

Teddington Circuit Worship at Home Sheets
Sunday 13th September 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. 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 Mark Gilks and the Connexional team for their contributions.

Opening Affirmation

Disciples and doubters,
foolish and fearless,
we are all God's people,
and He welcomes us all
We draw near Him and worship.

Hymn: StF 59

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it
here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rce9UHYZwl4>

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus:- Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

Let us pray together

Lord you have created a world full of people
A universe full of planets and stars
You sent us your Son Jesus
To show us how to live in our world
May we have the grace to follow Him. **Amen**

Loving God, we are sorry
when we have wandered far from you.
when we have not listened to your voice
and listened instead to other voices –
the voices of greed, and selfishness,.
you have offered us abundance of life,
but we have settled for so much less.
Forgive us

Assurance of pardon

In Jesus we have been forgiven
So let us live as one who is forgiven,
in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

**Today's Reading from the Old Testament Genesis
50:15-21**

Today's Gospel Reading: - Matt 18:21-35

Time to Reflect – think about

Several years ago, a popular car rear windscreen
sticker had this slogan "If you can read this – thank a
teacher"

It was a crisp and clever message about the debt we
owe to those who have taught us.

The fact is we owe so much to so many, especially to
those who brought us up and to those who nurture us
in old age. Although it is great to say thanks, we rarely
are able to repay that debt.

Jesus told a quite sharp story about how you should
handle debt (Matthew 18:21-35). Peter had asked him
how many times he should forgive someone. The
Rabbinic approach suggested three times, so Peter
was hoping that twice that plus one would find favour
with Jesus. It didn't. Jesus tells him to stop counting.
Forgiveness to Jesus is a lifestyle not an equation.

The story Jesus used to follow up his advice on
forgiveness involves an almost absurd contrast
between two debts. One is the equivalent of the GDP
of a small country while the other is a few pounds.

Perhaps we need a car sticker that reminds all of us
just how much we owe God. He created the universe
and each of us, he showers us with blessings, and he
has sacrificed himself so that we can live in love with
him eternally.

Can we pay him back? No! Just like the first debtor in Jesus' story, the one with the massive debt, we are not charged to repay. The scale of generosity and the extent of forgiveness of us is colossal. As we live our lives basking in that generosity, we try to reflect it in our dealings with others, just as we share out the love that has been poured on us.

Now there are plenty of marvellous books about forgiveness. This might be because even the most mature Christians do not always find forgiveness easy! Sometimes even in one's own family, let alone our church family, we struggle to forgive, to let someone off for doing or saying something that has hurt us.

So, when we find forgiveness tough, here's a simple thought. Start with the big one. Start by reflecting on the fact that God has forgiven you. Yes, he's forgiven everything. Why? Because he loves you and wants you to be with him forever. And then, perhaps you need to forgive yourself, to see past your mistakes and failings. It sounds simple and easy, but we are often our own greatest critic. It's as if we act to ourselves like the first debtor in Jesus' story. He was hugely forgiven but remained unforgiving to a colleague.

It's so easy to keep picking over the bones of our mistakes, to keep looking in the rear-view mirror of life at where we went wrong. Let's follow up God's forgiveness by accepting it and owing it. This will help us to be the person Jesus wants us to be, to look forward with forgiveness and thanksgiving in our heart.

Jesus' advice sets in train a lifestyle of forgiveness of others. Of course, sometimes other folk won't want your forgiveness, will refuse to settle with you. Fine, you do your bit and leave the situation to the Holy Spirit, whilst recalling that you have forgiven yourself in the light of immense forgiveness that has been showered on you through God's Grace. Amazing, isn't it?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving and forgiving God
We pray for our world today
For Sunbury Church, the work of the Rural programme for students in the Methodist Church.

As we bring the virus under control
Help and guide Prime ministers, Presidents, Kings and Queens, all types of workers around the world, we

think especially of the nation of the Netherlands today.

For Parents and children
And all who have lost loved ones
may they feel your love this week as they go about their work. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to 'Lord I come to you'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL1POv2eY04>

Lord I come to You,
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I've found in You
Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love

*Chorus - Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love*

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day
By the power of Your love

Chorus

A prayer of blessing

StF771

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul
May his love dwell in you throughout every day
May his Countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you
May His Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.
Amen