

Sunday 13th September 2020

Good morning from Hilary. Welcome to our time of worship here as the community of believers meeting at VPBC and welcome also to those who are joining us at home.

We will share words from the Bible, sing songs of praise and share communion together. Please have bread and wine/juice ready if you are using this service at home. Later, we will hear from Robin, our Moderator, speaking on Matthew chapter 20.

Before we start our worship, there is an important notice for Church Members to take note of.

Church Members meeting: we have our September church members meeting next Sunday 20/9/2020 straight after morning worship. This is a VERY IMPORTANT meeting and all members are urged to make special effort to attend this one. Your views and contribution to one of the agenda items the 'state of our church roof' and what we can do including options for raising money for this, are important.

SONG: All heaven declares

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8y86qnKkmM>

SONG: 935 My Jesus my saviour

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

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
⁶ 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.
⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰ He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'
¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

SONG: God is our refuge and our strength
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muAxo1rAx5o>

Let us pray together as we confess before our God.

Loving Father
all the fancy words
in the world,
expressed in eloquent prose,
decorated with emotion,
spoken with conviction,
cannot compete with a heartfelt
'sorry'
when all other words fail.

There are times
when we are all too aware
of our limitations,
conscious of sin
and the distance it creates between us.

Sometimes 'sorry'
is all the heart can bear to say aloud.
It is only you Lord
who can read and understand
the language of our hearts.
Only you Lord, can translate our 'sorry'
into the prayer we would have prayed
if we had the words within us.

Then you forgive,
and having forgiven,
surround us in an embrace of love,
drawing us close to your heart
as it was always meant to be.

Thank you, Loving Father,
that you listen to hearts
as well as voices.
Amen.

Be still and know that I am God [Psalm 46:10](#),

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

Be still and know that I am God [Psalm 46:10](#),

Sometimes we take comfort in this verse – we are encouraged to reflect on who God is
and we rest or relax into His love.

But it is also a call to us to wake up.
For us to be in awe of who God is rather than a gentle call to rest.

Be still and know that I am God
is a command.

It is a command to stop, maybe even more specifically,
to stop fighting or stop fearing.

We need to acknowledge who God is and be in awe.

We might need to ask God what it is He wants us to stop doing.

Let us consider these thoughts prayerfully as we hear the words sung to us again.

SONG: Be still and know that I am God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOcSzEmcQ08>

Reading: Matthew 20:1-16 The Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard.

20 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius^[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³'About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the market-place doing nothing. ⁴He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." ⁵So they went.

'He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

⁷"'Because no one has hired us," they answered.

'He said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard."

⁸'When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first."

⁹'The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²"These who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day."

¹³'But he answered one of them, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

¹⁶'So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Talk: Robin

<https://youtu.be/tmAufh189p8>

Song: Remembrance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNgsO53aITs>

Bolaji will lead us in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Heavenly Father,

We give thanks for today and the possibility for us to share this communion as a family. We do this as a family here in the VPBC building and for those sharing this communion virtually.

We also give glory that you have enabled Robin to share communion with us today.

Your word tells us in John 6 vs 33 that "the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." In verse 35, Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

As we prepare to share the bread and the wine in remembrance of your sacrifice today, We are uplifted in the knowledge that regardless of what happens around us, you deemed us worthy of the ultimate sacrifice. That you would send your son to lay down His life for our redemption. There are many out there who have been impacted in many ways by this pandemic. Many who have no one to turn to, like we do. We pray that you will reveal yourself to them, Lord.

In Jesus' name we've prayed. Amen.

Communion

<https://youtu.be/T3L7mxM-gWk>

Song: 10,000 reasons

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

Blessing

**May God the Father prepare your journey,
Jesus the Son guide your footsteps,
The Spirit of Life strengthen your body,
The Three in One watch over you,
on every road that you may follow.**

**"The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24-26)**

Amen.