

# Worship at Home

Sunday 16th January 2022

As our call to Worship we read Psalm 147

## StF 134: Christ whose Glory fills the sky

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Day-spring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiance divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise

Loving God, once again in this relatively new year, we come humbly and full of awe. To worship and to thank you for all your blessings to us. We thank you for our families, our homes for the warmth and comfort that most of us have.

We thank you most of all that you came down to earth as your Son Jesus Christ. Living as we live but without sin. You identified yourself with us. You have given us the ability, through Jesus, to come to you in prayer. We praise you O Father that through Jesus we can offer you our praise. Praise for the

beauty of the world in which we live, while we are conscious of our failure to care for it as we should. So we come to confess our sinfulness.

*Forgive us our misuse of your gifts. Lord we are sorry for any way in which we as individuals contribute to the problem of global warming. If our actions have in any way caused problems for others. So, Lord, we ask you to forgive and cleanse us from all that is wrong. In the precious name of Jesus, we ask this. Amen*

## As the Lord taught His disciples, so we pray,

*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.*

The Gospel Reading shows us that Jesus was on a mission to save the world, the greatest mission in the history of mankind. We may at times, be tempted to think that we should not take time out from what we feel is our important work, to enjoy social occasions. But maybe these occasions can be a part of our witness. Jesus valued the wedding festivities because they involved people. Jesus came to be with and to be for people.

## Gospel reading: St. John Ch. 2. V, 1 - 11

## StF 546: Behold the Servant of the Lord

**Behold the servant of the Lord!**

**I wait thy guiding eye to feel,  
to hear and keep thy every word,  
to prove and do thy perfect will,  
joyful from my own works to cease,  
glad to fulfil all righteousness.**

**Me if thy grace vouchsafe to use,  
meanest of all thy creatures, me,  
the deed, the time, the manner choose;  
let all my fruit be found of thee;  
let all my works in thee be wrought,  
by thee to full perfection brought.**

**My every weak though good design  
o'errule or change, as seems thee meet;  
Jesus, let all my work be thine!  
Thy work, O Lord, is all complete,  
and pleasing in thy Father's sight;  
thou only hast done all things right.**

**Here then to thee thine own I leave;  
mould as thou wilt thy passive clay;  
but let me all thy stamp receive,  
but let me all thy words obey,  
serve with a single heart and eye,  
and to thy glory live and die.**

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

## Reflection

We have a text. The words of Mary. “Do whatever He tells you “ Always in the fourth Gospel there is a simple surface story that we can understand and retell. But usually there is a wealth of meaning for anyone to eagerly search for, for the eye to see and the mind to understand.

Cana of Galilee was a village quite near Nazareth. It was there that the Wedding feast was being held. Weddings in that culture lasted for several days. Mary, the mother of Jesus was there. We read that Mary had a special place at the wedding. She was obviously concerned when the wine ran out. For a Jewish feast, wine was essential. It is not that people were drunken. In fact, drunkenness was a great disgrace. They actually drank their wine with three parts water. So, we can see that for wine to run out was considered a humiliation to the hosts.

We all love a wedding and for the parents of a young couple, it is hoped there will not be any problems. A happy occasion is natural and good and there is real disappointment when things go wrong.

There is a story by Shirly Hughes entitled, "The trouble with Jack." A birthday party. Imagine a table laden with jellies, sausage rolls and all the things that children love. Just before, they were to eat, a two-year-old, and we know what they can do, pulls the end of the table cloth and all the food slides off onto the floor!! The children's faces fall in horror at the scene of something spoilt. Poor Mum and Dad!!

Mary stepped in "Do whatever He tells you "

When Jesus had performed the miracle of turning water into wine, the head waiter tasted it, and said "You have kept the best till last." Isn't that what happens when Jesus is involved? Jesus was no kill joy. He loved to see people happy at a wedding.

Someone said of a teacher, "She made me feel as though I was bathed in sunshine ". Jesus was like that with people, it reminds me of an old saying, "There are more flies caught with honey than with vinegar"

Mary's faith in her Son enabled her to trust that Jesus would bring good out of bad. In life there are situations that we do not understand. Periods of darkness when we do not see the way ahead.

The Grace of Jesus is limitless. He also brings imperfection to become perfection. When Jesus comes into our hearts, there is a new quality of life. We cannot earn Salvation, nor do we deserve it. Christ is waiting with open arms. His Grace is sufficient for all. That is the message we need to accept and share with others. By our lives not just words.

Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we do this.  
**Amen**

## StF 440: Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace — how sweet the sound —  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.**

**God's grace has taught my heart to fear,  
his grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

**And, when this heart and flesh shall fail  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.**

*John Newton (1725–1807) (alt.)*

## Prayers of Intercession

**In a time of quietness let us bring to the Lord any  
concerns that are laid upon our hearts.**

Lord hear the prayers of every heart, Lord hear us  
We bring to you those who are still the victims of the coronavirus. Those who are ill at home, those ill in hospital. Also Lord the new anxieties of the coming of another type of virus. We pray for our hospital staff and authorities as they cope with the pressures. Lord hear the prayers of every heart, Lord hear us. We pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Give comfort and peace as they adjust. Sometimes with financial problems, sometimes with loneliness. Sometimes not being able to see the way forward.

Lord hear the prayers of every heart, Lord hear us  
We bring to Lord the Nations of our world, our governments, those in authority over us. Give them wisdom, truthfulness and a searching for peace. We bring ourselves as we lift these prayers to the foot of the Cross. Lord hear the prayers of every heart, Lord hear us. **AMEN**

## StF 94 To God be the Glory

**To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:**

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;*

*and give him the glory - great things he has done!*

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God!  
And every offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:**

**Great things he has taught us, great things he has  
done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:**

*Frances Jane van Alstyne, (Fanny Crosby) (1820–1915)*

## Benediction

*May the God of love give you hope*

*May the God of Peace give you Joy.*

*May the Spirit of the Lord Jesus uphold and keep you  
in the Coming days, **Amen***

Service prepared by S. Molton/Ringsash Methodist Circuit

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