

# **Worship Together – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**At home, in church, inside or outside – God is with us!**

Spend a minute or so in silence, listening for God in the sounds that surround us, and allowing His Holy Spirit to make us aware of the fellowship that we have with each other, even though, as with God Himself, we can't see each other. Hear Him say, "I love you".

**Let us now read together the Gloria:**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth!**

**Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer; For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

**AMEN!**

If you have a Bible to hand, please turn to the book of Jonah (towards the end of the Old Testament), and let us read:

**Jonah Chapter 3, Verses 1 to 5, and 10**

*Jonah wasn't keen on obeying God's call for him to go to Nineveh, but after his encounter with the big fish, he realised he couldn't avoid it. God's message was simple: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown."*

*However, getting that message to everyone in that great, but wicked, city was a major undertaking. What would be their reaction?*

**Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us to ...**

**... imagine how Jonah felt**

**... imagine how the Ninevites felt**

**... understand what God was doing**

**Let us pray:**

**Father God,**

**You made us in Your image so that we could have a relationship of love and respect with You.**

**Please forgive us for the ways in which we, as individuals, communities and nations, live only for ourselves and not for Your Kingdom.**

**We receive the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the Cross, and ask for Your help to share Your message with those among**

**whom we live,**

**In Jesus' name,**

**AMEN**



**A hymn reflecting today's Lectionary reading from the Psalms (62 v 5-12):**

**In heavenly love abiding,  
no change my heart shall fear;  
and safe is such confiding,  
for nothing changes here:  
the storm may roar without me,  
my heart may low be laid;  
but God is round about me,  
and can I be dismayed?**

**Wherever he may guide me,  
no want shall turn me back;  
my Shepherd is beside me,  
and nothing can I lack:  
his wisdom ever waketh,  
his sight is never dim,  
he knows the way he taketh,  
and I will walk with him.**

**Green pastures are before me,  
which yet I have not seen;  
bright skies will soon be o'er me,  
where darkest clouds have been;  
my hope I cannot measure,  
my path to life is free;  
my Saviour has my treasure,  
and he will walk with me.**

*Anna Letitia Waring (1850)*

Let us be still again, and know that God is with us. It may be that He is stirring us to think about particular people, or situations. Or maybe He just wants us to feel the warmth of His love, holding us in a secure embrace.



Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,

You came to us as a vulnerable baby, born  
into poverty and obscurity in a backwater of  
the Roman Empire.

You lived a perfect life, and then You died for  
us on a Cross, held by Your love as much as by  
cruel nails.

You declared "IT IS FINISHED!" with Your  
dying breath, and rose triumphant on the  
third day.

You call us to follow You, to share Your love  
with those to whom You will lead us.

We gladly follow, Lord,  
AMEN

If you can, please turn in a Bible to  
**The Gospel according to Mark**  
**Chapter 1 Verses 14 to 20**

*Simon and Andrew were going about their  
normal business when Jesus called them to  
make a complete career change. Jesus  
likened their new calling to the one they were  
leaving behind. They followed Him without  
question! James and John were similarly quick  
to respond. Have you ever "dropped  
everything" to do something important?*

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us to ...

... imagine what went through the minds of  
those fishermen when Jesus called them

... know if we are following Jesus as His  
disciples in the way we live our lives today

... understand what "fishing for people"  
means, and how we can be a part of it

Let us pray: Lord Jesus,

We hear Your call, and so we rise up to follow  
You, wherever You may lead, AMEN

Do you remember this old chorus? Most of it is  
Jesus speaking to us! And I didn't know it had  
a second verse (Matthew 11 v 28-29):

**"I will make you fishers of men,  
Fishers of men, fishers of men,  
I will make you fishers of men  
If you follow Me;  
If you follow Me,  
If you follow Me,  
I will make you fishers of men  
If you follow Me."**

**Hear Christ calling, "come unto Me,  
Come unto Me, come unto Me";  
Hear Christ calling, "come unto Me,  
I will give you rest;  
I will give you rest,  
I will give you rest";  
Hear Christ calling, "come unto Me,  
I will give you rest".**

Harry D. Clarke

Jesus ever lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7  
v 25), so let us now intercede for others:

Almighty God,

You call us to pray at all times, with thanksgiving  
in our hearts:

We pray for all nations contending with  
coronavirus, with governments trying to balance  
human lives and economic priorities;  
We open our minds to important lessons that  
we can learn from these difficult days;  
We ask You to protect and empower those on  
the frontline of caring for those afflicted;  
We hold in Your healing presence those who are  
lonely, troubled in mind, homeless,  
dispossessed, hungry or bereaved;  
We ask for Your inspiration to make prayer an  
adventure and discipleship our priority,  
Giving thanks for Your amazing love,  
demonstrated to us in Christ Jesus,  
AMEN

OUR OFFERING Lord Jesus, I lay the gifts  
of my life for you now. Bless and use  
them Lord. AMEN

**The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make His face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
The LORD turn His face toward you and give  
you peace. (Numbers 6 v 24-26, NIV)**