

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 5th July

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Mrs Jenny Thomas

'DAY OF GRATITUDE'

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. *His Love endures for ever.*

Give thanks to the Lord of heaven and earth. *His Love endures for ever.*

Psalm 136 recounts some of the times the people of Israel recognised the Lord's blessing, and were grateful. Today we meet together in our homes and gardens to praise and worship God whose Love is constant, whose goodness endures.

Hymn: God is Love, let heaven adore him

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

1 God is Love: let heaven adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

2 God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
all the sorrows, all the aching
wringings with pain the heart of God.

**3 God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Timothy Rees (1874–1939)

For those with eyes to see!

While I sat by the River Severn with a friend last week a black head came out of the water by the far bank. “A blackbird”, I thought, but no it was a young otter. Then, drawing attention to it we kept our eyes peeled. Shortly afterwards the otter’s sibling appeared from the opposite direction. We were ready now to capture them on camera. They moved quickly along the roots of a tree, their dark colours blending with the undergrowth and were gone. Behind us families played football in the meadow, pushed infants in buggies or walked dogs, not aware of the excitement on the river bank. Unseen by humans, life by the riverbank continues as usual, seen by those with time to notice!

Let us pray

Lord God you hide and reveal your Glory.

We thank you for the brief glimpses we have of your Presence in the world and in our lives. There are times when we stop to wonder at evidence of your creative power, your light shining around us. It takes our breath away. We thank you that over these past weeks we have discovered we can pray anywhere, at any time. We are grateful for the many services we have listened to, read and watched and how many people have been able to access worship material. Your Word has been heard far and wide.

Thank you Lord.

As we have just sung “when human hearts are breaking” we discover that you too long for our release, for you love each of us. Sometimes we see that clearly, other times it is like looking through smoke.

Lord, you hide and reveal your Glory.

We thank you too for Jesus Christ, as he has lived on earth he has shown us the way into a relationship with you Heavenly Father, and given his life to overcome sin and death. Yet his identity was not known by everyone he came into contact with.

Lord, you hide and reveal your Glory.

We thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit, creative, refreshing, life giving. Like the wind we cannot see you, yet you are at work in the world.

Lord, you hide and reveal your Glory.

Show us Lord, through world changing events, and everyday occurrences your Glory as we live as community in your world.

Lord, we are grateful.

Amen.

Romans 7:15-25

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.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another

law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Prayer of Confession – a hymn by Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)

As you read these words pause for a moment to pray.

Lord, we turn to you for mercy:
may our prayerful words express
something of our heartfelt sorrow
for the sins we now confess.

We have trusted far too often
in our human strength and skill;
we have proudly disregarded
what we knew to be your will.

Yet by your immense compassion
you invite, accept, restore,
leading us to greater wholeness
than we ever knew before.

Your forgiveness lifts our burdens,
setting heart and spirit free
to fulfil our true potential,
all that we were meant to be.

For you teach a way of wisdom
we may clearly understand:
walking with the God of mercy
step by step, and hand in hand.

.

We say together the prayer Jesus has gifted to us

***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***

Matthew 11:25-30

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.

At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

'All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

Hymn: Lord you sometimes speak in whispers

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

- 1 Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders,
unmistakable and clear,
mighty signs that show your presence,
overcoming doubt and fear.

- 2 Lord, you sometimes speak in whispers,
still and small and scarcely heard;
only those who want to listen
catch the all-important word.

- 3 Lord, you sometimes speak in silence,
through our loud and noisy day;
we can know and trust you better
when we quietly wait and pray.

- 4 Lord, you often speak in Scripture,
words that summon from the page,
shown and taught us by your Spirit
with fresh light for every age.

- 5 Lord, you always speak in Jesus,
always new yet still the same:
teach us now more of our Saviour,
make our lives display his Name.

Christopher Idle (b. 1938)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 158

Some Thoughts to Ponder.

It is difficult to believe in something unseen. There are still those who see Covid19 as part of a conspiracy theory. Funny that! A worldwide plot, I don't think so! Thankfully these are a small minority of ill-informed people. Yet I would find it easier to understand if the virus was visible to the naked eye, wouldn't you? I will not forget what it looks like under a microscope for a long time, thanks to the BBC News backdrop!

It is difficult to see God.

Jesus gives an idea of those who might see more clearly when he says the humble will have the advantage over those who are full of their own self-importance. If we are less haughty we will have more opportunity to unlock the mystery of faith.

As Jesus had conversations with people around him he was aware of the limitations of the Law of Moses adhered to by the temple authorities. However well-intentioned they were they would never be able to keep every law, there was no way to maintain that high level of discipline to God and neighbour. Everyone was doomed to failure. Yet until the Son of God came the people had to learn obedience to Law.

“Here is a new way of being part of God's family” he said. Turn away from trying to do everything in the Law and turn to me.” Repenting after all means turning from the way you are and turning towards God. The first step is admitting we cannot experience life without Him.

Deciding to follow Jesus leads to liberation, of not having to please everyone all the time, of not repeatedly feeling a failure, it is a way of life where we can be at peace with God, others and ourselves.

Jesus also said when we follow him we will be at rest. It is not the rest you think of at home slipping on your slippers, sipping a night time mug of cocoa but living in rhythm with God's Spirit who lives in us. Everyone who is weary will find restoration in Jesus, this is his promise to us.

I don't begin to understand why some see the way to faith while others do not, until I examine my life and remember times when I have been oblivious to God, unaware of his loving care, forgetting the One who cares for the smallest sparrow cares for me.

The essence of accepting the yoke Christ holds out to us is accepting the responsibility he gives us for daily life, whatever that may be. We are subject to the Law of loving God with our whole being and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

We are in a yoke of fellowship, working well when of one mind, waiting for each other without criticism or impatience, serving one another with kindness.

Hold fast, dear friends, to the faith, enjoy the fellowship you have with God and each other, and God Bless you with Joy and Peace.

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly Father we pray for your Church in the world, for all who respond to your invitation to Life in you, for each person searching for meaning. We pray for Ministers and Deacons being ordained this year for those, changing circuit this summer especially Rev Jacquie Evans and her husband Jon as they begin ministry in this circuit.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everyone is affected by the pandemic, we pray for those living in fear whose homes are not safe places to be, for the bereaved, for families with loved ones in hospital.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for children and young people, praying for them as they return to schools, for school governors and teachers finding a way to work safely.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We think of all those who are out of work, with low income, worried for the future and dependent on food banks; the formerly self-employed or those who are not citizens of this country, receiving no benefits.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On this Day of Gratitude we give thanks for everyone who has worked through the past three months to give healthcare, food supplies, public services so a measure of normality could be maintained.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those we usually worship with as we say the grace together...

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore.

Amen.

As we move to Northern Ireland I think of the first visit we made to the circuit one cold November five years ago and dedicate the final hymn to the leadership team who sang with us in the church at Newtown in the kitchen.

X

Hymn: This, this is the God we adore.

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

- 1 This, this is the God we adore,
our faithful, unchangeable friend,
whose love is as great as his power,
and neither knows measure nor end:**

- 2 'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come.**

Joseph Hart (1712–1767)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 67

Blessing

**May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May his love dwell in you throughout every day.
May his countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May his Spirit be upon you wherever you are.
Amen.**

German
translated by Maria Ling