

Worship for 11th October 2020

WELCOME EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

Let's sing with hearts and voices..

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
Might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens
Knows and names them as they shine.

Praise the Lord, His people, praise Him!
Wounded souls His comfort know;
Those who fear Him find His mercies,
Peace for pain and joy for woe;
Humble hearts are high exalted,
Human pride and power laid low.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
Spring to melt the snows of winter
Till the waters flow again;
Grass upon the mountain pastures,
Golden valleys thick with grain.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Peace and plenty crown your days;
Love His laws, declare His judgements,
Walk in all His words and ways;
He the Lord and we His children –
Praise the Lord, all people, praise!
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Let' pray together

Father God, creator of the world and universe,
look upon us as we gather in your name.
Although we may be worshipping in different
places we pray that we shall be strengthened
through your Word and the unity we have in
Jesus Christ. We are not alone in our worship
and add our praises with all who meet in the
name of Jesus today. Creation speaks of your
love and we are blessed with many gifts.
Sadly, we have abused those gifts and have
not always acted in ways that are pleasing to
you. Have mercy upon us O Lord, and show
us how we can make your world a better place
in which to live. May your blessing be with us
today and every day; in Jesus' name. AMEN

Our first Bible reading Psalm 106 v 1-5

Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he
is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.
Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or
declare all his praise? Happy are those who
observe justice, who do righteousness at all
times. Remember me, O LORD, when you show

favour to your people; help me when you deliver
them; ⁵ that I may see the prosperity of your
chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness
of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage.

Philippians 4 v1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love
and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the
Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I
urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help
these women, for they have struggled beside me in
the work of the gospel, together with Clement and
the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the
book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The
Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to
God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is
honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if
there is any excellence and if there is anything
worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on
doing the things that you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me, and the God of
peace will be with you.

Time to Reflect The reading from Philippians
reminds me of a chorus that was often sung as a
'round' – "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I
say rejoice" However, we may ask "how can we
rejoice in the Lord **always?**" Life is not always a bed
of roses and we often face hardship and struggles.
The Covid-19 crisis has been really challenging for
many people and it may seem that rejoicing is last
thing on our minds.

But what is it that makes us rejoice? Most people
will have different answers and some will mention
material things, presents, money, going to the gym,
hairdressers or going on holiday; therefore the lack
of these has been a real bind for some.

All through the Bible, we are reminded that there is
more to life than material blessings. Cynics may say
"fine talk when you live in the affluent West".
Nikki, Kim and I had planned to be in Kampala this
month with Chrysalis Uganda. During my last visit
(2 years ago) I found that those who had little in
material terms were still able to rejoice, they
valued family and community, were thankful for

the little they had, and were delighted to share what they had with us.

Covid-19 has challenged us all and made us think about what is really important in life. It has brought many closer to family and friends, reminded us to be thankful, given us time to look for blessings that are beyond the material world and which we would not normally notice. Paul says that when we come before the Lord with joy and thanksgiving we shall find His peace. There will be many today who do not have joy or peace in their lives, and who strive to find it in the 'worldly'. My prayer is that one day, all will find the peace and joy, not through what we have or the circumstances of our lives, but through God's dynamic, comforting, reassuring, enduring energy living in and around us.

Take a time to sit quietly.....



AND NOW WE SING WITH OUR HEARTS OR VOICES

1. Peace is flowing like a river
Flowing out through you and me,
Spreading out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

*Let it flow through me, let it flow through me,
Let the mighty peace of God flow out through me.
Let it flow through me, let it flow through me,
Let the mighty peace of God flow out through me.*

2. Love is flowing like a river.....
3. Joy is flowing ...
4. Faith is flowing ...
5. Hope is flowing ...

A time of prayer

-God of love and compassion; we lay our broken world at your feet. Our world continues to be torn apart by war, fear and hate and people are oppressed by those who seek power for themselves with little thought for the needs of others. We thank you for the tireless work of national and international charities, getting alongside the vulnerable and weak.

-We think for our towns and communities, many of which are fragmented and divided. Diversity can bring richness and strength to our communities, but can also

promote fear and hatred. Show us how old pains and wounds can be used to bring new life and hope. We thank you for those who work to build relationships and support those in need.

-We think of those whose lives have been broken, through sorrow and grief, illness, and fractured relationships. Life may seem to have lost its purpose. May the gift of your healing grace bring a new sense of purpose and love. We thank you for the NHS, carers, emergency services, all who give their time to bring comfort and help to others.

-We pray quietly now, bringing to God the names of those we know.....

-We draw our prayers of intercession to a close by saying aloud or in our mind these words:

Almighty God, give us hearts of compassion so that we can bless those whom we meet. Help us to bring peace and comfort to those who are in distress. May your Spirit give us life and strength and show us how we can share God's love, joy and peace and be true servants of Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father

OUR OFFERING PRAYER

We offer our lives, our skills and talents, and our gifts of money, bless them all Lord, in Jesus name AMEN

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**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.

**THE BLESSING of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with everyone, always AMEN**