

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet, 6th June

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

Opening Greeting:

O God, you summon the day to dawn.
You teach the morning to waken the earth.
Great is your name.
Great is your love.

Hymn – I owe my Lord a morning song

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

1. I owe my Lord a morning song
for God has meant this day.
Through fears of night and hidden light
God moves and wills my way.
2. I owe my Lord a morning song
for Jesus rose at dawn;
he made death die and would not lie
that others might live on.
3. I owe my Lord a morning song;
the Spirit gave me voice,
nor did she force my soul to praise
but honoured me with choice.
4. I owe my Lord a morning song.
How can I help but sing
when God is all in all, and I
am one with everything?

John L. Bell (b. 1949)

Let us pray

Let us join with St. Peter in his words of praise:
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
In his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Lord, these words express the joy of knowing you our God, of receiving your salvation.

As we share with St. Peter so we can with St. Paul, in his repeated message of thankfulness in his letters.

Thank you Lord for the good we have. We have a homeland in which to live, a privilege denied to many. Our home community with its securities. For family, friends and for our health service. Above all, we thank you for the life you offer to us in Jesus.

We confess Lord our failure to live up to these gifts. Too often we fail to think and do things we should. We too easily think and do things we should not. We regret this Father, and we ask for your forgiveness.

Lord have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy on us.

We are thankful Lord for the many promises from the scriptures, for the life of the church, that if we turn to you with all our heart, we can hear the welcome voice: "Your sins are forgiven."

Thank you Lord.

So, Father and Jesus, in your spirit we worship today.

Amen

Psalm 130

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

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Hymn – Amazing Grace

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

- 1 Amazing grace - how sweet the sound –
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind, but now I see.**
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**
- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
we have already come;
'twas grace that brought us safe thus far,
and grace will lead us home.**
- 4 When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.**
- 5 Amazing grace - how sweet the sound –
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

John Newton (1725–1807)

Mark 3:20-35

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

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, 'He is out of his mind.'

And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.'

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: 'How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.'

He said this because they were saying, 'He has an impure spirit.'

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting round him, and they told him, 'Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.'

'Who are my mother and my brothers?' he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle round him and said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.'

Many in Welshpool remember John Roberts, a faithful member of the church and a local preacher. He once told me how he found Paul's letters rather daunting and how he generally used the Gospels for his preaching. The

other week a lady in the circuit told me that she listened to Jesus not Paul! However, I have chosen this week to use the set reading which is Paul's second letter to the Corinthians because I believe it speaks to us. The basic theme in this portion of the letter is that in human weakness there can and will be renewal.

2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5:1

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

It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Message:

Thinking of Paul's work, it was to plant and to nurture the young churches of the Eastern Mediterranean. Their names feature. Newly established, first generation Christians. Vulnerable, facing many challenges and persecution. Yet under Paul's guidance and care they not only survived but took root and grew.

Let us listen to what he has to say to us as we face our problems and how we look to the future with confidence : "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by

day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16b). Well, I hope we are not in that state but we are well aware of our contracting, aging church. Yet in 2 Corinthians 4:16b it says: “We do not lose heart.” What is the key to this?

As we seek to build up Christ’s Kingdom are we listening to the fundamentals of our faith, the spring of our spiritual life? I think of some of the church meetings where we pondered our future and wondered what might be happening in 10 years time.

In this coming month the church will be studying the gospel of Mark, the earliest gospel. Here we will hear the teaching of Jesus. We will see how the disciples often expended great energy in achieving little. Yet, centring in Jesus things happened, there was fruitful growth. Is this our path? It was certainly Paul’s. As he sought to build up those young churches his ministry was strongly Christ centred. Thus to the Corinthian Christians he could write: “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” This same message is expressed, maybe in a different way, by the contemporary writer Tim Holland. Living in a world so different from Paul’s he shows how the gospel message speaks to us with the same living power. To quote: “The cross, that ancient implement of torture, remains what it has always been, the fitting symbol of the Christian revolution. It is the audacity of it, the audacity of finding in a twisted and defeated corpse the glory of the creator of the universe. Today the power of this strangeness remains as alive as it ever has been.”

Thus with confidence Paul could write to the Corinthians: “We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us up with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.”

But what then of ourselves, witnessing in the Severn Valley?

Our folk in Welshpool rejoice in their excellent premises and we are thankful for all those who in recent years have worked in renovation schemes. But we know that property is not an end in itself, it enables the true church, the living body of Christ, to function. A community of people building one another up in caring, kindness and love with the living Jesus at its heart. As Paul puts it in today’s scripture: “We know that if the earthly tent we live in

is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.”

This is today’s experience and is for all time.

Hymn – Come, build the Church

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, build the Church — not heaps of stone
in safe, immobile, measured walls,
but friends of Jesus, Spirit-blown,
and fit to travel where he calls.**
- 2. Come, occupy with glad dissent
where death and evil fence the ground,
and pitch a Resurrection-Tent
where peace is lived, and love is found.**
- 3. Exposed upon the open ground
to screams of war in East and West,
our ears will catch a deeper sound:
the weeping of the world's oppressed.**
- 4. In wearied face, or frightened child,
in all they know, and need to say,
the living Christ shall stand revealed.
Come, let us follow and obey!**

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

Prayers of Intercession:

Let us pray for those wrestling with the problems of the worldwide pandemic. For governments, health services, vaccine manufacturers and for all involved. We especially remember the problems facing poorer countries of the world, thinking of some of the people of Africa and Asia. May these folk gain the health we take for granted.

For your love to us, [we thank you](#).

We ask a blessing on those responsible for the good government of our own home nations. Political leaders in Westminster, Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh. We know Lord that the complexity of their decision making is not always understood by their critics. May your spirit enable them to maintain integrity amongst all the pressures upon them.

For your love to us, **we thank you.**

We pray for your church as she seeks to witness. There are lands in which it is dangerous to be your follower. We thank you for the faith of these disciples and we ask that they be strengthened by your spirit. And for our local Christian witness we pray for the empowerment of your spirit. May we be helped to worship in spirit and in truth.

For your love to us, **we thank you.**

We ask you to bless any in our local community who are in any sort of trouble. For any who are ill in body or in mind. For any who are stressed because of the prolonged lockdowns. Are there any folk sad, feeling low or losing hope? For any grieving for a loved one. May all receive the help they need.

For your love to us, **we thank you.**

We remember, thankfully, those who have helped us through the years to become the people we are. Folk who, in our early years, nurtured us and helped us along. So many who have died, yet we believe live as part of your Kingdom. May they, in your power, help us on our journey.

For your love to us, **we thank you.**

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**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 – Captain of Israel's host, and Guide

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

- 1. Captain of Israel's host, and Guide
of all who seek the land above,
beneath thy shadow we abide,
the cloud of thy protecting love;
our strength, thy grace; our rule, thy word;
our end, the glory of the Lord.**
- 2. By thy unerring Spirit led,
we shall not in the desert stray;
we shall not full direction need,
nor miss our providential way;
as far from danger as from fear,
while love, almighty love, is near.**

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Blessing

Go forth now

In the faith which overcomes the world.

In the hope which will not disappoint.

In the love which never fails.

You are ambassadors of Christ and he is with you always.

Grace, Mercy and Peace

From Father, Son and Holy Spirit

bles, preserve and protect you all, this day and for ever.

Amen