

Victoria Park Baptist Church Worship Together 21.6.20

Welcome!

Today is World Refugee Day and each of the E123 Churches will be focussing on and praying about the refugee situation in our world at this time. John will be presenting some information and sharing some thoughts around this theme. Anne will be leading our Prayers for the World

Let's begin by asking for God's help to be still, so that we can be aware of His presence with us. And let us fully commit ourselves to this present moment with God.....and bring Him our worship.

The psalmist wrote:

You are my God, I worship You. In my heart I long for You, as I would long for a stream in the scorching desert. I have seen Your power and Your glory in the place of worship. Your love means more than life to me and I praise You. Psalm 63:1-3

Let's praise God together as we sing

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky and sea"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgHrNNM23p8> Holy, Holy, Holy Audrey Assad

Some of the songs I've included in the worship today are performed by Audrey Assad, a Christian singer/songwriter. She is the daughter of a Syrian refugee who came to the USA in the 1970's, and she now serves as a musician and an advocate for refugees. The following is from an interview with Audrey in 2017.

She "hates" having to continually explain that Syrians and refugees of other nationalities are "just like us."

"They have daydreams, families, ambitions, business goals, and books they like to read over and over. We truly do not need to fear Arabs because they are Arabs, or be scared to integrate refugees into our communities because of what they have been through, or because of the colour of their skin," she said

It is her hope that she can use her position as both an American and a Syrian to "creatively serve their unification." It's also her hope that the Christian community will begin to see the refugee crisis and rise of xenophobia as a "perfect opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus."

But she's also realistic.

"I have had to come to grips with the fact that a lot of people don't feel the same way I do about the situation and it's made my music ... very focused on preferring the poor and uplifting the poor and serving the refugee and looking at them as if you were seeing Christ,"

"To hear them speak of their trials, you would imagine they'd be bitter -and honestly, they have every right to be - but instead they are grateful to be alive and starting again," Assad said.

Our next song 'Ubi Caritas' is sung in latin, (but with english subtitles!) The text has a long history, possibly extending back as far as the 4th century.

'Where charity and love are, God is there'

God is present wherever care for others, love and devotion to God are expressed. In this sense, the words are a reminder of the Great Commandment found in the gospels.

In Matthew chapter 22:37-40 Jesus is asked by one of the Teachers of the Law: "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Ubi Caritas by Audrey Assad

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_Pp0jKn1zQ

Open the eyes of my heart Lord by Audrey Assad

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

Father in heaven, holy is Your Name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us today the food we need,
and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us.
And don't lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever,
Amen!

Build Your kingdom here Lord!

Build Your Kingdom Here Rend collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8awpRHg5waw>

Just try and imagine for a moment what it would be like if you were suddenly in great danger and had to leave your home.

What would it feel like?

What would you take with you? (That's assuming you had time to pack anything at all)

Where would you go? Where could you find food and shelter?

Who would come with you? You may have family and friends that you'd be anxious about as you have no idea whether they have been able to escape.

Will you ever see them again?.....

The following video, 'You are a refuge for the weak' is from the engage worship website

<https://engageworship.org/ideas/you-are-refuge-video>

I'll hand over to John now.

In the week I sent round the short animation about Habib, and many of you have viewed it and thought about his physical and life journey in Birmingham. If you have not seen it, or want to watch again with friends and family here is the link to view again.

How does his journey and story make you feel? How can we help people like Habib who settle here in the UK?

https://youtu.be/_WdprHcOuJU

Did you know that many countries like Syria have their own version of reality shows including the voice. No, well neither did I,

Here is a clip from the Kids version with a young girl singing, The clip conveys a very different reality from what we experience. It is interesting to see the chairs turn round and help out. Could this be a parallel to our response to the cries of many innocent refugees.

<https://youtu.be/Kc1yfZngUms>

Anne has prepared our [Prayers for the world](#)

The reading is from Luke 10: 25-37 - [The Good Samaritan](#)

Talk - https://youtu.be/brm200n8F_I

If you would like to, you can use this song to say to God that you want to recommit your life to following Him.

“So will I” (100 Billion X) by Hillsong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfVd5x9W1Xc>

May the Lord bless you this week and always.

Let's bring the whole Church family at Victoria Park Baptist to God and ask for His blessing.