

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 18th October

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

Call to worship:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.

(Psalm 105 vs. 1-4)

Hymn: Meet and right it is to sing in every time and place

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

- 1 Meet and right it is to sing,
in every time and place,
glory to our heavenly King,
the God of truth and grace:
join we then with sweet accord,
all in one thanksgiving join;
holy, holy, holy Lord,
eternal praise be thine.
- 2 Thee the first-born sons of light,
in choral symphonies,
praise by day, day without night,
and never, never cease;
angels and archangels all
praise the mystic Three in One,
sing, and stop, and gaze, and fall
overwhelmed before thy throne.

3 **Father, God, thy love we praise,
which gave thy Son to die;
Jesus, full of truth and grace,
alike we glorify;
Spirit, Comforter divine,
praise by all to thee be given;
till we in full chorus join,
and earth is turned to heaven.**

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Prayer:

**`What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer`.**

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 forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness that hinders us from coming into your holy presence. For it is only through the blood and redemptive 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. For in Him we may know, experience and enjoy life in all its fulness.

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 30: 1, 6-9, 13-21 & 25-27

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.

Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel.

At the king's command, couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the king and from his officials, which read:

‘People of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to you who are left, who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. Do not be like your parents and your fellow Israelites, who were unfaithful to the Lord, the God of their ancestors, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see. Do not be stiff-necked, as your ancestors were; submit to the Lord. Come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated for ever. Serve the Lord your God, so that his fierce anger will turn away from you. If you return to the Lord, then your fellow Israelites and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will return to this land, for the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him.’

A very large crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month. They removed the altars in Jerusalem and cleared away the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley.

They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the temple of the Lord. Then they took up their usual positions as prescribed in the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests splashed against the altar the blood handed to them by the Levites. Since many in the crowd had not consecrated themselves, the Levites had to kill the Passover lambs for all those who were not ceremonially clean and could not consecrate their lambs to the Lord. Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, ‘May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone who sets their heart on seeking God – the Lord, the God of their ancestors – even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.’ And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests praised the Lord every day with resounding instruments dedicated to the Lord.

The entire assembly of Judah rejoiced, along with the priests and Levites and all who had assembled from Israel, including the foreigners who had come from Israel and also those who resided in Judah. There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling-place.

Matthew 9:18-38

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.

While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, 'My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.' Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.'

Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed you.' And the woman was healed at that moment.

When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and the people playing pipes, he said, 'Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!'

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?'

'Yes, Lord,' they replied.

Then he touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith let it be done to you'; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, 'See that no one knows about this.' But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, 'Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.'

But the Pharisees said, 'It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.'

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

New International Version

Hymn: Jesu lover of my soul

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

- 1 Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life be past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

2 Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, oh, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.

4 Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reflection

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them...” (*Matt. 9 v. 36*).

Much of this year has been marked by Government announcements relating to the number of people who are allowed to meet together in private and public spaces. Families, individuals, elderly, infirm, cared for and carers, young and old, employed and unemployed have all been affected by these pronouncements and subsequent regulations/laws. We have seen many incidents of flouting such rules and all sectors of society have been impacted by Government regulation of what is/not

allowed, including the arts and sport. We continue to have professional sport, be it cricket, rugby or football played in stadiums without fans/crowds.

Jesus was frequently followed by crowds of people throughout His public ministry. The four gospels record numerous times when Jesus was followed by crowds of people, however His focus upon individuals within large groups of people never changed. His disciples were amazed at his sensitivity to people in need “You see the people crowding against you ..and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” (*Mark 5 v. 30*). He was not swayed or influenced by crowds. This new testament scripture highlights just a few of the people whom Jesus met, acknowledged and cared for with miraculous healings resulting (*vs.22, 25, 30 & 33*).

We live in strange and challenging times with dramatic changes having taken place throughout 2020 which we surely could not have foreseen as 2019 drew to a conclusion. 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 we should ask what the Lord is saying to us at this time in History? Surely He looks upon people throughout the nations with compassion because they/we are “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (*Matt. 9 v. 36*). It is heart-warming to note the ‘unsung heroes’ in the Queen’s Birthday Honour’s List, the Prime Minister noting that they are “caring, compassionate and resolute in the face of a global pandemic. The hard work and dedication of these local, often unsung heroes has helped carry us through” (*THE TIMES Newspaper 10/10/2020*). Indeed they are reflecting Jesus’ care and love for others in need.

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 and His concern for individuals (*2 Chronicles 30 v.9*). He is not distracted by the size of crowds, large or small and is able to see and understand each person’s individual characteristics and needs. Conner Johnson suggests that crowds may be characterised by scepticism, curiosity, excitement, being temporal or unaware. In the Old Testament scripture we are reminded that God cares for all who acknowledge and call upon

Him “The priests and levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, His holy dwelling place” (2 Chron. 30 v. 27).

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.

Jesus cared about all who called upon Him e.g. the ruler and his (dead) daughter, woman with severe bleeding condition, the two blind men and demon-possessed man. Crowds continued to seek out Jesus throughout His public ministry, and amazingly Jesus always responded to those in special need who called upon His Name. No doubt many in the crowds that followed and gathered did not seek Jesus` help for varying reasons including unbelief, scepticism, complacency, pride and conflicting belief systems. But those who did respond were blessed through healing, encouragement, fellowship and a new life including being `born again` (John 3 v.16). Johnson Oatman`s hymn speaks of Christ meeting us at the point of need including our most troubled times in life. `When upon life`s billows you are tempest tossed...discouraged, thinking all is lost ...Count your blessings name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done. (Chorus) Count your blessings name them one by one...see what God hath done. Count your blessings, name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done` (Baptist Hymnal 1991).

God is only a prayer away and delights for us to bring our concerns, fears and anxieties to Him whether in a crowd or alone. He is able to meet our every need if we will just call upon His name. As Edith McNeil affirms `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 this year 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). We are called to follow Jesus’ example of sacrificial service for many in our local community are indeed ‘harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd’.

God cares for all whom He created as Jesus demonstrated throughout His earthly ministry. At times when He sought His own space people pursued Him e.g. whilst seeking a quiet place to mourn the loss of His cousin John (the Baptist) the crowds followed and Jesus ‘had compassion on them and healed their sick’ (Matt. 14 v. 13). He was always available to do the will of His heavenly father. Are we? For as His people we are called to serve others ‘in trouble and in joy’, to see and respond to individual need and serve the Master. Jesus saw and responded to all those who called upon Him and we are to follow in His footsteps.

Prayers of Intercession:

Dear Lord 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 in relation to coronavirus and Brexit. May he come to know and love you as his Lord & Saviour.

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. We especially pray that you

will be with those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

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 them, the peace that passes all understanding. We pray that we may respect people of different language, race, culture and religion whilst upholding the truths of the gospel and seeking to bring many people into a personal life changing faith in you Lord Jesus. Help us to be loving to those who do not know you whilst bold in our witness toward 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: Where cross the crowded ways of life

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

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
 where sound the cries of race and clan,
 above the noise of selfish strife,
 we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.

- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
 on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
 from paths where hide the lures of greed,
 we catch the vision of thy tears.

- 3 The cup of water given for thee
 still holds the freshness of thy grace;
 yet long these multitudes to see
 the true compassion of thy face.

- 4 O Master, from the mountain side,
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide,
 O tread the city's streets again;

- 5 Till all the world shall learn thy love,
 and follow where thy feet have trod;
 till glorious from thy heaven above,
 shall come the city of our God.

Frank Mason North (1905)

Blessing

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and evermore.**

Amen.