

Circuit Worship

March 7th - 3rd Sunday in Lent

offered by Jonathan Thompson

Call to Worship: ‘Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God!

The Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.’

Through the power of the Cross, our Lord Jesus Christ reached out in love to all the world. God’s Church, His people, are called to share in Christ’s humility and love, and to say to the world, ‘All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.’

Let us then join together in worship as we sing:

Hymn 409 (STF) ‘Let us build a house...’

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where Saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end
divisions
*All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*
2. Let us build a house where prophets
speak and words are strong and true,
Where all God’s children dare to seek
to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the Cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome,
3. Let us build a house where love is
found in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground where
peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is
revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that
frees us:
All are welcome,
4. Let us build a house where hands will
reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and
teach, and live the Word they’ve
known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear
the image of God’s face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome,
5. Let us build a house where all are
named, their songs and visions heard,
and loved and treasured, taught and
claimed as words within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to
rafter:
All are welcome,

Let us pray.

Thank you, Father, for your Church in every age. Thank you for our Brothers and Sisters in Christ around the world. Bind us together in your love. Guide us today as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and we thank you for the wondrous blessings that we share in the life of your Church- Blessings beyond price. Teach us dear Father: To see Thee more clearly, to love Thee more dearly, and to follow Thee more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: We join together in the prayer our Lord taught us to say in whichever version you feel most comfortable with.

Traditional Form

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever
Amen

Modern Form

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.

Lesson: Psalm 19:7-14 (NLT)

'The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them. How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.'

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

We sing together a Hymn that reminds us of our lifelong need of grace and forgiveness.

Hymn 168 (SoF) 'Here is love...'

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. 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.</p> | <p>2. 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.</p> |
|--|--|

Today's Gospel reading takes place just before Passover. The Annual Passover celebration is one of the most important to the Jewish people. Jerusalem would have been packed for the occasion. People flocked to the Temple and poor pilgrims were often exploited by those who sold animals for sacrifice, and changed their coins into Temple currency, in order to pay the Temple tax. Jesus sees

what is happening and acts decisively-driving all these merchants out of the Temple. Like the Prophets before him, we see Jesus' anger when the rights of the marginalised and poor are disregarded. In doing so he challenges the very system of injustice.

Gospel Reading: St John 2:13-22 (NLT)

'It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, and so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep and doves for sacrifices, he also saw dealers at table's exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, 'Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!' Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: 'Passion for God's house will consume me.' But the Jewish leaders demanded, 'What are you doing?' If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.' 'All right,' Jesus replied. 'Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' 'What!' they exclaimed. 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?' But when Jesus said, 'this temple' he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.'

The Church of God in every age.

1. The Church is a place of Worship and Praise.

Whenever we come to meet with God, whether that be in a Church building or 'within the workshop of the world', we should always be aware that we come to share in a glorious encounter. In recognising God's presence at Bethel, Jacob said: 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it! What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!'

We to are called to capture that same sense of awe and wonder as we walk with our Lord. That is not confined to the house of prayer, but should be evident throughout our lives, as we remember God's eternal love and forgiveness for our failings. Paul sums this up in an amazing way when he wrote to the Roman Church: 'But God shows his love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for our sins.'

2. We are called to be a Servant Church.

Jesus' example of loving the unlovable, caring for the outcast, reaching out to the lost, walking with sinners, touching the leper and the sick, and opening the gates of heaven to the poor, are a constant reminder to our dear Lord's followers that the Church must be a welcoming place for all humanity. We know that when we are able to open our churches again, there will be those who will be bearing the scars of loneliness, innermost brokenness, sorrow and tears, all in need of sharing in the means of grace and blessing, prayer and praise, the knowledge that Christ is here amongst us, and will never let us go. May the Servant Church bring hope, newness of life, a peace beyond all human understanding, and an inner joy that nothing can ever dispel. Let us dare to dream of how our homes, church, community, and workplace can be transformed as we share the good news of our Saviours love for all people.

3. We are called to be a Pilgrim Church.

God is the Potter-we are the clay. God is doing amazing things. Will we allow him to challenge and change us? Will our work and witness reveal our total reliance on the Spirit's leading? Here is a prayer

that Sir Francis Drake made his own during his adventurous journeys. May we be bold enough to make it our own:

‘Disturb us Lord’

Disturb us Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true, because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity,
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, Hope, and love.

Prayer for those known to us who are need of our thoughts and prayers. Named and unnamed.

Hymn 410 (STF) ‘Lord your Church on earth...’

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Lord, your Church on earth is seeking your renewal from above;
Teach us all the art of speaking with the accent of your love.
We would heed your great commission sending us to every place-
Preach, baptise, fulfil my mission, serve with love and share my grace.</p> <p>2. Freedom give to those in bondage lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage, grant release from fears within:</p> | <p>3. In the streets of every city where the bruised and lonely dwell,
Let us show the Saviour’s pity, let us of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races let us serve, and seek to bring
All the world to render praises, Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.</p> |
|---|---|

Closing Prayer and Blessing.

We go into the world to walk in God’s Light,
To rejoice in God’s love, and to reflect God’s glory. Amen.
We share the grace together, as we say to one another:

**The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all forevermore. Amen.**

Please be assured that Rev’d Lesley and Rev’d Kim are available should you need us during this time.

We can be contacted by calling:
01933 312778 for Rev’d Lesley Dinham
01933 622137 for Rev’d Kim Shorley

*Words for the hymns are re-produced from Singing the Faith Words Edition and Songs of Fellowship Combined Words Edition
CCLI reproduced under licence No.*