the tab after the hymn.

**The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you.
The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace.**

Amen