

# WORSHIP TOGETHER

30<sup>th</sup> May 2021

God is with us - EVERYWHERE

## As we begin to worship we say..

“..into Your hands I commit my spirit;  
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God”

Psalms 31 vs 3

## Let's sing or say together....

Faithful one, so unchanging  
Ageless one, you're my Rock of Peace  
Lord of all, I depend on you  
I call out to you again and again  
I call out to you again and again  
You are my rock in times of trouble  
You lift me up when I fall down  
All through the storm Your love is  
The anchor, my hope is in You alone

© Brian Doerkson



## Mark 1 vs 1-13 - John the Baptist

### Prepares the Way

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”  
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’” And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I

baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**REFLECTION** If we had been there on this day we would have seen lines of people, maybe heads bowed in prayer, we would have heard water splashing and maybe quiet words John spoke to the ones turning their lives around and over to the Saviour just before Baptism. These ordinary folk were called by God, through John the Baptist words, to REPENT. Repentance is not a word used very much today. Repentance means to change the mind, so what does it really mean for people today, for us.

We have previously lived, moved in one direction, and when we repent we turn and move in another direction. Previously it was a direction of selfishness, greed, envy, lies, anger, being in competition with others. Then comes a time when God seems to be calling, in a silent whisper, with a gentle nudge, for us to change our mind concerning those mental attitudes and life-styles. It's a huge moment, it's a very big deal.

Bad attitudes and actions make life miserable for others, and often for the ones going in that direction, even if they don't admit it. And none of us, even if we have turned in Jesus direction, are immune from these ways. Maybe not in every conversation and every action, less occasionally, but they still creep in to our days. They cause feelings of guilt which can eat away at us.

The act of dedicating our lives to Jesus is for most a one time commitment, but the call of John to repentance, being saved, is ongoing. And when we consciously make these prayerful decisions, often daily, it's cleaning and renewing, refreshing and revitalising - just like water. We have moved through the celebration of Pentecost Sunday, when the disciples were drenched with the Holy Spirit, and enabled to do things they didn't think possible. Maybe there are things in our lives, about our personalities or life-styles, which we think can never be changed. On our own

it's not possible, but with the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. Eph 3:20**



**A prayer of confession** - Merciful God, we pause to contemplate your beauty and the perfection of your being ..... and we are acutely aware of our own unworthiness, and our sin (all that damages and blocks relationships between ourselves and God, and others). We confess that often our heavenly vision is obstructed by worldly desires, our selfishness and self-indulgence overrules your will, our fear, needs or desires stop us loving. We stifle and bind our own lives, when your immeasurable riches & grace are freely available to all who put their trust in You. Lord we repent, change our minds, and receive your words of forgiveness, we breathe in your Holy Spirit and endeavour now to fully follow You once again. AMEN

### **The Lord's prayer.....**

#### **And we sing or say....**

All to Jesus I surrender  
All to Him I freely give  
I will ever love and trust Him  
In His presence daily live  
*I surrender all, I surrender all  
All to thee my blessed Saviour  
I surrender all*  
All to Jesus I surrender  
Make me, Saviour, wholly Thine  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit  
Truly know that Thou art mine **Chorus**

All to Jesus I surrender  
Lord, I give myself to Thee  
Fill me with Thy love and power  
Let Thy blessing fall on me **Chorus**

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame  
O the joy of full salvation  
Glory, glory to His name **Chorus**

© JW van de Venter

### **OUR OFFERING**

*Lord receive what we give, our worship, our lives, our talents, our money. With your blessing and our dedication these will change lives AMEN*

### **OUR PRAYERS....**

We pray for Your church throughout the world...  
We pray for all who govern and lead.....  
We pray for all who suffer in any way.....  
We pray for ourselves and our loves ones.....  
We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory AMEN

### **Let's sing or say this Stuart Townend hymn - sung to the tune 'love divine'**

We are heirs of God almighty  
Apple of the Father's eye  
Free, forgiven, loved, accepted  
Clothed in righteousness divine  
Chosen to be pure and blameless  
From before the world began  
Grace for every situation  
Sheltered in the Father's hand

We have Christ at work within us  
Shaping us to be like Him  
Resurrection power sustaining  
Freedom from the snares of sin  
Saying no to flesh desires  
Saying yes to righteous ways  
Filled with passion and with power  
Lights that burn in darkened days

We've the Spirit without measure,  
Helper, comforter and guide  
One who brings the gifts of heaven  
One who comes to walk beside  
Taste of heaven's endless pleasure,  
Guarantee of what's to come  
Casing fruit to grow in action,  
Bringing glory to the Son © Stuart Townend

**THE LORD IS WITH YOU AND YOURS,  
AND BLESSES YOU**