

For Sunday 3rd May 2020 – Prepared by Neil

Good morning Church, I have prepared some words, prayers and songs that, I hope, will help you to Worship today.

Before we start, please take a few moments to prepare yourself for Worship (no need if you've already done this).

Confess to Him (Be clean), praise him and thank Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.

You could use the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-15) if you choose.

Opening prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that as we meet together, we will Worship you and as we Worship, we will meet with you. We pray for your presence, power and glory to be with us today. Even as we are apart, we are together in God's Spirit.

We pray for a fresh anointing of your Holy Spirit, the same power now as it was on the day of Pentecost.

We praise you; we thank you and ask for your peace and protection.

Amen.

Psalm 98

“Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth, burst into jubilant song, rejoice and sing praises to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and sounds of singing, with trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn. Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.”

It was with drumming and the sounds of ram's horns that the walls of Jericho were brought down, the enemies stronghold fell. We pray for family and friends and the people we meet, Lift up your heads you gates, you ancient doors that are blocking the Spirit from coming into these hearts. We call upon God's Holy Spirit to open the doors and break down the gates and let your kingdom in.

Let us praise God from whom all blessings flow.

The families with children and all those that want to, please take up an instrument and play and sing along.

SONG: Praise him on the loud cymbals.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBQTBS_C-bE

SONG: Praise God from whom all blessings flow?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsCRZiKbaqM>

God has promised us “There will be revival in this Land”. Let us pray for that.

Never has this land, and indeed the world, needed God more than now!

SONG: As sure as gold is precious and the honey sweet. Revival.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgukTjyCMX8>

Orderly Worship – 1 Corinthians 14 v 26-40.

²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two – or at the most three – should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

²⁹ Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. ³⁰ And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. ³¹ For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³² The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace – as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.

If you would like to respond to Worship, please use WhatsApp Care n Share or admin@vpbc.org.uk or simply cry out in the Spirit as God is with us. Respond as you feel led by the Spirit.

Prayers for the world, prepared for us by Hilary.

Hosanna

Do you know what it means?

It's an Aramaic word – it's an exclamation of praise.

On Palm Sunday, when Jesus came to Jerusalem, the people shouted Hosanna.

Did you know, this is the only time in the Bible that the word Hosanna is used?

Matthew 21: 9 says

'Hosanna to the Son of David!'

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Mark 11:9 and John 12: 13 have similar words and in Matthew 21: 15 children shout Hosanna in the temple.

Last Sunday, Jane W posted a video on the 'Care n Share' WhatsApp group.

In this video, people from many different countries sing praise to God in their own language. Instruments are played, voices join together, and we hear the words Hosanna sung as solos and together.

It's a song we know well.

Hosanna, Hosanna Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Lord we lift up Your name

With hearts full of praise

Be exalted oh Lord my God!

Hosanna in the highest!

It's a song we can join in and sing, tap your feet and maybe even play instruments as well.

We can do this because we have the freedom to do so.

Even though we're in our own homes at the moment, hopefully soon we will be together and be able to join our voices to praise God as a community of believers.

We thank God that we are able to praise him in freedom.

But not every Christian has this freedom.

Let me tell you about Christians in North Korea.

By reading the Open Doors website we see that Christians are under constant stress and constant threats.

If North Korean Christians are discovered, they are deported to labour camps as political criminals or even killed on the spot. Driven by the state, Christian persecution in North Korea is extreme and meeting other Christians to worship is nearly impossible unless it's done in complete secrecy.

The news tells stories of the country's ambitions on the world stage. Yet behind the headlines, a massive underground church of 200-400,000 Christians is growing in North Korea. And tens of thousands of these secret believers are held in North Korea's infamous labour camps. It is a miracle that this underground church is able to exist. But more than that, it is thriving and growing.

One Christian has shared: "One day the borders will open, and we will unite with the South Korean and the Chinese church to bring the gospel to some of the darkest places on this earth.

Open Doors asks us to pray for North Korea.

- **Pray North Korean officials will come to know God, for change within the regime and that the power of evil will be broken.**
- **As North Korea has raised its profile on the world stage, Kim Jong Un has continued to consolidate his power. But recently there have been rumours that he is seriously unwell. Pray that he will accept the one, true God.**
- **Open Doors provides North Korean Christians with food, medicine and clothing and safe houses for North Korean refugees in China. Pray the church is strengthened and encouraged to endure by this provision.**
- **Pray for Christians who suffer in prisons, labour camps and remote areas to have hope.**

We ask these prayers in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us continue in prayer as we listen to Christians singing Hosanna in their own language and continue in prayer for Christians in North Korea that in time their voices will be added as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUxZpLm5Sa0>

Now let's listen to the talk prepared for us by George Ndum

Phillipians 1: 1-14

LAST SONG: I am who you say that I am.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKw6uqtGFfo>

Final prayer. Say out loud if you would like to.

**May the presence, glory and power of the Lord be
with me and in me, now and evermore.**

Amen.

Footnote:

Don't forget to put on the full armour of God. Ephesians 6 v 10-18.