

# Worship Together – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 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 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!**

These words take us right back to Jesus' birth, yet now we find ourselves remembering the ten days between His Ascension and the birth of the Church at Pentecost. But don't worry – it all hangs together, as does everything between creation and Christ's return.

Let us read together from Acts 1 in the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible:

**<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**

"They all joined together constantly in prayer." Imagine that, an open-ended prayer meeting! Why did they do this, especially at a time when the Jews might have been out to get Jesus' followers?

Let's look back to verses 4 and 5:

**<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."**



*Let us spend a few minutes quietly imagining what it was like to be in that "upstairs room". Are we so keen to do things that we don't have time to "be still and know that I am God"? (from Psalm 46 v 10, NIV)*

Now we read (or sing) together this wonderful hymn:

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all!**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!**

Edward Perronet  
(altered by John Rippon)

Let us now confess our sins to God, 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)



**OUR OFFERING**  
**Lord, receive our gifts given and laid aside, and bless them for Your purposes.**

Psalm 46 (NIV) is very encouraging:

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall;**

**God will help her at break of day.**

**Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts his voice, the earth melts.**

**The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations He has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.**

**He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.**

**He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”**

**The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

### **Time to Pray**



Some prayer situations are like butterflies: they only take flight if we let them go. Others may be like holding a rope, convinced that God is urging us to not give up until we see them resolved to His glory.

Let us say together 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 for those situations in the world to which the Holy Spirit directs us, and for those people brings to mind.....

Charles Wesley wrote our final hymn:

***Christ, Whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.***

***Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.***

***Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.***

Finally, let us receive God's peace, using the words of Philippians 4 v 4-7 (NIV):

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

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