

**VPBC service of worship and praise – prepared by Hilary. 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020**

**Good morning everyone. Welcome to VPBC and our time of worship together.**

**We will sing songs, pray, read from the Bible and worship together.**

**Later in the service, Liz will lead our Prayers for the World and David Binns will be speaking on 1 Peter 2:9-24**

**But first, let us give ourselves time to come before God as we consider the words, Be Still.**

**The Hebrew translation of ‘still’(*rapa*) is to let go, slacken, drop, stop.**

**Sometimes it is interpreted as to be quiet, but it also means to loosen our grip and to stop frantic activity.**

**But being still is not enough – we must also acknowledge God.**

**Psalm 46:10**

**Be still and know that I am God.**

**Song: Be still and know that I am God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zN0XfOTC8U>**

**The Bible proclaims the power and security of God. He is holy and faithful, and good. He is all-knowing (omniscient), all-powerful (omnipotent) and present everywhere (omnipresent). We can trust him and surrender to his plan because we know that he loves us.**

**We all have anxieties and concerns – for ourselves, our families, our church, communities and our world, but even with these challenges God tells us to wake up and recognise that he is on our side.**

**It is incredible to think that even before we pray, that God is working on our**

behalf. We can trust in his faithfulness and goodness; we can be still before him knowing that he cares for us. We know who goes before us and that he is stronger than any concern or worry we might have.

But being still does not mean doing nothing.

We can worship, pray, be thankful, remind ourselves of God's goodness both in the Bible and in our own lives and watch.

Last week, Neil introduced a new song.

**SONG: Be still**

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

#### Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall  
into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains  
quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place  
where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on  
the earth.

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields<sup>[d]</sup> with fire.

He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the  
nations,

I will be exalted in the earth.'

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**SONG:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muAxo1rAx5o>

**Psalm 37: 3-7**

**‘Trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
he will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.  
Be still before the LORD  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.’**

**SONG: God of glory we exalt your name**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dl389oZ7rWg>

**The words that follow are the lyrics to a song. Let us use them now as a prayer.**

**Lord I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the grace that I've found in You.**

**Lord I've come to know, the weaknesses I see in me, will be stripped away by the power of Your love.**

**Lord unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face, the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.**

**Lord renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life, in living every day by the power of Your love.**

**Hold me close, let Your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to Your side.**

**And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle and I will soar with You.**

**Your Spirit leads me on, in the power of Your love.**

**SONG: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfIPQNTDhYk>**

**'But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.'**

**Isaiah 40: 31**

**When we are still, we can remember God's flawless record of faithfulness.**

**Psalm 46:8**

**'Come and see what the Lord has done.'**

**We remember two ways. First, by reading the Bible, where we are reminded of God's character, his miracles, his provision. Second, we remember what God has done for us personally. God loves us and he has a plan for us.**

**Joshua 23:14**

**'You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.'**

**Be still and trust in the Lord. He is in control. God promises to help us and never leave us. Talk to Him, trust in Him, be still, and you will hear His calming voice and rest upon His strength.**

**When the Israelites were leaving Egypt and the Pharaoh changed his mind about letting them go, they complained to Moses.**

**Exodus 14: 13-14**

**'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.'**

**SONG: Ah Lord God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpM-rPD0TPs>**

**When you say the Lord's Prayer, is there a word, phrase or line that strikes you more than another?**

**Matthew 6: 6 – 13**

**But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

**'This, then, is how you should pray:**

**“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.”**

**Recently, I found myself concentrating on just the first two words, Our Father.**

**It struck me anew that Jesus used the word 'our' meaning that all of us share the same heavenly Father. It reminded me that we are children of God.**

**John 1: 9 -13**

**'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.'**

**1 John 3:1**

**'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.'**

**This led me thinking of a song we have used recently in our services.**

**SONG: Who you say I am**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcC1Bp13n\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcC1Bp13n_4)

**Prayers for the World led by Liz - [here](#)**

**David Binns, who has visited us at church a few times, is from Aldersbrook Baptist Church. He is speaking on 1 Peter 2: 9-24**

**The reading by Bolaji is here - <https://youtu.be/-rULxxT-jns>**

**The talk is here - <https://youtu.be/vk2NsH6Ah4g>**

**SONG: Be Still**

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

**Blessing.**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!**

**Let your gentleness be evident to all.**

**The Lord is near.**

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**