

WORSHIP for 4th October 2020

Welcome everyone, joined as one as we
pray, praise, and hear God's word



LET'S PRAISE GOD TOGETHER.....

*All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours he made their tiny wings

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty who has made all things well

Let's praise in prayer

God is love..... and we 'wonder' at the love we see in the ordinary, everyday things around us, and in the world.

We praise you for Your love God in humankind. We thank you for Your love in our own lives.

We are sorry for the time when our lives don't show love, we are sad when humankind turns it's back and shows anger, jealousy, disrespect & injustice.

You show the way forward, help us to walk Your way.

AMEN. We say.... Our Father who art in heaven.....

Exodus 3 vs 7-10

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

This reading follows Moses realisation of God's presence through the sign of fire; but convincing people that it was God's rescue plan was a task in itself. 2-3 million people left Egypt; the line of people would have measured 150 miles. The journey from Egypt was about 240 miles, walking

at a slow pace, 5 miles a day, they would easily have reached Canaan in 58 days - yet they took 40 years!!!! Instead of seeing God's signs along the way, they focused on their own fear, rage, self-centredness, wants, and were easily led by other people's convincing arguments. They made life so much more difficult for themselves, it became a chore rather than a joy.

What do we see as God's signs for us? Do we need thunderbolts, flashes of light, a loud audible voice? Or can we learn to recognise His Spiritual Energy and Power working in the ordinary things of life to give us a positive outlook, contentment, and hope for the hour, the day, the future?

My friend Ade wrote this inspiring and thought-provoking story called **"Give me a sign"**

.....A man awakes from a restless night in the early hours of the morning. As he lies there waiting for sleep to return, in his mind he is asking the question "God if you exist give me a sign". Nothing happens! and he falls back into a uneasy sleep

He dreams he meets a man and they are walking along a road and as they walk he tells the man of his earlier question to God. "I asked for a sign!" he says..

"Well there's a sign there" the man says, as he points to the Street name at the end of the road where the man lives. Our Dreamer laughs and says "No, I wanted a sign that tells me of the existence of God"

They walk further along the road and again the man says "there's one" as he points to the sign on the outside of a church. Again our dreamer laughs and says "No, that's a sign for a place for people who already believe in God".

"Oh okay" said the man they carry on walking and day turns to a clear but cold night. Our dreamers' travelling companion adjusts his glasses and points to the stars in the sky and says "are they not signs in the heavens?" Our dreamer ponders the question and replies "it's true that in years gone by sailors used star positions to find their way and they have been there for millions of years, but they are not proof God exists"

They walk on and the night breaks to an overcast morning and our travelling companion breaks the silence between the two men - "can I tell you what I saw when I saw all those signs we have seen on our journey?" Rather wearily the dreamer replies "Oh go on then"

"When I saw the street sign at the end of your road I saw the sign that meant you were home and near to all that you hold dear, a place surrounded by love."

"When I saw the sign for the church I saw a sign for a place where people find safety solace and love regardless of their background or religion"

"When I saw the stars in the sky I saw all the people who have come into your life and made it better, guided you towards good, away from trouble, and towards God."

"Wow" said our dreamer "you saw all that, I think I need to borrow your glasses" and with that the man took the glasses from his nose and passed them to the dreamer. The dreamer placed them on his nose and looked to the sky, "what do you see" asked the companion?"

"I see the Sun bringing warmth, life and light to all below" said the dreamer. "How do you see the sun" asked the companion "it's overcast, I can't see through the clouds"

"Like you I am now looking at things in a different way, not physically but spiritually" replied our dreamer. "I see through all the mist and cloud to see the light behind!"

"That's brilliant" said the companion "you are beginning to see your path to God".

"It's more than that" replied our dreamer, "you see it's not the sun as in the stars that I see, it's the SON as in Jesus bringing warmth life and love to all below!"

Gods Sat-nav has always been there we all just need to learn how to use it !



Just like the Israelites, humankind struggle on under their own steam, and yet how different life is when we begin to see signs of God - 'seeing' in a spiritual way. Signs come to all our senses, & when we begin to trust the presence of LOVE, and can ask/plead/cry out

"Help me be patient with my beautiful child"

"Show me the right decision for work"

"Let me see signs of love in myself and others"

"Take away my negativity & pessimism"

"I'm sad, help me not to feel alone"

Then we'll sense a sign, as the warmth of Jesus life & love floods our souls

We read this song, & sense the changes possible through the power of the SON'S LOVE AND LIGHT

As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,
As strength that follows weakness,
As truth instead of lies;
As song time and springtime and summertime to be,
So is my Lord, my living Lord,
So is my Lord to me.

Like calm in place of clamour,
Like peace that follows pain,
Like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain;
Like moonlight and starlight and sunlight on the sea,
So is my Lord, my living Lord,
So is my Lord to me.
As sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of grey,
As freedom after burden, as sunrise to the day;

As home to the traveller and all he longs to see,
So is my Lord, My living Lord,
So is my Lord to me.

Our prayer time

Lord as we pray, guide us if we can be the answer to someone's prayers
We pray for the people of the world, leaders of the nations.....

gracious God - pour out your Spirit

We pray for those who are sick and dying, those who are nursing and caring -

Gracious God pour out your Spirit

We pray for all whose lands are ravaged by war & famine, & those who have lost hope

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit

We pray for those involved in science and research working to control Covid 19

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit

We pray for our families, friends & those most in our minds

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit

Help us to open our eyes Spiritually to the everyday signs of Your love. **AMEN**

Our Offering Generous God, receive these gifts offered, laid aside, bless them and us, that both will be signs of your love **AMEN**

We think about all the signs of God's presence as we sing this hymn with voices & hearts.....

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.

A BLESSING

**May the Spirit of God open our eyes, ears, mind and heart, to the signs of His presence in the world around us, so we are blessed to be a blessing
AMEN**