

Worship Together - 6th September 2020

Welcome to today's worship service!

I hope you are keeping well and are continuing to know God's protection and sustaining during these weeks. We will have a message from Helen Fernandes, who is part of Bonnydown Baptist Church, and I hope this time will help you worship, receive from God, and continue to witness to who he is and all he has done.

We will be using the same material for those who meet in the church building as well as for those who access it online.

As we begin Becky will give us some notices about keeping one another as safe as possible when we are in the building:

1. Welcome and Thanks:

Praise God for keeping us safe so far and providing for us during these troubled times. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to ensuring that week by week we have a chance to worship God and listen to his word. It is a good feeling to see things getting back to 'normal'.

2. Help Keep each other safe: To help keep ourselves safe, we are asking that you observe rules including:

- If you have Covid-19 symptoms, do not attend church; but follow government guidance on self-isolation and testing and if positive, contact tracing
- Use hand sanitisers provided on entry to church building.
- Wear face coverings while inside the building
- When in church; there should be no physical contact between persons from different households/bubbles
- No serving of food and drink items before, during or after the service
- No distribution of bibles or hymn books; you can bring your own and take them away after
- Only one person at a time allowed in the toilet even when there are multiple cubicles (one person in the ladies, and one in the gents)
- Wipe down toilet seat after, using antibacterial wipes and discard in special bins provided or spray clean. Children under 11 must be accompanied.
- NO SINGING
- Place your offering in the blue bowls provided on the counter
- Please leave straight after worship rather than sticking around to chat.

3. RAFT: Jars are available for you to take home and fill them with you loose change

4. It will be very helpful if you can use the wipes provided to wipe down your chair before you leave.

I pray that things will return to normal soon!

And Toks will tell us about entering and exiting the church:

- The service is taking place downstairs
- Please enter from Bunsen Road
- Please leave as soon as service ends
- Please leave through the exit to the left of the kitchen
- Please do not gather around within the building or the premises

Let's pray this prayer together:

Leader: God is here
All: his Spirit draws us near
Leader: God invites
All: we respond through Jesus Christ

Leader: God welcomes home
All: he embraces every one
Leader: God is with us
All: in his presence we can rest

Leader: God reveals truth
All: in his word we place our trust
Leader: God lights our way
All: we will bring our thanks and praise. Amen

We might not be able to sing out loud in the church building but we can use our hearts, minds, souls and strength to worship Jesus. We can also move our bodies a bit, lift hands, and clap etc.

Let's praise our almighty God:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNq0WtMSmIY>

Take a few moments to give thanks to God for how he has walked with you this last week.

*Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness
Through the storm He is Lord of all.*

Let's continue with Cornerstone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3HH_-1Zbs

Psalm 121 – [powerpoint](#) – let's read this out together

I come back to this Psalm quite often.

This week I've been thinking about my kids who have started back at school for a new year. As you can imagine there is a lot of change and adapting to safety measures in the coronavirus situation, as well as a lot of media focus, and that is on top of the usual getting back into studying after the holidays, new courses, new teachers etc.

So, I wanted to spend a little time identifying who in the church is starting what this month and praying together using the psalm. We can also think of the teachers among us too.

I am gathering a list of our school kids and students but won't put that on the website. I may see if I can put it on the CareNShare group later.

Let's pray this prayer which is loosely based on Psalm 121

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, thank you that you know each of our children, as well as their parents and teachers, by name. You know the challenges they are facing and their worries.

Thank you for your promise to keep watching over us and keep our feet steady on the paths we are travelling

Thank you that you are our shade and protection.

In particular as the new school, college, and university terms start, please protect our children and their teachers from the coronavirus and its effects, whether they be physical, psychological, or social. Both in their places of education and as they travel.

Please help them to get back down to learning after the holiday and give them your peace so that they can concentrate, adapt to the differences and disruptions in their courses, and have fun!

We ask these things in Jesus's name. Amen

This next song talks about God watching over us. It focuses on being able to sleep in peace which seems appropriate in these anxiety provoking times, but as in Psalm 121 we can also consider God's protection on our going out and about.

Please join in the actions!

Wonderful Lord, wonderful God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hO9WBNeKNnk>

Psalm 62 says Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Let's continue to declare our trust in God

https://resoundworship.org/song/find_rest_o_my_soul

Pauline is leading us in our prayers for the world.

Nepal, officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, is a country in South Asia. It is mainly in the Himalayas, but also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. It is the 49th largest country by population and 93rd largest country by area. Nepal is a landlocked by China and India. Capital is Kathmandu. Famous Mountain Everest - 8,848 feet high.



I was watching heights from Soccer Aid showing how they spend the money raised to fund project across world, Nepal was one of the Counties featured. I remember looking the BMS pray guide and Nepal was on the request for payer.

Please join in a pray request for the work of BMS in Nepal.

BMS World Mission currently works alongside several local partners in Nepal, supporting them in teacher training, occupational therapy and other development projects. God's love is known by just over one per cent of the population and anti-conversion laws make it increasingly difficult for people to share their faith.

In the wake of the Covid-19 Coronavirus, please pray for the poorest people of Nepal, who

struggle to afford food when there are shortages and price increases because of India closing its borders.

Give thanks for the opportunity given to BMS partner, the International Nepal Fellowship (INF), to provide medical supplies and expertise to support those fighting Covid-19. Please pray for safety for INF staff and healing for those affected by the virus.

In 2019, over 4,000 physiotherapy and occupational therapy sessions were provided at the hospital where BMS occupational therapist Megan Barker works. Please continue to pray for the hospital as therapists treat their patients.

Pray for BMS-supported workers Dipak, Manoj, Durga and Shekhar who are Province Secretaries for the Nepal Baptist Church Council. Pray for wisdom as they lead growing Baptist churches across the country.

Please pray for wisdom for Nepali Christians, who each year faces pressure from their non-Christian family and friends to participate in Hindu festivals.

Pray for Joy Ransom, working with BMS partner KISC EQUIP in rural schools in Lamjung. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity as she prepares and delivers training in primary teaching, so that local teachers would be supported and empowered.

BMS worker Annie Brown is continuing to host trainings in schools across Nepal. Pray that she would be a good witness through her conversations and relationships with principals and teachers. In the beautiful country of Nepal, BMS works across many different ministries to bring the light of Christ to all. Tear off here to put a page of prayer in your Bible, on your fridge, church noticeboard or anywhere else!

BMS World Mission Prayer.

Helen speaks to us from Luke chapter 5 - <https://youtu.be/Ww8Ljy3sYaU>

Take a few moments to reflect on what has been said today. Is there something that you need to consider or do? Please do get in touch with the leaders if you want to discuss or pray about something with them.

As we finish let's sing God the maker of creation. It is a tune that might be familiar to you with different words.

https://resoundworship.org/song/god_the_maker_of_the_heavens

And let's say these words together, for ourselves, for each other, and for those we will be in contact with this week.

May the Grace of God uphold you,
the Peace of God surround you,
the Love of God flow from you
and the Strength of God protect you.

May God's Word be in your heart.
May God's Word be on your lips.
May God's Word be in your touch.
May God's Word direct your feet.

On this day and all your days to come
May God's Word be the life you live.

PS. I have had this old blues song 'God don't never change' in my head for several days and I wanted to share it but couldn't quite see how to fit it into the service. It is by Blind Willie Johnson who recorded it in 1929 and includes the lines "God in the time of sickness, God in the doctor too, In the time of the influenza he truly was a God to you ". Here are links to the original and to a couple of more recent versions.

Blind Willie Johnson - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKxdqLqOtgs>

Russ Taff - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1QvIbgiTlk>

Ashley Cleveland - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7H0QPnn_cc