

Worship Together – Sunday 18th April 2021

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

Consider all those you know who might be using this sheet, and join with them in the rousing words of THE MAGNIFICAT

***My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for He has looked with favour on the
lowliness of His servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call
me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for
me,
and holy is His name.
His mercy is for those who fear Him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of
their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped His servant Israel,
in remembrance of His mercy,
according to the promise He made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.***

That was Mary's spontaneous hymn of praise (Luke 1 v 46-55) when she accepted the role of being mother to the incarnation of God's Son. It was a role that would arouse suspicion, court shame, disrupt her forthcoming marriage, lead her into danger and, ultimately, if briefly, break her heart. But what an honour! As we agree to do whatever God asks of us, we walk in the footsteps of this remarkable lady.

NOW, FROM ONE OF TODAY'S LECTIONARY READINGS:

***"But you know that (Jesus) appeared so that
He might take away our sins."***
(1 John 3 v 5a, NIV)

*Let us now clear the air with God by
confessing our sins: admitting our*

*wrongdoings and recognising our bad
attitudes. If we do this honestly, we
have full assurance that He will forgive
us, and fill us afresh with His Spirit:
"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from
all unrighteousness."*

(1 John 1 v 9, NIV)

Now let us read, or even sing, this simple,
yet profound chorus of thanksgiving:

***Thank You, Jesus, thank You, Jesus,
Thank You, Lord, for loving me;
Thank You, Jesus, thank You, Jesus,
Thank You, Lord, for loving me.***

***You went to Calvary
And there You died for me,
Thank You, Lord, for loving me;
You went to Calvary
And there You died for me,
Thank You, Lord, for loving me.
(chorus)***

***You rose up from the grave,
To me new life You gave,
Thank You, Lord, for loving me;
You rose up from the grave,
To me new life You gave,
Thank You, Lord, for loving me.
(chorus)***

Alison Huntley



Our offering

**Lord, receive our gifts given and laid
aside, and bless them for your
purposes.**

1 John chapter 3 vs 1-7 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been

made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appears so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray.

Look at what v 1 says - speak it out and receive it as the truth:

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"



For some, these words are truly wonderful.

But there may be those who, for various reasons, find it difficult to call God Father.

Jesus totally understands this. Yet the complete, unequalled love of God, is beyond any human love, beyond anything we can fully imagine or realise, and is here for each one of you to hold your hands out and receive.

Let us spend a few minutes in silence, listening for God's still, small voice assuring us that we are loved beyond measure.....

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Now let us join in this hymn of trust:

***Lord, I come to You,  
Let my heart be changed, renewed,  
Flowing from the grace  
That I've found in You.  
Lord, I've come to know  
The weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away,  
By the power of Your love.  
Hold me close,  
Let Your love surround me;***

***Bring me near,  
Draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait  
I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You,  
Your Spirit leads me on  
By the power of Your love.  
Lord, unveil my eyes,  
Let me see You face to face,  
The knowledge of Your love  
As You live in me.  
Lord, renew my mind  
As Your will unfolds in my life  
In living every day,  
By the power of Your love.  
Hold me close ...Geoff Bullock***

When Jesus' followers asked Him to teach them how to pray, He gave to them the pattern we now call The Lord's Prayer:

***Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN***

Now let us pray as God leads us for those situations in the world to which the Holy Spirit directs us, and for those people for whom He has given us a particular concern.....

***"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."  
(James 5 v 16b, NIV)***

***Finally, let us bless each other:  
"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)***