

## Teddington Circuit Worship Sheets Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

### Opening Sentence

Our God set his people free and made an eternal covenant with them. Holy and mighty is our God!  
(Psalm 111 v.9)

### Hymn: 'From the highest of heights to the depth of the sea' – StF 48

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

<https://youtu.be/eK4NqGqmVt8>

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea,  
creation's revealing your majesty.

From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring,  
every creature unique in the song that it sings,  
all exclaiming:

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
you placed the stars in the sky and you know them  
by name.

You are amazing, God,  
all powerful, untameable.  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly  
proclaim,  
you are amazing, God.

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go  
or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?

Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light  
yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?

None can fathom.

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
you placed the stars in the sky and you know them  
by name.

You are amazing, God,  
incomparable, unchangeable.  
You see the depths of my heart and you love me  
the same;  
you are amazing, God.

*Laura Story and Jesse Reeves*

Let us pray together

Generous God we praise you, for the beauty and  
diversity of your creation – each of us placed here  
with a purpose – each of us called to love and care –  
each of us welcomed to share in your bountiful  
goodness. We thank you for each new day and the  
opportunities we have to worship, to learn and care,  
to serve and to witness – help us to know how to

share the good news of Jesus with our families, our  
friends and our neighbours.

We confess that there have been times in the past  
week when we have not lived up to the challenge of  
being a disciple – may the assurance of your  
forgiveness give us the wisdom and strength to know  
the right words and actions to use to reflect your love  
out into the world for everyone to see. Amen.

### Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Deuteronomy Ch 18: 15 to 20

### Today's Gospel Reading:

#### Mark Ch 1: 21 to 28

'They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath  
came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They  
were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as  
one having authority, and not as the scribes.' vv. 21,  
22

### Time to Reflect

It was only a few minutes after his Inauguration as the  
46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States that Joe Biden was  
sitting at the resolute desk in Oval Office signing off  
some 17 Executive orders. The new Commander in  
Chief set his stall in several ways. In the days prior to  
the Inauguration, he had been assembling his team.  
Then came the day when the work started. He needed  
to move swiftly on issues that called out for change. It  
was vital that he backed up the noble words of his  
acceptance speech. The people must know that he  
means what he powerfully has said to them. They  
must comprehend his beliefs, his identity, his way of  
getting things done for the good of all.

Biden had already made a significant point on the very  
morning he became President. Before all the  
ceremony of the Inauguration, he made an early  
morning visit to somewhere that is so important to  
him. He went to Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral in  
Washington D.C. He's gone to Mass all his life, even in  
the midst of heart breaking family bereavements. He  
didn't require tear gas to get there, and he didn't pose  
outside brandishing a Bible for a photo op. No, he  
went inside to worship God. It tells us all so much  
about who he really is.

I wonder if the President knew that he was following a pattern that is set down in that pacey Gospel of Mark (Mark 1:21-28).

Mark tells the story with his typical immediacy. Jesus has called his team and does what he has always done on the Sabbath; he has gone to worship at the Synagogue. That morning in Capernaum he gets the teaching slot, and he knocks their ears off! The crowd is amazed at the sheer power and authority with which he speaks and teaches. His team of disciples and the public are getting a clear idea of what he is all about. And then, the chance for action, to put the powerful words into visible meaning. Jesus performs an exorcism on a man in the Synagogue.

It's as if the spirit that possessed the man recognises Jesus as the Holy of God, before leaving the man at Jesus' command. The congregation is stunned. Amazing words and dramatic action. What sort of guy is this? Even without social media Jesus' fame flies around the region of Galilee.

Now Brothers and Sisters, we may not get to high office like Joe Biden, but we are to continue Jesus' Capernaum approach. Yes, we are to talk the talk and walk the walk. Words and action.

Speaking out about your faith is essential. There is spiritual thirst all around us. What you say in conversation, on the phone, in your text messages, and emails go to heal, build up, and love those in need of Christ in their lives.

God probably won't want you to perform an exorcism in Sainsburys, but he does want you to act in his name. It may be that the Holy Spirit will empower you to do something grand but it's likely that you are needed to donate some time, some kindness, some compassion to someone in need.

Let's pray as individuals and as a church family that we will recognise the opportunity to speak and act, even if it is costly.

So, our prayer is for courage to act out our faith, to challenge injustice and to bring love to others. In the words of poet Amanda Gorman: "There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it."

Mark Gilks

Hampton Mission Partnership

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

We pray for the world and ask that we can better care for and share its riches so that all people and nature can flourish. We pray for all health workers, carers and everyone providing vital goods and services we depend upon. We pray for our leaders to have care for lives and livelihoods so that everyone is valued for who they are. We especially want to pray for Sunbury Methodist Church, Sunbury Churches Together, Southlands College, Roehampton and the nation of Poland

We pray for the Church to have the boldness to speak and act for peace and justice. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and our Friend. Amen.

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

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: listen to**

'Jesus Christ is waiting' – StF 251

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6ilgzTu9P4>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Jesus Christ is waiting,  
waiting in the streets;  
no one is his neighbour,  
all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am lonely too:  
make me, friend or stranger,  
fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging,  
raging in the streets,  
where injustice spirals  
and real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am angry too:  
in the Kingdom's causes  
let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing,  
healing in the streets,  
curing those who suffer,  
touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I have pity too:  
let my care be active,  
healing, just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing,

dancing in the streets,  
where each sign of hatred  
he, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I should triumph too:  
where good conquers evil  
let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling,  
calling in the streets,  
'Who will join my journey?  
I will guide their feet.'  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
let my fears be few:  
walk one step before me;  
I will follow you.

*John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

May Jesus Christ, who by his birth brought together  
heaven and earth, fill our lives with light and joy and  
peace. Amen

Original materials by Neil Manthorpe

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Local Churches please insert CCCLi No here

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the  
Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource  
is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional  
Team. We aim to continue to provide these resources until the end of  
August 2021.