

Worship Together - 24th May 2020

Welcome to our worship together this Ascension Sunday. I hope you are well and have been able to notice God's protection and sustaining during these weeks. Steve Latham has prepared a message for us and I have gathered some songs and thoughts together. I hope they will help you enter God's presence to offer him your worship, receive from him so that you are equipped to be his witness. Feel free to take time to pause and reflect or pray or sing your own songs or even dance as you go.

We start with a gathering declaration which you could say out loud:

From different lives we come to worship.
From good weeks and bad weeks we come to worship.
Bringing great times and painful memories we come to worship.
Needing healing, needing peace we come to worship.
With hope in our hearts we come to worship.
To the Almighty God we come to worship.
To the King of Kings we come to worship.
We come to worship.

Psalm 147 v 1-5 says:

Praise the Lord.
How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!
The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.
He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.
He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Let's bring our praise to Jesus, who is risen and ascended to the right hand of the Father.

Song: King of kings - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5lcFWiEpg>

In Acts 1 v 6-11 Jesus tells his disciples that instead of what they were expecting, i.e. Jesus freeing Israel from the rule of the Romans in a show of great power, in fact they themselves have a part to play in bringing his salvation to the world – being his witnesses to the ends of the earth. He promises the Holy Spirit to help them, with a different kind of power, and then leaves, ascending to heaven.

Once their sense of awe from seeing him ascend died down and they returned to their homes I suspect they might have been a bit bewildered, probably felt anxious and alone and wondered what they could possibly do. But we are living proof of their witness, persevering through very tough times, and of God's work of salvation through them.

Let's continue to lift up his name in our next song and also in our daily lives as we also bear witness to Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life, in these tough times.

Song: Lord I lift your name on high - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=U6l6orjM3Nl>

Someone shared a clip this week based on Psalm 23 which I found thought provoking and it struck me that although I know he leads/equips/restores me it can be very hard to actually follow him to those green pastures and still waters, to notice the table he prepares for me, and to remember his goodness never fails. In other words to live my life based in this truth and reality.

Our next song is a reminder and a prayer in response to this

Song: The king of love my shepherd is - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LF2M8nvKK9k>

He is our Amazing God who meets our needs through the Holy Spirit, but not only for our own sakes. It is for the sakes of those we are witnesses to even during lockdown, and for the glory of God. As we sing our next song let's praise God and also consider how we can communicate his love to those we connect with.

I have put links to 2 versions of the song. The first is the straight sung version and the second version sings the song and then moves into a time of quietness and individual 'spirit led' type worship. This may not be so easy to use for our own worship but I thought some of us might find it helpful so wanted to include that opportunity.

Song: I could sing of your love forever –

1. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zeCwwaciAA8>

2. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=tv0tgzg_aHc

Let's pray together using the Lord's prayer which is in this C of E video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=rgN0s2xmCuM&feature=emb_logo

Thank you to Pauline for preparing Prayers of the world for us today



Praying for Guinea week beginning 24th May, using the recommendation from BMS.

Although Guinea is rich in mineral reserves, has fertile soil and receives ample rainfall, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. More than half of the population live on less than

£1 a day. BMS World Mission works with local organisations there to improve quality of life, both in the socio-economic and spiritual realms.

BMS workers Caroline and Victor* had to leave Guinea back in March due to civil unrest in the country and the Coronavirus pandemic.*

Caroline and Victor run micro-enterprise programmes and an eye clinic.

Praise God for small businesses making a difference for families, and the simple gift of spectacles bringing people sight.

In Guinea, 60 per cent of young people are unemployed. Victor invests time in training young people in a variety of professional skills, which prepares them for employment.

Caroline provides home physiotherapy for people with injuries or disabilities.

BMS supports other workers in Guinea, who lead student and sports groups.

Prayer request

Heavenly Father thanks for the work that BMS have achieved, pray the work will content to grow and to bear fruit. We place in your hands, the people of Guinea as they cope with Coronavirus and civil unrest. Watch over the work established by Caroline and Victor. The micro-enterprise, programme, and eye clinic. Help the young people to use the skills and training gained to benefit the community. Praying the students will grow in spiritual character and professional ability.

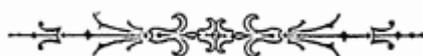
Help and support for people coping with injuries and disabilities, Praying for breakthroughs in people's mobility and growth in their self-esteem.

Pray for the establishment of the local university support centre, and the continuation of the youth football team set up by previous BMS worker.

We lift nation of Guinea up to you Lord. Pray that Guineans might know God's love, and for the expansion of his kingdom in this marginalised area of sub-Saharan Africa.

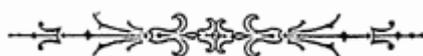
We continue to pray for the building of the team, Thanking God in answer to prayer for new BMS colleagues, now in conversation with the possibility of serving in Guinea.

We ask in Jesus name Amen



Jure reads to us from Jeremiah 29 v 1-23 - <https://youtu.be/tYzUDJFB1vE>

Steve Latham, from King's Cross Baptist Church, has recorded our message for today:
https://youtu.be/L1Cv-6_S0s8



Take a few moments to reflect on what has been said today. Is there something that you need to consider or do? Please do get in touch with the leaders if you want to discuss or pray about something with them.

As we draw our time to close and continue to show Jesus's love and salvation let's use this song as a prayer.

Song: Spirit of God - https://resoundworship.org/song/spirit_of_god

Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

PS. If you are a budding djembe/hand drum player you might like to look at this video tutorial for some rhythms to Lord I lift your name on high in a reggae style - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FROuS-AmVCQ> – it is probably aimed more at intermediate than beginner. I think he has other tutorials out there too if you are interested.

PPS. If you would like to listen to a groovy and joyful saxophone led instrumental version of Lord I lift your name on high there is one from the Temple Praise Band - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ut4jzv5Fgc>