

## Worship for Sunday 30th August 2020

Prepared by Neil and Hilary with contributions from many others.

Prayers for the World has been provided by Wonu.

Good morning Church. Our service is a little different today. We don't have a sermon but instead, various people have given their suggestions of songs, Bible verses and explained why they have chosen them.

### Good order in worship – 1 Corinthians 14: 26 - 33

<sup>26</sup> What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. <sup>27</sup> If anyone speaks in a tongue, two – or at the most three – should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. <sup>28</sup> If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

<sup>29</sup> Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. <sup>30</sup> And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. <sup>32</sup> The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of disorder but of peace – as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

Prayer of confession.

Psalm 143 – suggested by Sandie.

A psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup> LORD, hear my prayer,  
listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness  
come to my relief.

<sup>2</sup> Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.

<sup>3</sup> The enemy pursues me,  
he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in the darkness  
like those long dead.

<sup>4</sup> So my spirit grows faint within me;  
my heart within me is dismayed.

<sup>5</sup> I remember the days of long ago;  
I meditate on all your works  
and consider what your hands have done.

<sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to you;  
I thirst for you like a parched land.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, LORD;  
my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me  
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.  
<sup>8</sup> Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I entrust my life.  
<sup>9</sup> Rescue me from my enemies, LORD,  
for I hide myself in you.  
<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.  
  
<sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, LORD, preserve my life;  
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.  
<sup>12</sup> In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;  
destroy all my foes,  
for I am your servant.

Amen.

Constantine has chosen the song Amazing Grace.

He tells us that “the song was written by John Newton, a former slave trader and captain of a slave trading ship who was born in London in 1725. During one voyage the ship was caught in a horrendous storm and almost sank. Newton prayed to God and the cargo miraculously shifted to fill a hole in the ship's hull and as a result the ship drifted to safety. He took it as a sign from God and converted to Christianity and eventually wrote the song Amazing Grace. I chose Amazing Grace because most people would not willingly give up a lucrative business just to convert to Christianity.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXzETuK792E>

Constantine has chosen Bible verses from John 4: 23- 24. (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.’

Constantine says “this means among other things, worshiping God must originate from within, from the heart, it must be sincere. I chose these Bible verses because they encourage me to do the will of God, besides, it will not be easy for the devil to tempt me to deviate from the righteous path that I have taken.”

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

Your mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning, new every morning:  
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnOFh9WFe6k>

John 1 The Message

#### The Life-Light

1 <sup>1-2</sup> The Word was first,  
the Word present to God,  
God present to the Word.  
The Word was God,  
in readiness for God from day one.

<sup>3-5</sup> Everything was created through him;  
nothing—not one thing!—  
came into being without him.  
What came into existence was Life,  
and the Life was Light to live by.  
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;  
the darkness couldn't put it out.

Your Word – Hillsongs.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU\\_rGEbLDuk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU_rGEbLDuk)

Anne has asked that we include Psalm 111 in today's service.

Psalm 111 - The Passion Translation

#### Celebrate God's Greatness

1 Shout hallelujah to Yahweh!  
May every one of his lovers hear my passionate praise to him,  
even among the council of the holy ones.  
2 For God's mighty miracles astound me!  
His wonders are so delightfully mysterious  
that they leave all who seek them astonished.  
3 Everything he does is full of splendour and beauty!  
Each miracle demonstrates his eternal perfection.  
4 His unforgettable works of surpassing wonder  
reveal his grace and tender mercy.  
5 He satisfies all who love and trust him,  
and he keeps every promise he makes.  
6 He reveals mighty power and marvels to his people  
by handing them nations as a gift.  
7 All God accomplishes is flawless, faithful, and fair,  
and his every word proves trustworthy and true.  
8 They are steadfast forever and ever,  
formed from truth and righteousness.

**9 His forever-love paid a full ransom for his people  
so that now we're free to come before Jehovah  
to worship his holy and awesome name!**  
**10 Where can wisdom be found? It is born in the fear of God.  
Everyone who follows his ways  
will never lack his living-understanding.  
And the adoration of God will abide throughout eternity!**

Anne has chosen the song Great is thy faithfulness. She says “this song I have chosen was one of my Dad’s favourites and was used at his funeral. She also feels it echoes the words of Psalm 111 which we have just read.

Sandie has also chosen the same song. She says “Great is thy Faithfulness, this hymn tells us that God gives us strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all mine with ten thousand besides. I sing this hymn quite often as it helps to me remember and understand what God has given us so freely, and as he is so faithful to us, we must remain faithful only unto him.

‘Great is they faithfulness’ was written by Thomas Chisholm who lived from 1866 to 1960. He was born in a log cabin in Kentucky, and due to health issues throughout his life, he struggled over all the years to be able to earn a living. He had to go from one job to the next because he was limited in what he could do because of his health. But during his life, he wrote over 1,200 poems, many of which have become well known hymns.

Chisholm wrote the words and then sent it to a friend who was a music professor who wrote the music that we know today.

Shortly before his death in 1960 at the age of ninety-four, Chisholm wrote this.

‘My income has never been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. But I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care which have filled me with astonishing gratefulness.’

“The Lord’s loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; Great is thy faithfulness.” –Lamentations 3:22-23

<https://youtu.be/0k1WhFtVp0o>

Sandie also chose some verses from Lamentations chapter 3

Yet this I call to mind  
and therefore I have hope:  
<sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.  
<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup> I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him.'  
<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;  
<sup>26</sup> it is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

New Every Morning – Audrey Assad. Suggested by Liz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grz3Hxw9GWU>

Pauline has chosen Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

She tells us that “every morning when I wake up, I see God’s goodness.”

She has asked for the song Bless the Lord O my soul – 10,000 reasons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnlaN0A>

Jane Wright has chosen one of her favourite choruses, she says “I always feel rather emotional singing it. The words have become increasingly relevant for me as I have matured as a Christian and I know they are true. God lift us up, He is constant, His love is always accessible and this helps us in the hardest of times.

Faithful One. You are my rock in times of trouble

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

The Bible reading chosen by Jane is 1 Kings 19 v9-18, Elijah’s encounter with God.

The LORD appears to Elijah

And the word of the LORD came to him: ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’

<sup>10</sup> He replied, ‘I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.’

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When

Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

<sup>14</sup> He replied, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.'

<sup>15</sup> The LORD said to him, 'Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup> Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.'

Jane tells us "It is a passage I come back to repeatedly.

Elijah is so exhausted and fears for his life. He tells God exactly how he is feeling. God tells him to stand on the mountain, 'for the Lord is about to pass by.'

I love reading about the powerful elemental forces that then occur- the wind that tears mountains apart, the earthquake and the fire. How must Elijah have felt? How do I/we feel when we are faced with this kind of drama in our own lives? I try and imagine the noise, the ground shifting and splitting and the raging of the fire. Did Elijah just yield to these natural forces or try and get a foothold and hang on for dear life?

The natural phenomenon ceases and it is in this silent aftermath that Elijah hears the 'gentle whisper' of God. Elijah repeats his explanation as to why he is here and God repurposes him. God corrects Elijah's facts and promises salvation for the 7,000 who have remained faithful to God.

I suppose what I take from this passage to sum it up is this: that when I feel my world is sometimes turning upside down in so many different ways, I am actually on solid ground if I listen to God's 'whisper.' And He has a future for me."

Wonu has prepared Prayers for the World for us. Please see [the Power Point](#).

God Is Faithful (Adapted from a sermon found online written by [George Toews](#)).

What electricity have you used today?

Have you switched on a light, boiled the kettle for a cup of tea, charged your phone, tablet or laptop so you can take part in this service? What other examples can you think of? Used the toaster, heated water for a shower, listened to a radio or TV. The list is almost endless.

We have come to rely on electricity in most parts of our daily lives. And if that electricity fails, how do we feel? Annoyed, surprised? Our whole lives are dependent on electricity because 99% of the time we can rely on it.

**Are there other things that we rely on? Water to drink, wash in, flush the loo maybe.**

**Are there people in your life you can rely upon? Have you ever heard someone say that you can't rely on someone because they always let you down?**

**But God will never let you down?**

**Earlier, members from our church shared with us their thoughts about God's faithfulness to them.**

**Being faithful is an essential part of who God is. It is part of his character.**

**Only God himself is ultimately faithful. As a child of God, we have been adopted into the family of a Father who keeps loves us. He will never write us off or leave us alone. God will not change His mind or leave us behind. As a member of God's family by faith, you have entered a relationship with God, our Heavenly Father, who will stick close to you. He is a never-changing God.**

**Isaiah 55:10-11.**

**"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth.**

**They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry.**

**It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit.**

**It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."**

**As we come closer to God, His attribute of faithfulness becomes one of our characteristics. We become faithful in reading our Bible and praying, faithful in worship, faithful witnesses of the life-changing power of the Gospel, faithful stewards with our money, faithful in our work ethic.**

**So, God's faithfulness not only describes who He is, it shows us who we, as His children, can become.**

**Think about our God who knows everything about us, the God who created us. Then we can come to understand that despite being all-knowing of our every fault and our failure, He never chooses to forsake us, or leave us.**

**God is always faithful. His faithfulness leads us to Himself.**

There is nothing that we can do that would change His mind about loving us intently.

There is no place we could go to escape Him. There is no chance that God's faithfulness will ever cease.

There, we find hope and peace and confidence in knowing that the God we serve will not fail us.

Chris has chosen the following Bible verses for us.

**Matthew 28: 18- 20**

**<sup>18</sup> Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

**And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'**

Her song choice is "Here I Am Lord"

Chris explains that "Daniel Schutte wrote this song in 1979. He drew from Isaiah 6:8 'Whom shall I send?' and Samuel 3 the Lord's call to Samuel 'Speak your servant is listening'.

I love this song because it is a dialogue between God and the listener.

Song: The Lord of sea and sky

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWVr7Cp\\_0bA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWVr7Cp_0bA)

Within the church we are, by faith, God's family. We are each one a child of God and therefore related to each other. Regardless of ethnicity, social status or gender we are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3: 26-28 gives a clear statement about our relationship to each other and to God. This is in complete opposition to the world where there is division hatred and pain.

<sup>26</sup> "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew

**nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

**We are called to live righteously in love. The world needs our message of righteousness. I see a world that is suffering, trying to cope with all that confronts it: systemic corruption that has spoiled so much natural beauty, incompetent leadership, persecution, widespread intolerance and hatred of difference with racism and the violation of human rights and oppression.**

**I believe God has given the church responsibility for showing the world how to live righteously. Jesus tells us to let our light shine "Who will bear my light to them?"**

**The song also asks three times "Whom shall I send?"**

**But for some of us we may not have to travel too far. "Here I am Lord" for my friends, family, workplace and neighbours. For others it may be further afield Matt 28: 19 “ ... go then to all peoples everywhere...”**

**I pray the hand of God will move across all we do in our service for him.**

**HERE I AM LORD**

**Our final song, Be thou my vision**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiukM6WHQEQ>**

**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.**