

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT HOME
30th August 2020 at 10.30pm

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Let's sing together

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD,
With hearts and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be ever more.

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LET'S PRAY

Loving God, we worship you. We bring our praise and thanks. Often words seems inadequate, we rest in your presence, feeling your love around and within us, and letting our love flow back to you.....

We thank you for all Your gifts and most of all for the gift of Yourself in Jesus, for all He means to us.

In Jesus you showed us Your love.

In Jesus You gave your life for us, no turning back, just looking on, to resurrection.

Accept our heartfelt 'sorry' for the times our ways have not been Your ways.....

When we turn back to You, You forgive and renew us through your Spirit. Accept this our worship.

In Jesus name. AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Our Father.....

Mark 4 vs 30-34

What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

1 Corinthians 6 vs 17 - *But the person who is joined to the Lord is one Spirit with him.*

A REFLECTION About 15 years ago on a visit to Romford I went to my home church where I met several folk who had known me since I was a child. They had a table of goods for sale which included some small plants. I asked what they were and the gentleman said - "I'll tell you a story - over 40 years ago we had a sale to raise funds for Scouts, your Dad gave us some cuttings from a hibiscus he had growing in his front garden (it is still there today) and I took one of those cuttings for my own garden. I have taken many cuttings from that plant over the years and sold them, so these here can be traced back to your Dad's original plant. Wow, what a wonderful connection to my Dad. The plant Dad nurtured, the cuttings he took, the new plants which have grown and bloomed over the years, are now all connected to the one I have booming outside my front window now.

The other week we thought about the present day connectivity we have with our brothers and sisters all over the world today. Here in this story we are helped to think about how we are connected down through the years. Legacies, memories from experiences and events, which we have carried through to today and often passed on to others through storytelling and also by repeating the actions, join us together

The most amazing connection I believe we have is the one with God in the human Jesus, which we have through the Holy Spirit. Not a blood line, but ***the same invisible chord of love and grace who was present in Jesus life, is present in ours too.***

Maybe pause for a moment and take this on board.....Wow. All the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (and so much more) which we read about being displayed in Jesus life and through millions of God's children since, can work through us now if we allow. These good fruits have the potential to be nurtured, to grow in people and change them, to inspire and encourage them. The good fruits can be handed

from apostles to tea-makers, from shop workers to life-guards, from business workers to elderly neighbours, from police officers to flower arrangers, from teenagers to grand-parents. These good fruits are sown as we offer them, they germinate through thoughts, produce a harvest, and God led are re-sown again and again somewhere else, and so the legacy and growth have God-given potential to go on and on into a glorious harvest of the Kingdom of God.

We all know of course that not all 'fruits' which are sown are good, and of God. We look at our world now and can feel distraught and overwhelmed by neglect, selfishness, hatred, violence, abuse and the effects of dreadful behaviour. It feels impossible to know what to do or say

It took 40 years for me see that there had been a continuous connection between the Hibiscus in my Mum and Dad's garden to the one I held in my hand at a coffee morning. Yet just because I hadn't been aware of any connection through those 40 years it had still been there, and before of course.

God is faithful, and true, full of mercy and Grace, never detached from His children, and at times when our faith seems small and we feel disconnected, God is big enough to carry our doubts until we again sense our union with His Ultimate Divine Power and Energy.



Drape yourselves in fine clothes, beauty that comes from God's love and clothes stitched from the threat of His love that binds us together

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Loving and compassionate God, we bring our prayers for suffering people everywhere, for individuals, societies, nations, where people live in fear of violence, abuse, sickness, and death. We pray for those crippled by mental distress, for those bereaved, depressed, or anxious. We pray for those who are sick, for those who care We pray for nations divided by differences of opinion, control, power, selfishness

We pray for families hungry, children alone, households separated.
Ever-present God, open the eyes of your people, wherever they are and whatever they face, to see and know you with them.
All-powerful God, Change the hearts of world leaders, and powers, to love.
Enter our own hearts, and refresh our faith to know your power and presence with us.
Healing God, heal your world..... AMEN

OFFERING We have so much Lord, others have so little. We give what we can for your work, laying our gifts aside in our homes, giving in other ways. Lord we give in hope that your Kingdom will grow, and the seeds of your Spirit will blossom and bring love. AMEN

LET'S SING TOGETHER....

O Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me; the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten, or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory there shall
Thy servants be;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Master and my Friend.

O let me see Thy footmarks, and in them
plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly is in Thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend. © John E Bode

A BLESSING

On all your journeys of life take with you the wealth and wisdom of God. May God give you comfort for today, strength for tomorrow and courage in the face of adversity. God goes with you, for God is with you for all time. **AMEN**