

## Teddington Circuit Worship at Home Sheets

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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 Kan Yu and the Connexional team for their contributions.

### Opening Prayer

'Lord, we come into your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance' May the light of your presence guide our worship today. Amen .

### Hymn: Be Thou my Vision (Singing the Faith 545)

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

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/be-thou-my-vision-o-lord-of-my-heart-stf-545/>

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish, 8th century  
translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935) (alt.)*

Let us pray together

### Prayer of praise and invocation - adopted from the Original material by Rachel Atkinson

Loving God,  
You are our protector and glorious King, blessing us with kindness and honour.  
You sent your son Jesus Christ, Word of God made flesh, to put things right.  
You came to show us how to truly live, love and serve; how to live out the values of your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.  
As we gather through the online platform or worship at home sheet,  
we praise you for all that you are and all that you bring.  
We pray; 'mirrored here, may our lives tell your story' today and everyday.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray together

### Prayer of Praise and Invocation

Lord Jesus, Light of the World;  
You came to turn our world upside down,  
or rather the right way up.  
Word of God made flesh,  
You came to show us how to truly live, to love and to serve;  
how to live out the values of your kingdom here on earth.  
As we gather to praise you for all that you are and all that you bring, we pray;  
'mirrored here, may our lives tell your story'  
today and everyday.  
**Amen.**

### Prayer of Confession

God of all the world,  
when we get overwhelmed by the immensity of suffering - strengthen us;  
when we lose faith in your love for our world - forgive us;  
when we struggle to believe the your hands hold us - reassure us;

when we collude with the negativity of our world -  
uplift us;  
in all that we face and we do which have not  
witnessed your light, - forgive us.  
**(pause)**

Merciful God, restore us and heal us through the  
forgiveness of your son Jesus Christ. May we be  
renewed by the power of your Holy Spirit to be your  
voices for peace and bringers of hope, to those who  
are afraid and lonely in all times and at all places.  
**Amen.**

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25: 14-30

**Today's Epistle Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-  
11

You may like to read Acts 17: 1-9 which details  
Pauls' visit to Thessalonica.

### **Time to Reflect**

*I used to work for a company where every  
month we were visited by a mystery shopper.  
There used to be quite a lot of anxiety  
amongst certain staff around the time this  
visit may occur. When exactly would they  
come? How would we be rated? Our boss had  
us doing lots of extra tasks to prepare.  
However, I was never that worried, thinking if  
we were behaving as we should be, we would  
have nothing to be concerned about.  
One of the questions concerning the people in  
Thessalonica, who Paul is writing to, is 'when  
will the day of the Lord come?'  
Paul replies, 'about times and dates we do not  
need to write to you', that day 'will come like  
a thief in the night' (1 Thess 5: 1-2).  
However, for those who are living in the way  
God has guided them, 'this light will not come  
like a searchlight to reveal the sins done under  
the cover of darkness', but like the light of a  
new day (Howard Marshall, 2011, p1283).*

*The Thessalonians focus should not be on trying to  
predict this day, but living as children of light. In my  
job the mystery shopper came to assess how we were  
treating all customers. It wouldn't have done the  
company any good if we had only treated the mystery  
shopper well. It was the many other customers every  
day that would be speaking to their family and friends  
and at risk of not returning.*

*How we treat all people, how we live our lives on a  
daily basis, amidst the challenges and competing  
values of the world, matters.*

*The church in Thessalonica was relatively new. Paul  
had to leave after only three preaching sessions due to  
mob violence from those who opposed his teachings.  
The new believers were living during a time of  
persecution. There is the military image of being  
awake and on watch, but here, 'peace and security', a  
slogan sometimes associated with imperial Roman  
rule, is not brought about through military might and  
threat of violence, which only brings fragile peace.  
Rather the Thessalonian's are to put on the defensive  
breastplate and helmet of faith, hope and love (Roots  
Nov – Dec 2020). They are to live as a contrast society.  
They are to live the Jesus way.*

*Our Gospel reading is also set at a time where the  
values of God's' kingdom are clashing with the values  
of the world.*

*This parable is told two days before the Passover  
festival in what we now call Holy Week, where the  
story reaches its climax and Jesus himself brings about  
peace, not through violence but through the way of  
the cross.*

*Jesus, firstly is offering a challenge to his own day,  
a time where he is forcing a final confrontation  
between God's kingdom and the system that had  
resisted it.*

*The third slave could be seen as representing the  
Pharisees, who had been given the Law of Moses, the  
Temple, and the command to share God's blessing and  
yet had kept the light to themselves. The other slaves  
can be seen as those who take the good news of God's  
kingdom they have been entrusted with, share it and  
act to help it grow (Wright, 2004).*

### **To ponder**

*What do we do with the news of God's' kingdom that  
has been entrusted to us?*

*How do we live each day in light of this news?*

*As Paul writes to the Thessalonians, how can we  
encourage one another and build ourselves up in our  
faith?*

### **Take a time to sit quietly**

#### **A time of prayer**

*We pray for places where people face persecution  
for their faith and are not free to worship you,  
and for people who have not yet heard the  
Good News of Jesus;*

**Lord, help us shine your light and share our faith.**

*We pray for those who fear for the future,  
those facing job uncertainty or loss,  
those anxious about the continued impact of the Covid*

pandemic;  
**Lord, help us shine your light and share your hope.**

We pray for those who are ill,  
those facing loneliness, isolation and separation from  
loved ones;  
**Lord, help us shine your light and share your love.**

In a moment of quiet we bring before you our personal  
prayers.

Lord, we remember 'the light of your love is always  
shining' as we offer you these prayers in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: Hear the Call of the Kingdom (Singing the Faith 407)**

<https://youtu.be/d5AkyRFIKaM>

Hear the call of the kingdom,  
lift your eyes to the King;  
let his song rise within you  
as a fragrant offering  
of how God, rich in mercy,  
came in Christ to redeem  
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to be children of light  
with the mercy of heaven,  
the humility of Christ;  
walking justly before him,  
loving all that is right,  
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call.  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
filled with passion, filled with power to  
proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to reach out to the lost  
with the Father's compassion  
in the wonder of the cross,  
bringing peace and forgiveness,  
and a hope yet to come:  
let the nations put their trust in him.

King of heaven, we will answer the call ...

*Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and Stuart Townend  
(b. 1963)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

As we are sent out to live as children of light;  
May we walk in faith,  
be sustained by hope,  
and share the all-embracing love of God  
with everyone we meet.  
Amen.

Original material by Rachel Atkinson  
All Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here