

Worship For Sunday 26th July 2020

Prepared by Neil, Talk by Eustace Constance and Prayers for the World by Chris. Eustace is an ordained minister of the New Testament Church of God and is the Operations Director of the Ascension Trust, responsible for overseeing the development, co-ordination and promotion of all the initiatives of Ascension Trust, including Street Pastors.

Let's pray this prayer of confession to begin our Worship and "Be clean";

We have not always lived in ways that reflect God's love for all. There are times when prejudice and ignorance have caused us to judge others as less important, less capable, less whole than ourselves.

Gracious God release us and grant us mercy.

We have not always lived as people assured of our place in God's heart. There are times when despair has been our refuge and we have turned from God's promises.

Gracious God release us and grant us hope.

We have not always lived as disciples of Jesus. There are times when the paths to wealth and power have been more attractive than the longer roads of justice, peace and tolerance.

Gracious God release us and grant us courage.

We have not always lived as people of the Resurrection. There are times when we have only seen the world as a place of threat and brokenness, forgetting God's creative genius.

Gracious God release us and grant us wisdom.

In quietness we remember those thoughts, actions and words that have marred your image in us, hurt others and damaged the world.

Silence

God has heard the confession of our hearts and minds.

In Christ we are set free.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

From the Wild Goose Worship Group (Iona Community)

**Heavenly Father may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, this morning. Amen
Now let us “Be Still”.**

**Be Still and know that I am God, in repentance and rest we will find salvation. In quietness and trust, we will find strength.
May the presence, power and glory of the Lord be with us. If the Spirit is with us, so is the Father and the Son!**

Last week talk we must listen to God, we must have a listening heart. In order for us to listen, we must first Be Still.

Still – Hillsongs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zcHHp0GTuc>

Silence – let’s spend a few minutes being still and listening to God. Let the words of that song wash over you in the stillness.

“in repentance and rest we will find salvation. In quietness and trust, we will find strength”.

Let us PRAISE God for Jesus this morning:

What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>

**God sent Jesus, God is Jesus, Jesus lives in each one of us who believes.
How many times in the day do we remember this truth?**

Picture Jesus now seated on the right hand of the Father.

Romans 8 v34

Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Call upon His name, it will be our battle cry! All hail the Lamb (Dave Bilborough)

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

Let us remember what the Lamb did for us.

Christ is raised, Sam Hargreaves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnLrrRj7N2c>

Chris has prepared Prayers for the World for us;

Introduction by Chris - China.

I find it very distressing to watch the negative news reports on China. As a world super power it is governed by the Communist Party, led by Xi Jinping.

The culture and values of China are vastly different from the freedoms that we take for granted in the western world.

Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of the press are all being eroded as the State becomes more restrictive and repressive. Human rights in China are being ignored as the driving force of the CCP is to extend its power over the Chinese to conform to the demands of the State.

Tensions are building up with neighbouring and other countries. We see:

- **increased restrictions causing protests in Hong Kong**
- **library books about democracy being removed from the shelves of public libraries**
- **brutal behaviour of law enforcers and we hear of**
- **appalling abuse of ethnic minority groups that have not been heard of since the second world war.**

One consequence is that the extradition treaty with Britain has now been withdrawn by the Foreign Office.

For us we must pray for the church. GOD IS SOVEREIGN and he rules over all nations - Ps 22:28

Let us pray with our sister in the video that Jesus will touch the hearts of those in authority and give faith and hope to individual Christians. The church continues to grow, the power of God is at work as the people pray.

Ps 66:7 "....his eyes keep watch on the nations. Let not the rebellious exalt themselves."

Video clip with prayer;

<https://youtu.be/pgQJ9D0Wjrk>

Our reading is John 3 v 16 & 17

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Eustace speaks to us on these verses [here](#)

Our final song, Who you say I am - Hillsongs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgBB863p2vw>

An Iona blessing.

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great fire,
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.

And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the window of a house,
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines.

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

Scottish Blessing, author unknown.