

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet, 19th September

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

Hymn: Eternal God, your love's tremendous glory

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

- 1 Eternal God, your love's tremendous glory
cascades through life in overflowing grace,
to tell creation's meaning in the story
of love evolving love from time and space.

- 2 Eternal Son of God, uniquely precious,
in you, deserted, scorned and crucified,
God's love has fathomed sin and death's deep darkness,
and flawed humanity is glorified.

- 3 Eternal Spirit, with us like a mother,
embracing us in love serene and pure:
you nurture strength to follow Christ our brother,
as full-grown children, confident and sure.

- 4 Love's trinity, self-perfect, self-sustaining;
love which commands, enables and obeys:
you give yourself, in boundless joy, creating
one vast increasing harmony of praise.

Alan Gaunt (b. 1935)

Let us join with the Psalmist in prayer:

How lovely is your dwelling place

O Lord almighty,

My soul yearns, even faints

for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh cry out

for the living God.

So Lord we come together, either in body or in spirit to worship. It is your wish that we come as a community, either gathered or scattered to meet you and each other. But can we abide in your presence? Feeling your living word we must confess our own failure to live up to what you want of us. So we pray:

**Have mercy on us, O God,
According to your unfailing love.**

We recognise that we are bound by our society,
And regard what we possess as treasure.

**Have mercy on us, O God,
According to your unfailing love.**

We do not act as light in a dark world,
But hide your love and keep it to ourselves,

**Have mercy on us, O God,
According to your unfailing love.**

We worry about the need to sustain our bodies,
And are careless of feeding our souls.

We care too much about what we look like,
Rather than healing what is broken within us.

**Have mercy on us, O God,
According to your unfailing love.**

We look for contentment and riches on earth
Instead of putting your kingdom before anything else.

**Have mercy on us, O God,
According to your unfailing love;
And teach us to seek your will in our lives.**

Barbara Bennett

We come with a great assurance that if we truly turn to you we hear the welcome voice "Your sins are forgiven, arise and come with me".

Thank you Lord, thank you.

May your spirit nourish us as we worship.

Psalm 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.

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Mark 9: 30-37

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.

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.’ But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.’

Reflection

How this message from Christ, written in the Book of Mark, has been betrayed in societies which profess the Christian faith! Harsh treatment meted out to children in former ages. In the 19th century, an age which outwardly professed to be a pious one, small children were exploited in the factories, mines or being forced up chimneys to sweet them. The owners of these industries and houses would likely be church goers, yet strangely blind to the teaching of Jesus shown here.

Let us look at these words of Jesus and see what they have to say to us. The first thing which strikes us is the sheer simplicity of the message. At one level there is a proper place in our faith for scholarship and intellectual challenge. Yet we can get tied up in issues which block the message. In kindly receiving a child we receive Jesus, we in some level meet God. Of course we are not called to be naïve, nor is our Lord approving of childish behaviour. A childish adult can be a pain in the neck!

What are the qualities in the child which do reflect a mature Christian life? I reflect on my own happy childhood. I trusted that my parents meant well for me, Trust should be experienced in the adult community, between one another and in God. So we adults should maintain the same faith in the glory of a full life in the here and now and in the future.

In this discussion Jesus is showing us where true greatness is to be found,

An illustration:

We received an e-mail from a friend in Edinburgh quite recently whose life reflects this theme. Peter has led a life full of creative and sacrificial work. For some years he and his wife were in South India, working amongst some of the poorest villages, He worked for a time in one of the estates on the edge of Cape Town and amongst indigenous Australians in a poor part of Sydney. A man seasoned to this suffering world yet practicing the childlike virtues of faith and hope, which Jesus so endorsed in this discussion.

Peter is now an old man living with cancer yet he maintains a most positive view of life. He writes "I believe that millions of us

value the preciousness of each new day, of each moment, especially as we work and pray to save our beautiful, wounded, planet,” I found this message most refreshing.

In defining greatness in his kingdom he reverses the standards normally relating to human success. We may remember Jesus sitting with his disciples in the Temple and the rich came, putting in their tributes, probably with much publicity, Then the poor widow came, putting in two copper coins, Jesus said “She has put in more than all of them.”

Some six centuries earlier the prophet Jeremiah expressed this message (Jeremiah 9:23-24):

“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.”

Our Lord took this and developed it to a new depth. “If anyone wants to be first he must be the very last and a servant of all” (Mark 9: 35)

Standing before Pontius Pilate and soon to be killed he said to the Governor “my kingdom is not of this world.” This is where we are called to be, and our common life of worship and fellowship gives us the resources to follow him.

At one level the simplicity of the path. Whether we consider ourselves learned or un-learned, each one of us has full access to God, to full life. “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me not only welcomes me but the one who sent me,”

Hymn: From heaven you came, helpless babe,

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

- 1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

**This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**

**2 There in the garden of tears
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.**

**This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**

**3 Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.**

**This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**

**4 So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.**

**This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

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.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not

boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

Hymn: Author of faith, eternal Word

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

- 1 Author of faith, eternal Word,
whose Spirit breathes the active flame;
faith, like its finisher and Lord,
today as yesterday the same:
- 2 To you our humble hearts aspire,
and ask the gift unspeakable;
increase in us the kindled fire,
in us the work of faith fulfil.
- 3 By faith we know you strong to save —
save us, O Saviour always near!
All that we hope, by faith we have,
future and past subsisting here.

- 4 To those that in your name believe
eternal life with you is given;
then they into their lives receive,
pardon and holiness and heaven.
- 5 The things unknown to feeble sense,
unseen by reason's glimmering ray,
with strong, commanding evidence
their heavenly origin display.
- 6 Faith lends its realising light,
the clouds disperse, the shadows fly;
the Invisible appears in sight,
and God is seen by mortal eye.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Prayers of Intercession:

We remember the suffering of the people of Afghanistan and all involved. For any who are seeking to bring order and humanity we pray your blessing. So many folk are disoriented and terrified, may they find a way forward.

For the new arrivals in our country, unaccompanied children who have arrived and for those faced with the responsibility of receiving them we pray.

God, in your mercy, [hear our prayer](#).

Let us pray for those with the responsibility for government of our islands, in Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast and London. In your spirit may they act wisely and justly. For those in positions of authority in other areas of our national life: finance, industry, civil service and unions. For those involved in the maintenance of the rule of law: courts, police and probation. May they be empowered in their work.

We thank you for the peace of the land in which we live.

God, in your mercy, [hear our prayer](#).

As we think of the continuing pandemic we pray for support for all involved in the work of healing. For hospital staff, tired, and vaccination teams. For hard pressed ambulance staff. Bless all our local health centres, thank you for all they do. And for political leaders, often reviled,

yet must make difficult decisions. Thank you Lord for our health service.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At the dawn of a new methodist year we ask a blessing on the life of our circuit. For Jacquie and Jon. Our different churches, those who provide leadership. Those of us committed to lead worship. Holy spirit empower us to give of our best. Thank you Lord for all the blessings and friendship we receive.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for any locally in need. Any folk ill in body or mind. May they have the help they need. The lonely, the sad, the grieving, folk living in fear, for any in distress, please bless them.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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: Lord, your Church on earth is seeking

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

- 1 Lord, your Church on earth is seeking
your renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of your love.
We would heed your great commission:
sending us to every place —
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.

- 2 Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within:
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

- 3 In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races
let us serve, and seek to bring
all the world to render praises,
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

Hugh Sherlock (1905–1998)

The blessing

Let us go as those whom God has called
To bear witness to the love and justice of heaven
To be beacons of light
And signs of transformation
For of such is the Kingdom of heaven.
Amen.