



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 27th December 2020 Prepared by Rev'd Phillip Dixon.

This written worship is for you to use as we gather in our homes to worship God, united by the power of the Holy Spirit in love for our Lord Jesus Christ whose birth we have just celebrated. As we turn the page of another year, from 2020 to 2021, a year so unlike anything we have experienced before, may we truly know that it is our faith in Christ alone from where we draw our strength and our hope for better times ahead. No matter what the adversity or the challenge, we will continue to rejoice and praise God.

Opening words:

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:16-19

Hymn: Jesus be the centre StF 447

Sing/read/pray/proclaim.

Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light
Jesus

Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song
Jesus

IN *Christ*
Alone
MY HOPE IS *found.*

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide
JESUS Michael Frye

Opening Prayer: God of every matter under heaven, we offer the events and experiences of 2020 in thankfulness of Your presence with us, through good and bad, thick and thin, valleys and peaks. Give us the grace and power Lord to leave the memories of the pain and confusion of this past year here and gather us together in Your loving and strong arms as a unified and loving church so that we may proclaim Your name and minister to the lost and the lonely of our communities. Join us as one body Lord, be the wind in our sails and the fire in our hearts, by the power of Your Spirit for the challenges of 2021. **Amen**

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:25-32. Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'

Reflection: Simeon is described as "righteous and devout", he has accepted the Holy Spirit in his life as we hear about God's revelation and guidance through His Holy Spirit. God has made a promise to Simeon and as he takes the baby Jesus into his arms he praises God. Jesus is the salvation offer for all, not just for some. Simeon's blessing and prophesy is an integral part of our Christmas narrative, he testifies that this baby is God's Messiah come at last to reconcile and save people from their sins, to heal and console those in pain and suffering separation. Jesus is a light for you and me, a light that provides us with revelation. May we be as prepared in this year ahead as Simeon was in his time -for the coming of the Lord.

Hymn: Lord for the years StF 470

Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.

1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,

urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:

2. Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:

3. Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:

for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,

Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,

loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,

hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:

Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -

self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,

past put behind us, for the future take us:

Lord of our lives, **to live for Christ alone.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b1926)

Closing Prayer: God of time and eternity, alpha and omega, beginning and end, our future and our hope, bless each one of us now with your unconditional love, that this year ahead -2021- may it be a year of peace, good health and physical closeness for us and all humanity. **Amen.**