

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 4th October

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Mr Terry Jobling.

In the beginning
before time, before people,
before the world began
GOD WAS
Here and now
among us, beside us,
clearer than air, closer than breathing
GOD IS

Let us worship as we sing: **Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire**

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

- 1 **Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
let us thine influence prove;
source of the old prophetic fire,
fountain of life and love.**
- 2 **Come, Holy Ghost (for moved by thee
the prophets wrote and spoke),
unlock the truth, thyself the key,
unseal the sacred book.**
- 3 **Expand thy wings, celestial Dove,
brood o'er our nature's night;
on our disordered spirits move,
and let there now be light.**
- 4 **God through himself we then shall know,
if thou within us shine;
and sound, with all thy saints below,
the depths of love divine.**

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 155

Let us pray:

**Gracious God,
If we came to your house
We would find the door open
Because there are no closing hours
For the hospitality of heaven.
We know Lord that today with our home worship our homes are
where we meet you, where we worship.
Glory and praise be to you our God and Father, and to you Lord
Jesus. May your spirit be on us to give us your life and to unite us.**

A Prayer by Dorothy Stewart (URC Handbook 2017)

**We thank you, Lord our Father,
for the gift of life.
Each one of us you brought to birth;
You have watched over us as we grew;
and you have loved us without ceasing.**

Thank you for life.

**We thank you, Jesus our Redeemer,
for the gift of eternal life.
You chose to come to our world
and die on the cross of Calvary for each one of us,
that we might know forgiveness of our sins,
reconciliation with God,
and everlasting life.**

Thank you for life.

**We thank you, Holy Spirit our Companion and Guide,
for the gift of new and abundant life,
You live and work in us;**

you change us from glory into glory,
and we praise you and thank you.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Living God of all living:

Thank you for life.

Matthew 21:33-46 (New International Version)

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.

Listen to another parable: there was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall round it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them in the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said.

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance." So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,' they replied, 'and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Isaiah 5:1-5 - The Song of the Vineyard (New International Version)

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

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: my loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?

Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.

Reflection - The Son of the Vineyard

Some of us have found the book of Isaiah difficult reading. I find this view strange. Of all of the Books of the Old Testament this was the one Jesus so often based his ministry. In today's reading we can see how he grounded his story of the vineyard on the poem of Isaiah, many centuries earlier.

I find this poem a gem. The prophet pictures God's creative work as a fertile , productive garden, cared for in love. This idea is not unusual in

the Bible. The image of the Garden of Eden comes to mind with its productivity and beauty.

We are aware that our planet, our home, is a good and beautiful place if not ill used. Modern technology enables us to appreciate wild life and the value of a cared for environment, more than our forebears every could. We think of the superb series 'Blue Planet' and similar productions.

Yet prophets of our age, like Isaiah in his, are sounding the warning note. The ruthless exploitation of our world's resources are leading us to disaster. The destruction of the Amazon forests, the forest fires in northern Siberia and the collapsing of the ice sheets of the Antarctic provide grim warnings.

I find that the contemporary prophets, and Isaiah, are basically giving the same message, though using quite different ways of expressing it. That if God's law of kindness, selflessness and a consideration for others is rejected there is disaster, death. Look at our world through the lens of verse 7 of Isaiah's poem, "he looked for justice but saw bloodshed, for righteousness but heard cries of distress." Surely the cries heard today in war-torn Yemen and in so many other tragic places.

Jesus based his parable of the vineyard on Isaiah's poem. But here, amongst disaster, we have hope and a future. Jesus offers the good news that God will not give up on us. In spite of all, a forgiven community of faithful folk (ourselves hopefully) will work to renew his vineyard. Isaiah shows in other parts of his book that this was his hope too.

A prayer:

Let us turn our thoughts to our sisters and brothers in other impoverished parts of the world, Africa, S.E. Asia; people vulnerable to the pandemic, yet with scant resources. It is our prayer that health and healing are available to them.

We remember those who have died and those who are ill now. Bless them Lord.

We prayer for those working in the health services of these lands, may they have all the resources they need. May these lands be at peace.

For your mercies we thank you.

Coming back home, we pray for the health of our own nation.

The many who grieve, may they find comfort.

Those now recovering from the virus, may they get the help they need.

Those nursing the ill, either in hospital or at home, bless them.

May they all have the help they need and may those placed in authority receive grace and spirit as they seek to lead us.

For your mercies we thank you.

As we reflect on the lockdown we remember, thankfully, those who have faithfully served us to keep us going.

We think of the staff removing our rubbish and recycling, the postal service, our milkman and others.

We think of the multitudes of volunteers taking supplies to the self-isolating and shielding.

For your mercies we thank you.

We ask a blessing Lord on the life and worship of our local churches.

Thank you for your grace and spirit given to us to empower us in witness. We are thankful for the commitment of so many faithful people.

Bless those in positions of leadership, may they have the help they need.

For your mercies we thank you.

We bring before you any in our local community who are in trouble, any who are ill in body or mind.

We think of any who are lonely or sad, possibly despairing of life.

Please may they have the support they need.

Lord, we offer these prayers to you in Jesus name.

Amen

We say together:

**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: Thank you, O God, for the time that is now

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

- 1 Thank you, O God, for the time that is now,
for all the newness your minutes allow,
make us alert with your presence of mind
to fears and longings that move humankind.**
- 2 Thank you, O God, for the time that is past,
for all the values and thoughts that will last.
May we all stagnant tradition ignore,
leaving behind things that matter no more.**
- 3 Thank you for hopes of the day that will come,
for all the change that will happen in time;
God, for the future our spirits prepare,
hallow our doubts and redeem us from fear.**

**4 Make us afraid of the thoughts that delay,
faithful in all the affairs of today;
keep us, Creator, from playing it safe,
thank you that now is the time of our life!**

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)

Let us Pray:

May God bless us

in our bodies with health,

in our minds with understanding,

in our souls with the company of the Holy Spirit.

That together we may produce a harvest of light

To the glory of Christ our Saviour

whose flesh we are,

whose name we bear,

whose love is all.

Amen.