

Teddington Circuit Worship at home sheet for Sunday 16th August 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you. With thanks to David Priddy and the Connexional Team.

Opening prayer

We bless and praise you for the life You lived.
We praise and adore you for the truth you teach.
We praise and adore you for the way you call us
to follow your example.
O Lord our God, we bless and praise you. Amen.

Psalm 96:1-2

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

God has chosen to be with us through His Holy Spirit, we sing or say:

Song StF 385 – Holy Spirit we welcome you https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5_eGsD3gj0

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Move among us with holy fire,
As we lay aside all earthly desires,
Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Let the breeze of Your presence blow,
That Your children here might truly know
How to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

[Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.]
Please accomplish in me today
Some new work of loving grace, we pray;
Unreservedly have Your way.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Prayer

Thank you, O my Father, for giving me you son
and leaving the spirit 'til the work on earth is
done. Confess anything which may be a
hindrance to your relationship with God before
you sing or reverently say:

Song SoF 511 / StF395 – Spirit of the Living God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NYKyLyQExs>

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Fill me anew, Fill me anew.
Spirit of the Lord, Fall afresh on me.

Pause for while with hands open as you sense
God's renewed presence. If there is no sense, be
patient.

Psalm 96:3-6

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendour and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary

Prayers of Praise

If you can, look out of the window. Praise God
that he is the creator of all you see. Using each
letter of the alphabet in turn say aloud God you
are A... B... C... etc (Such as Amazing, Beautiful,
Creator, Quintessential ... Xcellent ... Z...)

Psalm 96:7-8

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.

Song SoF 210 – I give you all the honour

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

I give You all the honour
And praise that's due Your name,
For You are the King of glory,
The Creator of all things.

Chorus

*And I worship You, I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.
Yes, I worship You, I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.*

As Your Spirit moves upon me now
You meet my deepest need,
And I lift my hands up to Your throne,
Your mercy I've received.

Repeat Chorus

You have broken chains that bound me,
You've set this captive free;
I will lift my voice to praise Your name
For all eternity.

Repeat Chorus

God's Word

Prayer: Father, I thank you for your precious word. Please show me something through this passage that will help me show my love for you in a deeper way.

We are grateful that Jesus' Holy Spirit has set us free from bondage to sin. I am reminded of the time Jesus journeyed through Samaria and paused to sit at a well. Jesus acted against all the norms of the day and spoke to a Samaritan lady. He clearly knew about her and, to cut a long story short, offered her a new beginning. Her chains were broken – in her case it was her habitual immoral behaviour, but sin has many forms.

She was so excited that she raced back to tell the townspeople about Jesus.

We pick up the story in John 4:27-42 (NIV)

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no-one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way towards him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at

the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour."

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."

There are two things which I find remarkable about this story. One centres on Jesus, the other upon the Samaritan lady.

Jesus

More than anything, Jesus was motivated by a desire to obey his heavenly Father. So, whether it meant a dangerous trip through Samaria, a conversation with an unknown (and unclear) woman, or ultimately enduring the pain and shame of the cross, Jesus willingly did it.

Whether it was ...

- His mission in life,
- His reason for living,
- His understanding of himself,
- His interaction with others,
- the choices he made ...

everything was explained by this one thing: doing the will of the one who sent him (v 34).

Jesus is a wonderful example to us in so many ways. His motivation came from His love for the Father. He calls us to follow him and the question arises as to how motivated we are to do the will of the one who calls us.

We are Jesus' body here on earth – the church – and we all have a role to play. The Holy Spirit gives us various gifts to use in the church, but we have a common task which Jesus gave his disciples just before He returned to the Father.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

We can reasonably interpret that today as witnessing ‘at home, in our neighbourhood and to those who are culturally and ethnically different’. For, as Jesus said in verse 35,

open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

The Lady

The Samaritan lady is a wonderful example of the excitement to be found in having a real, personal experience of Jesus. Her new-found Saviour prompted her to tell her neighbours about Jesus.

In the verses before those we read, we hear that she received the living water Jesus offered – in other words the Holy Spirit. (See John 7:38-39.)^a As a result, she raced to tell others of the change Jesus had made in her life. In essence, she sowed seeds in her neighbour’s thoughts and raised their curiosity. They responded to Jesus. As they heard Jesus speak, they too believed and accepted Jesus as their Saviour. They were hungry for knowledge – so much so that Jesus stayed 2 days with them, spiritually feeding them the bread he referred to in verse 32.

The lady sowed the seed, Jesus reaped the harvest.

Us

Some questions arise from these thoughts.

1. How hungry am I for spiritual food?
2. Do I have the living water of the Holy Spirit?
3. How am I witnessing to God’s love for me?

The first 2 questions may be matter for personal prayer. The third question depends to some extent upon how you answer the first two.

We are all encouraged by scripture to make the most of every opportunity to tell of God’s love, proclaiming the mystery of Christ. (Colossians 4:5) It may be that God has called you to specialise as a sower, it may be that you are a reaper.

It may be that you fit somewhere in between and are one who is called to water the ground while the seeds that others have sown are growing.

Whatever your role – remember that, as a Christian, Jesus has set you free from past bondage to sin and that you have the Holy Spirit to enable you to tell others of His love.

Song StF 663 – I The Lord Of Sea And Sky

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9_6amNT_AE

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry;
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me;
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain;
I have wept for love of them –
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone;
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send? *Repeat Chorus*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them –
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied;
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send? *Repeat Chorus*

Respond

Take some time to identify areas where you need to actively determine to do the will of God. It could be something you’re doing that’s contrary to his will such as gossiping lying losing your temper etc. Or it could be something you’re not

^a John 7 ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

doing such as being a good husband or wife, working diligently for your employer, giving generously being hospitable or being an effective witness.

Note some goals in the box below and ask God to help you.

Prayer

Father, I come to you recognizing that I am weak compared to you, but knowing that you love me just as I am. Thank you that you love me so much that you want me to be more like you.

I do want to know you more; I offer myself afresh to you – cleanse me and make me new.

I want to share the good news with those who have yet to appreciate your love; I want to see you glorified through our actions. Please help me.

I pray for my friends and family, remembering especially *{name those who are sick}* and ask for your healing touch upon their lives. I pray for *{name those who do not yet know Jesus as friend and Saviour}* - may they know your presence even as I pray and come to experience your peace.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father

Make a note here of your goals and those you prayed for and remember them each day

As we conclude our worship, we honour God by reflecting on His love as we sing, declare and ascribe His greatness as in the earlier psalm:

Song – SoF 168 Here is Love Vast As the Ocean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM>

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of life, our ransom
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Benediction

Let the Risen Christ abide in you,
let him dwell in your heart,
let him be at home in your home,
that he may reveal in you and through you the
power of the resurrection:
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

