

# Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet, 24<sup>th</sup> January

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Rev Jacquie Evans.

## Call to Worship

Now is the time, now is the hour

for us to gather in worship and praise.

Now is the time, now is the hour

for us to seek God's forgiveness.

Now is the time, now is the hour

for God's Spirit to unite us in prayer.

Now is the time, now is the hour

for us to listen for God's word for us and our generation.

Now is the time, now is the hour

for God's power and strength to renew us for his service.

This is the time, this is the hour

we give our worship and praise to you, ever loving God.

**Renew**

**Relearn**

**Revise**

**Review**

**Reflect**

**Reconsider**

**Re-examine**

This is what God calls us to do within a love that never changes.

Let us worship.

## Hymn: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

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

- 1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
- 4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.
- 5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811–1875)

After reflecting on why we gather together, we turn to a time of prayer.....

### **A prayer of approach**

The Lord called the disciples to be fishers of men.

He calls us to follow him, to trust in, rely on and have confidence in him.

Come, let us cast our nets into his waters and offer ourselves in  
worship and praise.

**Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

Loving and forgiving God, we come to you now

to say we are sorry for the things in our lives that continue to  
separate us from you.

Forgive us when we use our time to hurt others, rather than to bring  
about good and peace.

**Loving God, forgive us.**

**Forgive us when we misuse your message to exclude others,  
or to put them down, rather than build them up.**

**Loving God, forgive us.**

**Forgive us for the times when our words, spoken sometimes without  
thinking, cause pain and distress.**

**Loving God, forgive us.**

**Loving, forgiving God, send your Holy Spirit to cleanse and renew our  
hearts and minds, for your promise to all who truly confess their sins  
is that they are forgiven.**

**Amen.**

### **Reading – Psalm 62:5-12**

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

**Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.**

**Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall not be  
shaken.**

**My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my  
refuge.**

**Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for  
God is our refuge.**

**Surely the lowborn are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie. If  
weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.**

**Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your  
riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**

**One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard:**

**‘Power belongs to you, God, and with you, Lord, is unfailing love’;**

**and, ‘You reward everyone according to what they have done.’**

## Reflection:

The Psalm is entitled a 'Song of Trust in God alone'. The psalmist invites us to focus on God as the sole source of strength and hope. God is a rock, a fortress, a refuge. We can say anything to God. This contrasts with human ways of evaluating status or acquiring wealth, which carry no weight. The psalmist brings the whole psalm together in God's steadfast love, which is the foundation of God's strength and concern for us.

When life is so busy we cannot see beyond the next thing on the list, or when trouble comes, it can be hard to remember that we are not carrying the burdens alone. This psalm reminds us that we should be open to the hope that comes from God; he is the one we should trust. This is a psalm with a sense of proportion: 'though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it' – the best security comes from God.

In our present times holding fast to all that God provides for us is vital. If I was to use the analogy of a boat it is as if we are sailing on rough seas at the moment and it is God who calms the waters by being there both with, and for us.

## Hymn: Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders

To listen to or view the video of the hymn in a new tab: 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.  
O Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders.
  
- 2 Lord, you sometimes speak in whispers,  
still and small and scarcely heard;  
only those who want to listen  
catch the all-important word.  
O Lord, you sometimes speak in whispers.

**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.  
O Lord, you sometimes speak in silence.**

**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.  
O Lord, you often speak in Scripture.**

**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.  
O Lord, you always speak in Jesus.**

Christopher Idle (b. 1938)

### **Reading – Mark 1: 14 – 20**

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

**After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’**

**As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.**

**When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.**

## **Reflection:**

The story of the call of the disciples is set in the context of the beginning of the ministry of Jesus and his declaration that 'the kingdom is coming'. What sort of person is it who makes people give up their job to follow him? Who will be in this kingdom?

If there is one phrase that characterises Mark, it is 'and immediately'. It's found twice in this short reading alone, and it reflects the urgency of sharing the gospel as widely as possible. The time is now! Jesus expresses this in the first words he speaks in this Gospel. The word used for time is *kairos*, which means 'the right time' or even 'crisis moment'. Jesus' verbs pick up on the same urgency: 'is fulfilled', 'has come near'. He has a crucial message to share. God's kingdom is about to dawn! So, he invites people to change their way of life. I hear this and I stop and think how good are we at responding quickly? Do we think 'I'll get round to it' or do we respond 'Yes Lord, I hear you, what would you have me do?'

If we are truly honest prevarication is what many of us are really good at, not responding quickly because we might be asked to do something that we are not confident with or find boring and tedious. Management theorists have looked at what happens to people when they are asked to do various tasks. A theorist called Herzberg said that these requests call fall into two categories which he names motivators and hygiene factors. The motivators are the things that we want to do and know that we will really enjoy, the hygiene are the boring, often mundane, and sometimes very uncomfortable things we are asked to do. In our church life leading worship might be a motivator for example, but standing outside in all weathers collecting money may be for some a hygiene factor. I say for some, because one person's motivator is another's hygiene factor. In church life we need to try and work with people's strengths and minimise those times when there is a collective sigh about something we have to. But remember – we are never asked to do things that are impossible, but sometimes they are necessary, even though we might find them boring.

Jesus' urgent words are illustrated by his call to the disciples and their unhesitating response. There are vivid images: Simon and Andrew casting their net, then letting it fall to follow Jesus. They abandon the

net, which has been their means of making a living, and they let go of their well-honed skill in using it. James and John leave their father in the boat – how would he have reacted to the loss of his two sons and their economic contribution to the family? The disciples are embarking on a new way of life. Jesus' invitation to change is vividly expressed: 'Come behind me', he says, and gives us an image of this little group making their way behind their new leader to start fishing for people. They had no idea where the journey would take them, but it was the beginning of something radically different.

We now turn to a prayer that reflects on calling.....

### **A Reflective Prayer**

When Simon and Andrew, James and John heard your call, they knew that suddenly their lives had become different. Your presence called them to a new way of being, which made them ready to give up so very much, to risk so very much.

For them, knowing you and being with you made it a step worth taking.

Maybe we don't always appreciate so readily the strength and truth of the call that is also addressed to us.

Perhaps we're more like Jonah, needing several nudges along the way before we see the light.

But thank you, Lord, for not giving up on us, for steadfastly inviting us to listen.

Help us to hear you more clearly and see your truth better in this passing world, that your kingdom may grow in and around us.

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Thank you, Creator God, for creation all around us,  
for the peoples of the world and the life that we enjoy.

We pray for wisdom to use all that we have wisely,  
caring for the planet and for the lives of all people,  
especially those affected by famine, disaster and war.

**Thank you, healing God, for the care we receive  
from all who work in surgeries and hospitals.**

**We pray for those in need, for the sick and bereaved,  
for all whom we long to see transformed by the power of your Spirit.**

**Thank you, God of light, for all places of learning,  
nurseries and schools, colleges and universities.**

**We pray for those who learn and for those who teach,  
that searching minds might find their way to you.**

**Thank you, God of love, for the places  
in which we live and work and play.**

**We pray that, by our choices, we will make a difference  
in the lives of our families, friends and neighbours.**

**Thank you, God of hope, for all who have died in faith,  
the saints of this place, and of our lives.**

**We pray for those who are near to death,  
and for those who care for them.**

**God, who we trust with our greatest hopes and fears,  
hear our prayers,  
those spoken aloud and those made in our hearts,  
and, in your mercy, bring all into your kingdom.**

**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: Will you come and follow me?**

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

- 1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stares should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**
- 3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

**Blessing:**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Jesus said...Follow Me,  
I will make you fishers  
of men.  
Mark 1:17*

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