

Worship Together - 3rd January 2021

Welcome to our first service of the new year.

We can thank God for his care of us throughout the past year and look forward to his leading and help in the year we are starting.

We will have a message from Rick Bowman, and before that we will spend time worshipping God together.

But first, some **notices to take notice of:**

1. Monday 4/1/2021 - leaders meeting @7.15PM
2. Sunday 17/1/2021 - Special church members meeting @ 12.00 noon.
3. Monday 18th - Friday 22nd Week of Prayer 7PM to 8PM each evening

Please pray that the meetings will be productive. All meetings will be held via Zoom.

Let's start by reading these verses out loud 2 or 3 times

Psalm 100 says:

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the LORD is God.

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

In the midst of our personal, national and world-wide struggles God remains the same.

We are his, and his love and faithfulness to us endures.

So, whatever we have been through, and whatever we are facing, let's join together at the start of 2021 with each other, and with our many brothers and sisters around the world, and offer him our thanks and praise through these songs.

[Song: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord](#)

I couldn't find a video with the words so they are below if you need them

Come let us sing for Joy to the Lord x4

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation x2

*Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song,
For the Lord our God is the great God, the great King above all gods.*

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation x2

*Let us bow before him in our worship, let us kneel before God our great King,
For he is our God and we are his people, that's why we shout and sing.*

With the isolation and distancing mindset that we have to have at the moment I realised, while listening to this next song, that I am tending to forget that God's perspective is much bigger than my room, my work, what tier I am in etc. Actually, I am part of the 'every tongue in heaven and earth' declaring his glory, and even Covid-19 shall bow at his throne in worship.

[Song: Blessing and honour](#)

I also realised that I am not always 'bowing at his throne' and often go my own way, in my thoughts, words and actions. I suspect I am not alone in this and so wanted to offer this 'visual reading' of Psalm 51 by Richard Lyall, for you to use as space for reflection, or confession, or dedication as start this year.

[Psalm 51: 1-17](#)

And let's sing of God's love and faithfulness

[Song: There is a love](#)

[Song: Faithful One](#)

This video doesn't show the words so they are below if you need them

*Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, You're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on You
I call out to You, again and again
I call out to You, again and again*

*You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm, Your love is
The anchor, My hope is in You alone*

Let's remember the words we have just sung as Pauline leads us in our prayers for the world.

The year 2020 has ended, leaving some trails behind.

Let us remind ourselves some of the events of 2020.

We have a Pandemic right across the world, which has cost millions of lives. People losing love ones without saying goodbye.

Quarantine in your homes, unable to visit families and friends. We all have been affected; in one way or another. The government struggles to contain the fast-moving situation.

Heavy rainfall has causing flooding in many countries

The Philippines was one of the countries affected. The third typhoon to hit the storm-battered Philippines in as many weeks caused major flooding in Manila back in November, trapping people on rooftops and claiming at least 11 lives in other parts of the country.

The Cagayan River stretches over more than 300 miles, snaking through the north. It is one of the country's longest and most beautiful rivers, cherished as a source of abundance and life, 24 of the 28 towns in Cagayan province was under water. Mamba attributed much of the tragedy to illegal logging and quarrying along the river, which the government has tried to prevent for years. Deforestation in watershed areas, as well as siltation, have also made living near the river more dangerous. The casualties may be low, but they need to think how this would affect the local economy down the line.



Heavy rain has caused flooding in the Caribbean, affecting the Island of Jamaica. More than 280 roads have been damaged by heavy rainfall and flooding in Jamaica in the last 3 weeks. The heavy rain caused flooding damaging the many roads and bridges. Heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Storms Eta and Zeta has affected the island since late October 2020. Prior to flooding brought by Hurricane Eta, heavy rain from Tropical Storm Zeta triggered flash flooding and a deadly landslide. All this happened back in October 2020.



Kidnapping of School children in Nigeria north-western Katsina

800 children were reported taken in the latest kidnapping. Some of the children fled to safety. In 2018, the Boko Haram armed group kidnapped more than 100 girls in the north-eastern Nigerian town of Dapchi. Six years ago, in 2014, the same group abducted more than 270 girls in the town of Chibok. No group has claimed responsibility for the Katsina incident, and the area is far from Boko Haram's usual area of operation in the north-east.

Britain leaves the European Union

More than four years after the UK voted for Brexit, the terms of Britain's future relationship with the EU are settled. From January 1, the UK's economic relationship with the EU will be governed by a tariff-free trade deal.

Let us pray

Heavenly father thanks you, for your faithfulness in times of need, a shelter in the storm.

Thank you, Father, for your guiding light in the time of darkness, people struggling with Mental Health, losing love one, unable to visit family, find a way to draw close so they can feel the embrace of your love.

Restore the land in counties affected by flooding, help them to rebuild their lives provide

homes, planting crops again in providing food source. Which will rebuild the economy for their countries. Provide aid, each country needs to help them back on their feet again. The Families in Nigeria who are missing their children each day, hoping and praying they will see their children again. Father you see their hearts desire, draw close and comforted each family.

Now Britain has left the EU, its signed and seal, help the citizen of Britain to unite, working together to build the economy of the counties. Let us work together facing the challenges, a new beginning and direction ahead of us.

Lord grant the leader of Government wisdom to make the right decisions. Lord in your mercy, guide them.

Amen

Today's reading is from 1 John 1 verses 1-4

You can [read it here](#) or [listen to it here](#).

Rick Bowman brings us [today's message](#)

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 these two songs.

[Song: You lead us through the wilderness](#)

[Song: In Christ Alone](#)

This video doesn't show the words so they are below if you need them

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! – who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

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

**A new year coming and God is with us
In loving, in caring, in hoping and expecting,
God is with us and never lets us go
God live in us, God live with us, God live through us**

**God keep us faithful through the days that lie ahead
God keep us caring as we see the pain that fills your world
God keep us serving as we seek to do your will
God live in us, God live with us, God live through us**

**God keep us loving toward neighbours near and far
God keep us trusting through the uncertainties of life
God keep us sharing from your generous abundance
God live in us, God live with us, God live through us**

Amen.