

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 15th November

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

The Fir Tree

At the tip of the tallest fir tree there is a shoot,
A fragile shoot waving in the wind.
From desolation to consolation;
From consolation to desolation;
But underneath for many feet is a
Strong, long, sturdy trunk,
Deeply rooted, supporting, holding
affirming I am a part of the tree.

Kate M^cIlchagga

Hymn: The head that once was crowned with thorns

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

- 1 The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.
- 2 The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal light.
- 3 The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know.

- 4 To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given,
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.
- 5 They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.
- 6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769–1855)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 312

Opening Prayers:

We come to adore you, God.

Almighty – yet vulnerable in Jesus

Invisible – yet seen, touched and made real in Jesus

Holy – yet in Jesus ordinary and one with the common people.

We come to adore you, Jesus.

Understanding our weakness, feeling tired or disappointed you know what it is to be human. You laughed with your friends, enjoyed a meal with company, wanted to share with us the way to live a full and vibrant life. You knew you needed to spend time with God, your father. Teach us this too.

We come to adore you, Holy Spirit.

You promise to be with us, even to live in us. We so often are unready to welcome you. We doubt your very presence, ignore your prompting and fail to respond to your promises yet you never want to leave us.

Forgive us Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Forgive us for dragging our feet, the scantiness of the time we spend listening to you and our slowness to learn from you.

Remind us of all you have done for us, of the life you offer. Let us lay hold of your newness of mind and heart.

Stir us to thankfulness and, in responding, live in your strength.

Where regret is real we know we are forgiven, welcomed home, empowered, loved and free.

Amen

Acts 4:32-35

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.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

New International Version

Reflection

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no-one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was in common.

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many who owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Do we share?

There are often possessions which we don't want share at all!

There is only one person with whom I will share my car. Our daughter and our son both have the insurance to drive my car, but this - in practice - does not happen. Only Terry, my other half, will share this car.

Sometimes though there are special arrangements, and these make a difference! It depends where the driver is. For instance, it makes a difference if the driver is using the car in Shetland!

Once I had a friend who lived in Shetland and this friend had parked in rather an odd position on the edge of a road. Later when she returned she found the car had a note attached! The note was from the police.

Being in Shetland, the police wanted a word with the driver.

When it was all eventually settled, she was amazed to be told that she should not have left the car because it was left locked!

The policeman explained that the key should have been left in the car and the car should have been left unlocked!

The reason given was that "someone might have wanted to use it"! Anyone could use it and that it was for the sake of other people!

On Shetland there was one family and that family was anyone on the island who was in need.

Adoration

**A familiar figure on a distant shore,
a familiar action at a kitchen table,
a presence in the midst of doubt,**

O Risen Christ

you come to surprise us and delight us,

you open wide the door to joy;

hopeful, we worship you;

hesitant, we adore.

**As the dry-stane walls
enfold the fields,
enfold us, O God.**

**As the becks encircle
the houses,
encircle us, O God.**

**As the sound of the curlew
and the sight of an Easter lamb
call us to prayer,
encompass us about,
O Lamb of God,
Christ our risen king.**

Dawn's ribbon of glory

A prayer of forgiveness and intercession:

**How can we seek the warm safety of worship when so many are lonely
and afraid?**

**O loving God, help us to find worship to be a sending and a
strengthening and not to seek it as an escape from reality.**

For expecting too much.

For expecting too little

Good Lord, forgive us.

For hasty words and thoughtless actions.

For easy answers and careless thinking

Good Lord, forgive us.

For avoiding the hurt of the world

and ignoring the needs of others.

Good Lord, forgive us.

Lord we thank you that:

Those who seek shall find and

Those who ask for forgiveness are forgiven.

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: Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son

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

- 1 Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay:**

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

- 2 Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting:

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

- 3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan:
to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

Edmond Budry (1854–1932)

translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)

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The Blessing:

May the grace of God uphold us,
the peace of God surround us,
the love of God flow from us
and the strength of God protect us
now and evermore.

Amen.

