

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet, 31st October

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by John Harbron.

Call to Worship:

God of love, most blessed and most holy,
you have given us a message of your commitment to us,
a message of love, exemplified in your one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

Your love is a special kind of love,
it reaches out to love even the unloving and unlovable,
it reaches out to us – the broken and sinful.

We celebrate your divine majesty.
We acknowledge your infinite glory.
We praise the wonder of your unconditional,
reconciling and constant love.

Let's join together in our first hymn about a wonderful God. A God of love.
God is Love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.

Hymn: God is Love: let heaven adore him;

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

- 1 God is Love: let heaven adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

2 **God is Love: and he, enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
all the sorrow, all the aching
wings with pain the heart of God.**

3 **God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Timothy Rees (1874–1939) (alt.)

Opening Prayers:

**Lord, you created every part of us and know and love us completely.
You read our thoughts and understand every feeling.
When we turn away, you follow, searching, calling us back,
never put off by our refusal to listen and turn away again.
There is no escape from your presence.
The darkness is not dark enough to hide from you.**

**Lord, we know we need to surrender ourselves to you,
to be cleansed by your love and you will forgive us over and over again.
We praise you Lord that your love is not earned,
it is unconditional, it is freely given.
You leave the ninety–nine and search the world to find
and bring us back to you.**

**As we turn to you, you come running towards us,
embracing us with your love, ready to protect us with your power.
From your stores of goodness,
you adorn us with splendid clothing to cover our unworthiness.**

All that you have is available to us,
a loving and forgiving spirit, joy, peace and tranquillity,
and a wider vision of your Kingdom.

We ask this in and through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Psalm 146

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.

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – he remains faithful for ever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The Lord reigns for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

Mark 12: 28-36

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.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’

‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your

heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’

‘Well said, teacher,’ the man replied. ‘You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.’

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Whose son is the Messiah?

While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, ‘Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared:

“The Lord said to my Lord:

‘Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’”

Hymn: A new commandment I give unto you

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

**A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.**

Anonymous

Reflection:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” was Jesus’ answer to the Teacher of the Law when asked “What is the most important commandment?”.

Recently we went down to the Bournemouth area to visit various haunts which had been part of us in our younger days!

The Rufus Stone in the New Forest was a priority for us. A triangular stone marking the place where William Rufus, William II, son of William the Conqueror was killed by an arrow in 1100. On its three sides, it gives the account of what happened. During a Royal Hunt, Walter Tyrrell fired an arrow at a stag but it glanced off an oak tree where the stone is now sited, and killed the king.

It's sited in an area of grass which looks well kept with trees a little further away from it. We crossed the road back to the car park when we saw two deer running through the trees. 921 years have passed since the king was killed while hunting for deer and not much has changed. The forest is still there with deer running freely around in it.

May not be hunted now, but they are still there.

This is a pocket size image of God the Creator at work. A forest, animals living in it and humans using it and enjoying it. But like life as we know it, suffering is a part of it. In the peace that was there, God's creation is a constant in our lives and he remains faithful for ever.

As the Psalm says "God the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them" is a constant in enabling life in its entirety to be sustained. Or it should be if we let it!

Near Poole is Compton Acres. Bought in 1920 by Thomas William Simpson, a wealthy manufacturer of margarine. He set about creating five different gardens on the land. Different plants and trees were brought in and planted. Some would have taken, others wouldn't. All depending on the soil, sunlight, shelter and other factors. A hundred years later, it is a total garden to amaze you. Most of this would have been planted without Thomas William Simpson seeing the result we experience today. Someone who knew God's creation for what it is and to be seen by all.

Whilst I'm sure he took pleasure in designing and engineering it, to be thinking that it will be others, not he who will see it in all its grandeur is inspirational.

The area has two natural harbours, Poole and Christchurch. Poole is the most commercial with large cargo ships using it along with cross channel ferries. Christchurch provides a safe haven for private boats and yachts. At the entrance to both inland waters is a narrow straight which the shipping and boats pass through. It is low lying land but proves very attractive to put property on. By the entrance to Poole is Sandbanks with properties costing millions of pounds. For Christchurch harbour, it is Mudeford with beach huts costing up to £300k and without any services.

The harbours are a marvel of God's creation, but with ice caps melting, seas rising, there is a lot at stake. The entire harbours will be lost. The underlying ecology will be lost which is more precious than property and beach huts. Though some people with property interests may disagree!

Jesus said "The second commandment is this 'Love your neighbour as yourself' "

The UN Climate Change Conference (Cop 26) starts in Glasgow today (31st October). Leaders from countries throughout the world meet to agree on one of the most crucial issues facing the future of this planet as we know it

God's creation is under threat. The fragile balance on which all life depends is nearing breaking point.

God loves us which is shown in this world we live in and on. If our love for him is reciprocated, we should be showing it in our respect of this world.

But loving your neighbour as yourself is equally as valid. The action we take to protect the whole ecology of this planet will help our neighbour, not just those living round the corner but also in those living in the many vulnerable areas throughout the world.

The Rufus Stone is a very ordinary location but with special symbolism. God's love for us is constant, and our love for him should be constant.

Compton Acres shows what can be done when you think of others.

What has been done in the past is destroying the world we live in.

What we do today can equally continue to destroy the world we live in. Alternatively, our actions today can save the world from being destroyed.

Leaders in Glasgow may be very good at words, but if they have a love for God the Creator and a genuine love for their neighbour in the future as they do for themselves today, there may be hope.

Alternatively, it may well require us to be standing up now for God to show the spark Christ lights is a flame to save the planet for future generations and it is not using a fossil fuel!!

Amen

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth

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

- 1** For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

- 2** For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

- 3** For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely given:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835–1917)

Prayers of Intercession:

We come to you Lord, praying for the peace of the world; that nations and peoples, communities and individuals, may learn to understand one another, to respect and honour one another, and to trust one another;

We bring to you Lord, the Leaders and those in authority who are meeting in Glasgow at Cop26 to find ways to work together in harmony to tackle Climate Control to save your creation from being irreversibly damaged.

We pray in this and every land, leaders may govern by seeking justice for all, and not just those they favour.

Lord of the present, the past and the future.

We bring you our prayers, our love and our lives.

We pray for the beauty of the world; that human skills and inventiveness may be harnessed to enhance and not destroy it; that artists, writers, musicians, those with great talent and amateurs alike, may have the opportunity to enrich it and our lives; that every eye and ear may be opened to enjoy it and know that you are the

Lord of the present, the past and the future.

We bring you our prayers, our love and our lives.

We pray for the health of the world; for those who work to overcome disease and malnutrition and insanitary conditions; for those who minister to the suffering, the friendless and the needy; for those with physical or mental disabilities; for drug, alcohol, gambling and other addictions; for those who are made to suffer pain, and for those who wantonly inflict pain, we pray that they may all be healed.

Lord of the present, the past and the future.

We bring you our prayers, our love and our lives.

We pray for the faith of the world; that those who see no meaning in life may be brought to an understanding of your purposes, and to put their trust in your leading; and that those who are committed to your service may live in unity, and witness the gospel of Christ through our words and our example.

Lord of the present, the past and the future.

We bring you our prayers, our love and our lives.

We pray for all those who are known to us who need your care, your presence and your strength at this time. We bring to you all who are in Homes where they are being cared for but miss having their family and friends around them.

We bring you all those who are in hospital, all who are undergoing tests and scans, all who are waiting for treatment to begin, and all those are receiving treatment. We bring to you Lord all those who are mourning loved ones.

We ask that all those who we name in our hearts before you, may know the love, the peace, the courage and strength which only you can bring to those who are struggling and also to their families and friends.

You are the Lord of the past, showing the love you have given and how enriched people's lives became.

You are the Lord of the present showing us your love today.

You are the Lord of the future, we praise you for the Hope for tomorrow which only you can bring.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

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: God is love: let heaven adore him

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, let us sing of a wonderful love,
 tender and true;
 out of the heart of the Father above,
 streaming to me and to you:
 wonderful love
 dwells in the heart of the Father above.

- 2 Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
 joyfully came;
 came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
 sharing their sorrow and shame;
 seeking the lost,
 saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

- 3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
 why do they roam?
 Love only waits to forgive and forget;
 home, weary wanderer, home!
 Wonderful love
 dwells in the heart of the Father above.

4 **Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love,
come and abide,
lifting my life, till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride;
seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835–1917)

Dismissal:

**Earth is the Lord's, it is ours to enjoy it,
Ours as God's stewards, to farm and defend.
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end.**

Fred Pratt Green

Amen.

Grace

**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

