

# Teddington Circuit Worship at Home Sheets

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 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.

## Call to worship

Wherever we worship, whether alone or with others; whether in chapel, at home or elsewhere; whether we are full of joy or overwhelmed by fear and despair; we are thankful that we worship together as a community of Christ. Amen.

## Hymn 503 (StF): Love divine

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

<https://youtu.be/sw5ZCZeS32M>

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## Prayers of adoration, thanks and confession

We pray together

Holy God,  
creator of all things and source of all holiness,  
we praise you for all that you provide for us materially  
and spiritually;

we give thanks for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who showed to us that perfect example of human  
love;

we praise you for your Holy Spirit, who empowers us  
to share that love with others.

We give thanks for our local Christian communities  
and the worldwide church to which we belong; may  
we praise you with one voice.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;  
accept our praise and adoration. Amen.

We confess our sins to God.

## *Silence*

We confess that we have not loved you with heart,  
soul and mind. We have failed to love our neighbours  
as ourselves. Help us to become the loving people you  
want us to be. Amen.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. This  
is his gracious word:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

Amen. Thanks be to God.

**Today's Reading from the Old Testament** Leviticus  
19:1-2, 15-18

**Today's Gospel Reading** Matthew 22:34-46

## Time to Reflect

Do you like trying to answer the questions posed to  
those who are taking part in quiz shows? How do you  
do? Now, of course, it does depend on the subject  
matter and the intellectual depth of the quiz. I, for  
one, would have little chance of answering most of  
questions on University Challenge, but a Question of  
Sport, is a different matter.

Some of the answers are in multiple choice format  
and in a lot of cases the correct option is glaringly  
obvious, for example in the early rounds of Who  
Wants to Be a Millionaire. Master Mind is a different  
kettle of fish altogether. The contestants select a  
“specialist” subject. They then answer as many  
questions as they can in 2 minutes. This is then  
followed up with a round of general knowledge

questions. The contestant with the highest combined total of correct answers is the winner of that round. No sports car, or holiday of a life time, but the winner of the series is “crowned” Master Mind champion and is presented with a trophy.

The original question master on that programme was an Icelander, Magnus Magnusson, who coined the phrase “I’ve started, so I’ll finish.” He used this phrase if he had started a question and was interrupted by a buzzer signalling that time was up. I have often used this phrase when I’m in the middle of a sentence and someone tries to butt in!!

Question Time, is a different sort of programme. A studio audience fires topical questions at a panel, of mainly politicians, who do their best not to answer the question posed. Their responses often reflect their political views and rarely does it satisfy the questioner. The panellists often disagree with one another and the host regularly needs to act as a referee. Wouldn’t it be great for a politician to actually answer the question that was put to them? Maybe it’s just not in their DNA!!

Jesus, during his ministry was no stranger to being questioned, either by his disciples or the religious leaders of the day. His disciples questioning was usually due to the lack of understanding of some Jesus’ parables, for example, the parable of the sower. As we read the Gospels we can sense they Jesus often got frustrated with their continual lack of understanding. I wonder if you or I would have fared any better?

Occasionally, Jesus was questioned by someone in the crowd that was following Him around. In Matthew 19 a rich young man wanted to know “What good thing must I do to get eternal life?” (v16) He didn’t like the answer he got, which was to “sell his possessions and give to the poor” (v21).

When the Pharisees and Sadducees fired questions at Jesus, they were trying to trip him up. But He knew their game and was more than a match for them. They tried to catch Him out with regards to paying taxes – Matt 22:15-22. Jesus’ answer was too clever

for them and we read that they left Him and went away. They regrouped for one last go. In Matt 22:34-40 the Pharisees asked Him “which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” (v36) He gave them a straight answer.

Jesus then turned the tables on them and questioned the Pharisees. “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” (v42) By v 46 they were speechless and they didn’t dare question Him anymore. The question asked by Jesus is still one that needs answering today.

What do you think about the Christ?

Take a time to sit quietly

**STF 545 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AdBkJurR4>

**Prayers of intercession**

Loving God,  
as we mediate on Christ’s commandment to love,  
we pray for the church throughout the world;  
for justice and peace between and within nations;  
for political leaders and all in authority;  
for the communities in which we live;  
for people who suffer in any way;  
and for all those on our minds today.

*Silence*

May the presence of your love be felt in every situation.  
We give thanks for those who have died, especially those who have lived in the love of Christ.  
May we be united with them in your eternal kingdom.  
Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father...

**Hymn 615 (StF): Let love be real, in giving and receiving.** Listen to it here:

<https://youtu.be/SkBAxZw5NxU>

or read the words

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
without the need to manage and to own;  
a haven free from posing and pretending,  
where every weakness may be safely known.  
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,  
give me your love wherever we may go.

As God loves us, so let us love each other:  
with no demands, just open hands and space  
to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,  
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;  
that helps us face the risk of truly living,  
and makes us brave to be what we might be.  
Give me your strength when all my words are  
weakness;  
give me your love in spite of all you know.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,  
no secret wish to harness or control;  
let us accept each other's incompleteness,  
and share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and  
disappointments;  
give me your trust when all my failings show.  
*Michael Forster (b. 1946)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

May everything we do be guided by the law of Christ's  
love; and now may the blessing of God: the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us this day and  
forevermore. Amen.

Original Materials by Tom Ferguson

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