

Welcome to our Sunday worship. Prepared by Hilary.

Welcome everyone to another Sunday where we worship together by sharing songs, Bible readings and prayers. Later in the service we have Alex Chowdhury speaking to us. He has visited us a few times now, coming from his home church in Ilford. He will be speaking on the passage from Matthew 5 verses 1-12.

In Revelation 5 we read

“They sang the Song of Moses, servant of God; they sang the Song of the Lamb: Mighty your acts and marvellous, O God, the Sovereign-Strong!
Righteous your ways and true, King of the nations!
Who can fail to fear you, God, give glory to your Name?
Because you and you only are holy, all nations will come and worship you,
because they see your judgments are right.”

Let us come to worship as we sing
Song: All hail the Lamb

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyNvTmjiv0w>

We worship a holy God.

Later, we will be reading from Psalm 19. In verse 12 & 13 we are reminded

“who can discern their own errors?

Forgive my hidden faults.

Keep your servant also from wilful sins; may they not rule over me.”

Use this time to come close to Jesus, look back at this last week and consider when we have not lived as we are called. Open your hearts to confess, remembering that God is merciful and eager to offer grace and love.

Now bring your praise to Jesus. Remind yourself what he has done for you. Remember why you praise and worship him and speak these things out loud or in your heart. Think about what an amazing God we serve.

The poetry of Psalm 19 helps us to consider the creative God we worship.

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- 2 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
- 3 They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

**4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

**5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his
chamber, like a champion rejoicing to
run his course.**

**6 It rises at one end of the heavens and
makes its circuit to the other; nothing is
deprived of its warmth.**

Our next song will help us as we continue to praise.

Song: Indescribable

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM5YReFSm0I>

Psalm 73 tells us that our amazing God is faithful.

**“I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.**

**24 You guide me with your
counsel, and afterwards you will
take me into glory.**

**25 Whom have I in heaven but
you?**

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

**26 My flesh and my heart may
fail, but God is the strength of my
heart and my portion for ever.**

**27 Those who are far from you
will perish; you destroy all who are
unfaithful to you.**

**28 But as for me, it is good to be
near God.**

**I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.”**

Song: Faithful One SoF 89

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxviwvjyg1w>

Join together as we pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your faithfulness. We thank you for your promises which never fail. We thank you for your love for us and your giving us life through Jesus. We praise and worship you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for the work and life you want us to live. Thank you for your great love and care and that you are always with us and will never leave us. We are sorry Lord when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given.

Help us each day to come to you for strength and power. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

We turn to Psalm 19 again and continue to read.

**⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.**

**The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.**

**⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.**

**⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring
forever.**

**The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.**

**¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;**

**they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.**

**¹¹ By them your servant is warned; in
keeping them there is great reward. ¹²**

But who can discern their own errors?

**Forgive my hidden faults.
13 Keep your servant also from wilful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.”**

Becky has prepared Prayers for the World for us.

It is less than 2 weeks since George Floyd was so cruelly murdered in broad daylight in the most inhumane way by a police officer. He and his colleagues heard Floyd plead for his life “I can’t breathe” and ignored it. Floyd had a criminal past but was trying hard to turn his life round, even moving to a new state to start afresh. This fresh start included a commitment to Jesus. His words “I can’t breathe” are also symbolic of what black people are going through not just in America but here in Britain, in Europe and the Aborigines in Australia. Our current president of Baptist Union of Great Britain, Yinka Oyekan, has written an article on Facebook, on how we, the black people, are all George Floyd- we can’t breathe. How issues are choking the life out of black people. (If you have time later, follow the link below to read more).

<https://www.facebook.com/PrinceYinkaOyekan/posts/10163681386260054>

“No one is born hating another person because of the colour his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love.... Nelson Mandela.

It’s not enough to say I am not racist, go a step further and be antiracist. You don’t have to be out protesting, but you can enlighten family, friends, colleagues or casual contacts who still hold racists views or constantly support racist behaviour. We can vote out racists’ leaders, racists constitutions, we can pray. The account of Paul’s conversion in the Bible is testimony that the hardest of hearts can be changed.

I want to share these two prayers from the BUGB in response to injustice

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/579572/George_Floyd_responding.aspx

In recent weeks, Pete & Neil have used the beautiful song called Spirit of God in their leading of worship. I have found this to be a very helpful way of praying not just for myself but for people I love who do not yet know Jesus as their Saviour. Hopefully this will be helpful to you too. Please add your own prayers to each section below.

The song starts with - Spirit of God, bring freedom to every heart.

Heavenly Father, we know that you are waiting to share your love and mercy and forgiveness with everyone. 1 Timothy 2:4 tells us you “want all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth”

Lord we pray for (*use the names of those on your hearts*) that your love and power would be revealed to them. Bring freedom to their hearts.

The song continues with – Holy Counsellor lead us, lead us into truth.

I find myself praying that through the power of the Holy Spirit, may you lead (*use the names of those on your hearts*) into truth. We know Lord that your heart longs for them to come close to you, but their hearts are turned away. We pray Lord that you will break whatever obstacle stops them from knowing you.

The third part of the song says – Awaken us, life-giving breath of God.

And so, we continue to pray asking that (*use the names of those on your hearts*) will be given new life through the power of our Living God. That they will wake up to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2 Corinthians 4:4 it says, “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

We pray Lord for them to be able to see your light and glory. Break down the influence the enemy has over them and soften their hearts.

The song comes together, with all parts singing in harmony, - Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, send us in your power.

Song: Spirit of God

https://resoundworship.org/song/spirit_of_god

Last week, in the service, Neil set us a challenge to send the song ‘So will I’ to someone in your family or a friend who does not yet accept Jesus as their Saviour.

Were you able to do this? How did they respond? Were you able to continue praying for them?

Heavenly Father, we pray that you will use us, even during this time of lockdown, to reach out, in your power, to those you have put in our hearts. Guide us Lord, so that through our actions, words and attitudes, we might be able to share the truth with those we love.

Amen.

We read in Ezekiel 36

24-28 ““For here’s what I’m going to do: I’m going to take you out of these countries, gather you from all over, and bring you back to your own land. I’ll pour pure water over you and scrub you clean.

I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you.
I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's
God-willed, not self-willed. I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for
you to do what I tell you and live by my commands.

You'll once again live in the land I gave your ancestors.
You'll be my people! I'll
be your God!

Now we hear from Alex Chowdhury speaking to us from Matthew 5: 1-12

<https://youtu.be/c6HQCu86QKU> - Alex Chowdhury Introduction

<https://youtu.be/QuSYG-hxn4> - Psalm 37 Reading

https://youtu.be/HFmUzaPp2_M - Matthew 5 v 1-12. Sermon on the Mount reading

<https://youtu.be/66zI3Zb1Hi0> - Sermon

Song: My hope is built on nothing less

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>

We have been reading Psalm 19 during the earlier part of the service. The Psalm ends with these words – let us use them as a blessing as we continue to praise and worship our God.

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart

be pleasing in your sight,

LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Amen.