

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT HOME

3ND May 2020 at 10.30am

Although we are in our own homes, we spend this time in worship, knowing that other people are sharing with us

Opening Words

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

Let's sing together

From the rising of the Sun
To the going down of the same,
The Lord's name, is to be praised.
From the rising of the sun
To the going down of the same
The Lord's name, is to be praised.

Praise ye the Lord,
Praise Him all ye servants of the Lord,
Praise the name of the Lord.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord
From this time forth and forever more

© Paul Deming 1976

And we pray

Lord we praise and thank you that we can be together in this way to praise and worship you for all you are, do and in the hope of what will be.
We pause for a moment to think of, and to thank you each other

We thank for the constant reminders of your love through everything and everyone we see and know.
We are sorry for the times when we don't show our gratitude for the small things
We are sorry for when our life doesn't reflect the life of Jesus. PAUSE

Thank you that you forgive us, and help us through your power to become more like you. AMEN

LET'S PRAYERFULLY SING....

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here; Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear. In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground; Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace. No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him; Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

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Ezekial 17 vs 22-23.

Lord GOD says, I personally will take a shoot from the top of the towering cedar, a cutting from the crown of the tree, and plant it on a high and towering mountain, on the high mountain of Israel. It will grow, putting out branches and fruit—a majestic cedar. Birds of every sort and kind will live under it. They'll build nests in the shade of its branches.

Mark 4 vs 26-29

Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

REFLECTION

The trees and plants in our garden have changed from being barren brown to a beautiful green, some full of promising blossoms to give us hope of provision for the autumn. I can never help but marvel at the wonder of nature.

Lots of people have found this last week the most difficult so far, life feels barren for many - bleak and lifeless. We are so grateful of the support and encourage each to the other, yet that doesn't always seem to help.

The reading from Mark speaks of God being at work in all sorts of ways yet without us doing a single thing, and it also promises that we will still reap a harvest. In ways which only God knows, The Ultimate Divine Creative Energy is working through every day, conversation, sadness, and joy, through every change and challenge, and I believe we will eventually see a harvest, which maybe not be one we are expecting. This harvest won't be one we've played much of a part in, but it will be a harvest which will show to us that God has been and still is at work. A harvest which will give us a clear message that from death (dark

days, sadness, confusion, struggle, loss) comes resurrection (new life, joy, clarity, hope, consolation, faith).

The Isley Brothers wrote a song called "Harvest for the world". The chorus says

"Gather everyman, gather every woman, celebrate your lives, give thanks for your children. Gather everyone, gather all together, overlooking none, hoping life gets better for the world."

Let's see ourselves as a God's 'children of the world', for we are all in this together, half of the world's population are locked down, all are affected. Let's pray that the harvest of love, compassion, unity and peace will come, not just to the few, but to everyone.

AND SO WE PRAY

We are all in this together Lord, the whole world, we pray that the barriers will fall down, and that each will see the other as equally loved and precious.

Help us to open our hearts to your hurting world and give us a love for your world that we may pray with sincere longing and desire "Your kingdom come".

We pray for all frontline workers in hospitals, those in care homes, and caring at home. Thank you for all the people who offer physical, financial, emotional and spiritual support.

Help our leaders to see their work as service and their role as stewards, for the good of all.

We pray for those who are finding this lock down really difficult for so many reasons. For those who are struggling and feeling alone, those who are suffering, for the bereaved, all those who living in fear.

We pray for our home and church families. Lord you know how we miss each person, how we miss all the things we took for granted.

Help us to act and speak in such a way that others will glimpse our faith, and by your power and Grace, your Kingdom will reap a harvest. AMEN

OFFERING

Lord we offer now all that we are to be used for your Kingdom. We also give our gifts of money, setting them aside for when we are together again. AMEN

Let's sing together

LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

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A BLESSING

Lord, God
With your help, we shall not fail you
With your presence, we shall be strong
With your light, we will conquer the darkness
With our love, we shall be free
With your Spirit, we shall have the power to bring
you glory and honour and praise. Amen