

## Welcome to Worship, Sunday 21st February 2021

Prepared by Neil, talk by David Binns based on the passage from Mark 12 v 13 to 17. Prayers for the World have been prepared by Toks.

As part of our worship you may want to put aside your regular offering and also a gift for the Communion fund which is there to give financial support to those in need in the Fellowship.

### Let us pray.

Here are two versions of the Lord's prayer. The first is from a Primary School in the Diocese of Winchester, maybe you could pray with any children in your household?

Our Father in heaven, you are awesome!  
Show us who you are and how you want us to be.  
Make earth more like heaven.  
Please give us what we need to keep going each day.  
Help us when we are wrong and clean us up on the inside.  
Help us to let other people off and move on.  
Keep us from bad stuff.  
You're in charge!  
You're strong and powerful and always there. Forever!  
Amen.

Or use this version:

This second version is an original translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz direct from the Aramaic. This is the language that Jesus was most likely to have spoken.

O Birther! Father- Mother of the Cosmos  
Focus your light within us - make it useful.  
Create your reign of unity now through our fiery hearts and willing hands  
Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all  
creatures.  
Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath  
supporting all.  
Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to  
each other.  
Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back  
from our true purpose.  
Out of you, THE ASTONISHING FIRE, returning light and sound to the  
cosmos.

Amen.

Take a moment to prepare your heart for Worship. Ask God to draw  
near to you as you draw near to him.

[\(10\) Draw Me Closer Lord Song Lyrics Video - Divine Hymns - YouTube](#)

### **Prayer Time**

As we draw closer to God in worship, let's each one of us take a moment  
to pray for others in the Fellowship. Take time to pray as you feel led by  
the Spirit.

### **Creative Worship Time**

Sometimes it can be helpful to be creative in Worship. We are already  
singing songs but we could also write a poem or draw a picture of what  
God has made. It would be great to see them posted on the WhatsApp  
group?

We read in Psalm 134:

A song of ascents.

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD  
who minister by night in the house of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Lift up your hands in the sanctuary  
and praise the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
he who is the Maker of heaven and earth.

**Let us PRAISE GOD, not as we may but as we must.**

**Song: Praise God from whom all blessing flow.**

[\(10\) Andy Piercy - Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! - YouTube](#)

**Song: Let our praises ring!**

[\(10\) Let the Praises Ring Lincoln Brewster - YouTube](#)

**Prayers for the World – prepared by Toks**

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD 21/2/21

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present  
help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

The pandemic

Over 2 million people have died from COVID-19 worldwide.

Vaccine developers against COVID-19 estimate that, between them, they can make sufficient doses for more than one-third of the world's population by the end of 2021, but according to estimates from the Duke Global Health Innovation Centre in Durham, North Carolina, many people in low-income countries might have to wait until 2023 or 2024 for vaccination.

## **Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.**

Lord, keep us under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation in their anxiety, be their hope in their darkness, be their light through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

We pray for homes and families, schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress. Heavenly Father, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support, for college and university students, whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are canceled, whose graduation is uncertain: God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you

**Amen**

Gracious God, give skills, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick. For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, strengthen them with your Spirit, so that through their skills and insight many will be restored to health, we ask for their protection and that of their families as they care for the sick through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Lord, the leaders of nations bear the hefty weight of office as they lead us through this pandemic. So many voices speak to steer the course of travel yet there are many considerations. Enable our Leaders to stay on the course you have set for them. Be their wisdom and good counsel. Help them to distil the voices. Shine the light of your presence upon Governments and all who advise them. Please take their yoke, shoulder the weight of responsibility and lead us safely through this pandemic.

**Amen.**

*Lord God, we pray particularly for countries in our world who have less resources and infrastructure to respond to the Coronavirus. Lord God, in your might and power please limit the impact of the virus especially in the most vulnerable communities in our world. Give governments great wisdom as they put in preventative measures. Lord, we ask that you bless and protect the vaccination roll-out programmes*

*happening across our globe. Please multiply their effectiveness in protecting and saving lives. We pray against vaccine inequality and ask that countries would collaborate and serve each other, working together to fight the virus. Lord, help all of us to understand what it means to love our global neighbour as ourselves.*

**Amen**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. In the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### **Our talk today is given by David Binns:**

The reading is from Mark 12 v 13-17:

#### **Paying the poll-tax to Caesar**

<sup>13</sup> Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. <sup>14</sup> They came to him and said, 'Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the poll-tax<sup>[b]</sup> to Caesar or not? <sup>15</sup> Should we pay or shouldn't we?'

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. 'Why are you trying to trap me?' he asked. 'Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.' <sup>16</sup> They brought the coin, and he asked them, 'Whose image is this? And whose inscription?'

'Caesar's,' they replied.

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus said to them, 'Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

And they were amazed at him.

Here is the link to the talk, there is a slight glitch at the 4 minute and 50 second mark. Apologies for that but it doesn't seem to interrupt too much.

[\(12\) 21022021 Talk - "Render To Caesar" by David Binns - YouTube](#)

Thank you, David.

Not one of us can deny that we are in a fight at the moment. What with Covid and all that comes with it. Do we feel under attack physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually? Do we feel surrounded by our enemies?

So let us listen to God, as He speaks through his Living Word.

Elisha and the Syrians, who have come to capture him in the night.  
2 Kings 6.

<sup>13</sup> 'Go, find out where he is,' the king ordered, 'so that I can send men and capture him.' The report came back: 'He is in Dothan.' <sup>14</sup> Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

<sup>15</sup> When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?' the servant asked.

<sup>16</sup> 'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'

<sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.' Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.

In the words of the song written by Sharon Stanley-Adams (many will remember her, a member of our Church until she went to be with the Lord in 2015).

"A ring of fire around you I will make"

We are protected.

Exodus 14: Pharaoh chasing Moses and the Children of Israel

<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?' <sup>12</sup> Didn't we say to you in Egypt, "Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians"? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!

<sup>13</sup> Moses answered the people, '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. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you; you need only to **BE STILL.**'

Even in the middle of the fight, we need only to Be Still.

Do not worry, says the Lord, you can transcend your worries so that we can make a difference in the world.

So as we meet and contact people this week let us speak with "Power and Might" in the knowledge of the protection that surrounds us. A ring

of fire, a Holy army. We are in a fight but not against an earthly force but against the “principalities and powers of this dark world”.  
Remember, the victory has been won. The price has been paid.

Thank you Jesus.

[\(10\) The Song of Moses w/lyrics - YouTube](#)

## The Blessing.

Let us join together with over 65 Churches around the UK to sing the Blessing to each other and the nation.

(You might need to turn this one up loud!)

[\(10\) The UK Blessing — Churches sing 'The Blessing' over the UK - YouTube](#)

Amen.