

Worship Together - 18th April 2021

Welcome to our worship this morning.

I hope you are continuing to know God's guidance and encouragement.

Today we are going to spend time praising God together, Wonu is going to lead us in our prayers for the world, and Alan Beavis will speak to us from John 17.

As we are not able to collect an offering at the moment please consider putting aside what you might usually put in the offering as part of your worship, and keeping it until you can bring it in to the church.

This week's notices:

- Next Sunday there will be Flame prayer at 12 noon – more details to follow

Let's begin with a prayer by Sara Hargreaves – *do the actions and say the words in italics*

God cares for us as whole people, and the Bible asks us to bring our physical selves to him. Although some Covid restrictions are lifting we are suffering from a lack of the physical at the moment, unable to meet in the same room, unable to shake hands or hug our friends. So, when we pray now, we want to pray in a physical way, using our hands and bodies.

Of course, we are all different when it comes to mobility, so I just encourage you to engage with this to the extent that you can. Feel free to substitute a movement for something else that works for you.

Let's start by grasping our hands into fists in front of us. Think about what is distracting you right now - concerns you have, items on your to-do list, deeper worries about the future. Whatever you come with today, imagine that you hold it in your hands.

Feel the tension of holding on to all these things and the effort needed to keep your hands in fists.

In 1 Peter 5:7, we read: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Let's slowly open our hands and let go of our anxiety, allow him to carry our burdens today, because he cares for you.

Next, spread out your hands wide in front of you.

Psalm 143:6 says: "I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land."

Our hands are so empty, so full of need! Like the parched land cries out, we cry out:

Oh Lord, we are thirsty, we are needy! Come and rain down on us, fill us today with all that we need.

Now, if possible, move so your feet are touching the ground. Imagine that this is your root, receiving the life-giving love of Christ. As I read this famous verse from Ephesians 3, use

your arms to show how immense Christ's love is for us [how wide, long, high and deep]:

"I pray that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how WIDE and LONG and HIGH and DEEP is the love of Christ."

Now, church, you in whom the Lord dwells, let's raise our arms in praise to God to end. Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord. (Psalm 134:1-2)

Let's bring our praises to Him with these songs. As usual I encourage you to sing, clap, use actions, dance, or kneel as you express your worship.

[Song: Behold our God](#)

[Song: To God be the Glory](#)

Take a moment to thank God for answers to prayer or encouragements this week. Consider speaking to someone or using the whatsapp group to share a testimony of God's goodness.

1 John 3:1-7 says

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Let's come to God in humility acknowledging we have strayed from his ways, and thanking him for mercy and grace.

[Song: Daily I stumble \(grace enough\)](#)

Luke 24:36b-48 says

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them,

"Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Let's affirm our faith together

[Song: In Christ alone](#)

Wonu leads us in our [Prayers for the World](#)

Alan will be speaking to us from John 17.
You can read it [here](#), or listen to the whole chapter it [here](#).

Alan brings us [today's message](#)

Take a moment to think about what has been said today and anything you think the Holy Spirit is prompting you about. Please do get in touch with the leaders if you want to discuss or pray about something with them.

And then let's sing this song

[Song: Father let your kingdom come](#)

As we finish this time let's pray together.

**"You are the salt of the earth."
Sprinkle us across our town, God, across our world,
to bring the flavour of your Kingdom wherever we go.**

**"You are the light of the world."
Uncover the radiance that is within us, God,
to shine the truth of your love wherever we go.**

**"Let your light shine before others"
that everyone we meet may see our lives of worship
and glorify you, our Father in heaven. Amen.**