

Worship Together – Sunday 4th July 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 these rousing words from Psalm 48 v 1:

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise

In the presence of our great and holy God, our failings become so apparent. How wonderful it is that Jesus' death on the Cross ensures that confessed sin will be forgiven and forgotten by God. So let us sing Brian Doerkson's hymn:

***Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold, pure gold.***

***Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
Is to be... holy; set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be... holy; set apart for You, my
Master,
Ready to do Your will.***

***Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within.***

***Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
Is to be... holy; set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be... holy; set apart for You, my
Master,
Ready to do Your will.***

Let us read together from Mark 6 v 1-5 (NIV)

“Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offence at him.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.”

The people of Nazareth were initially amazed and impressed by Jesus' teaching. But then they let that inspiration dissipate by thinking about Him purely in human terms. Are we letting rationality rule our spirituality?

Let's carry on reading Mark 6 v 6-13 (NIV)

“Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”



It's Independence Day in the USA. In today's individualistic society, living independently is the norm. But Christians are called to depend on God through Jesus, and to live in fellowship with fellow believers. Let us ask God whether we are following Jesus as His disciples, or treating church as a social club at no cost to ourselves and of no benefit to those around.

Here, from Acts 2 v 42-45 (NIV), is what discipleship meant to the early Christians:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

Our offerings are one way in which we share, so let us now present them to God:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Our next hymn, written by John Bell and Graham Maule, is very challenging. Jesus sings to us until the final verse. Can we respond with the final verse?

Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?

Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,

Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,

And admit to what I mean in you and you in Me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

***Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?***

Lord Your summons echoes true when You but call my name,

Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.

In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show,

Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me

Let us pray together, as the Holy Spirit leads.



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.

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

John Rutter adapted the Aaronic Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you;

***The Lord make His face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious***

And be gracious unto you

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord lift up the light of His

countenance upon you

The Lord lift up the light of His

countenance upon you

And give you peace, and give you peace;

And give you peace, and give you peace