



# Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Rev'd Phillip Dixon: "A life of Love and Service" Luke 10: 25-37**

These written worship sheets are for you to use as we gather, as one, in our homes to worship God. Welcome to the fifth Sunday of our six week preaching series, using Luke's gospel, to hear what Jesus is telling us about being His disciples. Please join me in praying that each one of us will hear this teaching and add it to what we have already learned in the past five weeks. May His Holy Spirit be with each of us as He leads us to be His disciples showing mercy and compassion to all people irrespective of their background, colour of skin or education.

## Opening words:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
Know that the Lord, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations

**Amen** Psalm 100:1-4

## Song: Because He lives (Amen)

Sing/read /pray/proclaim the words.

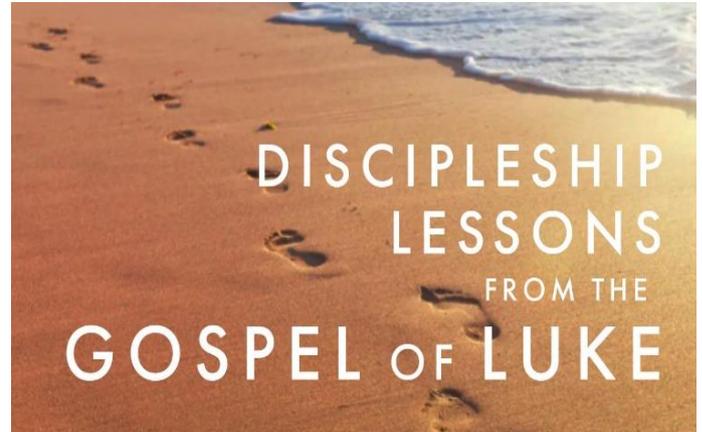
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LwBqG7uXbY>

I believe in the Son  
I believe in the risen One  
I believe I overcome  
By the power of His blood.

*Amen, Amen*

*I'm alive, I'm alive*

*Because He lives*



*Amen, Amen*

*Let my song join the one that never ends*

*Because He lives*

I was dead in the grave  
I was covered in sin and shame  
I heard Mercy call my name  
He rolled the stone away.

*Amen, Amen*

*I'm alive, I'm alive*

*Because He lives*

*Amen, Amen*

*Let my song join the one that never ends.*

Because He lives

I can face tomorrow

Because He lives

Every fear is gone

I know He holds my life my future in His hands

*Amen, Amen*

*I'm alive, I'm alive*

*Because He lives*

*Amen, Amen*

*Let my song join the one that never ends. (x2)*

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Daniel Carson / Ed Cash / Gloria Gaither / Jason Ingram / Matt Maher / William J. Gaither

## Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, our worship is a song that never ends, we invite your Holy Spirit into our homes and our lives afresh. We empty ourselves of worldly concerns and worries and open our hearts to receive your love, help us to hear you speaking to us. Fill our hearts with compassion for those in need and strengthen us to always act with justice and righteousness in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

Psalms 51: 1,2 NIV(UK)

Loving and forgiving God, we come to confess to You our errors; for the times when our pride, our self-reliance and our lack of love for our brothers and sisters have entered our thoughts and determined our actions. Your word says we must love You and our neighbour as ourselves, we are sorry for the times when that does not happen. For the times when our knowledge and good intentions are not followed by our sacrifice of self, for the times when we "hear" but do not "do". **Father forgive, Christ have mercy.**

For the times when we have made being a Christian a comfortable status, a statement of attendance or belonging instead of a way of living our lives for You and helping others to do likewise. Forgive us for the times when, through the sin of arrogance or pride, we have not been good witnesses to others. **Father forgive, Christ have mercy.**

For the times when we have believed that salvation is something to be achieved, a rule to be kept, a sermon to be listened to, a human process to be followed instead of the beautiful sacrificial gift of grace that by Your shedding of blood on a cruel Roman cross You freely offer to us. **Father forgive, Christ have mercy.**

For the schemes and plans of man, thinking that they will result in the growth of our gatherings instead of a prayerful obedience and the seeking of Your perfect will. For the sins of our world, for the aggression, the pollution, the racism, the greed and the immorality of sinful man. **Father forgive, Christ have mercy.**

*Pause*

Father, I name the specific things for which I come to You, asking for Your forgiveness....  
**Father forgive, Christ have mercy.**

*A time of silence to hear what the Lord may be saying to us today. To rest in His presence, to know in your heart His perfect peace, a time to accept His offer of forgiveness and be washed clean of sin.*

God of love and power, thank You for the forgiveness and freedom You have given me from my sins, heal and strengthen me by Your Holy Spirit. May I walk today a fresh and new path of righteousness accompanied by my family of faith, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Your Grace is an unmerited gift to me each and every day. **Amen.**

**Song: From heaven you came**

Sing/read /pray/ proclaim the words.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4963QPHAIM&ab\\_channel=ChetValleyChurches](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4963QPHAIM&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches)

From Heaven You Came, Helpless Babe,  
Entered Our World, Your Glory Veiled;  
Not To Be Served But To Serve,  
And Give Your Life That We Might Live.

*This Is Our God, The Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To Bring Our Lives As A Daily Offering  
Of Worship To The Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,  
My heavy load He chose to bear;  
His Heart With Sorrow Was Torn,  
'Yet not My will but Yours,' he said.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,*

*To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

Come, see His hands and His feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice,  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

So let us learn how to serve,  
And in our lives enthrone Him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we're serving.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

Graham Kendrick

#### **Our Lord's Prayer (the Christian family prayer):**

Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the Kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. **Amen.**

**Prayer:** Loving Lord God, as we read Your Holy Word together, we pray that our hearts and minds will be fully open to hear what You are saying to us about compassion and mercy and the importance of ministering to the person in front of us who is in need. May Your Word always be to us a fresh and insightful revelation and by the power of Your Holy Spirit may we be transformed by hearing it. **Amen**

#### **Scripture Reading: Luke 10: 25-37**

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

<sup>26</sup> 'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and "Love your neighbour as yourself."

<sup>28</sup> 'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."

<sup>36</sup> 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'

Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

New International Version UK.

**A time to pause, read again, pray, and reflect.**

**Preaching Notes: these notes are a supplement to the weekly video which can be viewed on our YouTube channel .**

To a respected Jew -as this “lawyer” or “expert in the law of Moses” certainly was - his question about what he must do to inherit eternal life was self-evident. He would have been familiar with passages such as Daniel 12:2 which states, “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” and from the prophet Isaiah, “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead” (26:19), the prophet Ezekiel, “For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!” (18:32) and more is said in the Psalms and book of Proverbs. The lawyer already knew the answer, he wanted to see if Jesus did.

The Preachers Outline and Sermon Bible (POSB) states, “The lawyer was not seeking the truth. He was not really trying to discover the way to God. His purpose was to trip Jesus, to lead Jesus to discredit Himself by giving some unusual answer that would arouse the people against Him”, to puff himself up, perhaps to present his credentials as knowing the law in more depth. Jesus was to have ongoing challenges from the lawyers/scribes and Pharisees, and he responded with clarity and without fear, “Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers” (Luke 11:46) and “Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering.” (Luke 11:52). The aim of the religious leaders in their interactions with Jesus was not to gain insight from Him but to have Him say something they could use to discredit Him in front of the people.”

Bible versions translate the opening word of the passage differently, “Behold” (idou) indicates that something significant is coming that relates to

what has gone before, something that we should pay particular attention to in a way that, “on one occasion” or “just then” does not quite achieve.

The lawyer knows very well the scriptures, the Shema is quoted twice daily by Jews “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5) and “you shall love your neighbour as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). In shorthand, “Love God and love man”. Joseph Parker (1830-1902) preacher and minister writes, “We must first be right with God, or we never can be right with man. If we begin by endeavouring to get right with our neighbour, we shall fail. But if we begin by establishing right relations with God, according to the conditions which he himself has laid down, we shall find that being right with God our whole life is elevated and all social relationships are redeemed from error, and our neighbour is loved with a lofty and pure charity.” Unfortunately, many people only do one (to varying degrees), by loving God but not His people -the church- or loving people but not God, both are equally imperfect and lesser than what God intends for us. Derek Prince relates a beautiful image of the two aspects of the cross, the vertical that holds Christ’s body, pointing to God and the horizontal, with Christ’s arms outstretched to hold and gather people to Him, both are essential and inter-dependant to a living faith.

Jesus is absolutely not saying that the mercy and compassion showed by the Samaritan to the Jew who has been robbed, beaten and stripped will provide eternal life and a careful reading of what He says confirms that. Salvation is from belief in Christ alone not from good works (John 3:36 and Ephesians 2:8,9). What is being highlighted in Jesus telling of this stark and very memorable story of the good Samaritan is the recurring theme of an inner faith and love of God and others rather than an outward show (the Priest and Levite of the story). A knowledge of scripture is not the same as a desire to put it into practise in our lives. The lawyer is a real person and not a figure from a parable, perhaps he did “go and do

likewise”, we can only respond for ourselves -to go and do, reaching the lost, making disciples, baptising and teaching. **Amen**

**Offering:** Had we been meeting physically this is the point when we take up our offering for God’s work.

**Prayer:** Lord we offer up our gifts, all things come from You and from Your hand we have gratefully received, at this time of giving, Lord we gladly and faithfully bring our offering for Your work. **Amen**

### **The Obstacle in our Path:**

There was once a wealthy king who decided to place a large boulder in the middle of a frequently used road. The king hid behind some bushes along the side of the road to see what the people of the kingdom would do when they encountered the large boulder.

The first people he saw pass were the wealthiest squires and merchants in the kingdom. Some just walked around the boulder, while others complained about the king for not making sure the roads were clear. However, not one of them tried to move the boulder out of the way.

Next, the king saw a peasant holding a basket of vegetables coming down the road. When he reached the boulder, instead of walking around it as the others did, he put down his basket of vegetables and started pushing the boulder aside. After much effort, he was finally successful in moving the boulder to the side of the road. As the peasant picked his basket back up and got ready to continue down the road, he saw a purse lying in place of the boulder. The peasant opened the purse to find it full of gold coins and a note from the king which said the gold was for the person who moved the boulder. At that moment, the king taught the peasant what many seem unable to understand, every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our situation. If you are met with struggles or hard times, or simply just a boulder in the road, try to face it instead of just walking around it- you never know what might be waiting underneath. Contributed by Kathy Mathew

### **Song: When I needed a neighbour StF 256**

Sing/read/pray/proclaim words. Note: The video misses two verses, perhaps play it twice.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fExR7eOhJO0&ab\\_channel=CHORGESANG-DasMusikmagazin](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fExR7eOhJO0&ab_channel=CHORGESANG-DasMusikmagazin)

When I needed a neighbour,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty,  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?*

I was cold, I was naked,  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?*

When I needed a shelter  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?*

When I needed a healer,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?*

Wherever you travel,  
I'll be there, I'll be there.  
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.* Sydney Carter (1915-2004).

### **Prayers of Intercession: based on StF 706**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Lord, in these dark days of winter and the uncertainty of coming out of lockdown, we look to Christ to be our light to show to our politicians the right steps to take to keep us all safe and yet try to bring us all to a more normal way of life without spreading the virus any further. We have passed the anniversary since the first person was diagnosed with Covid-19 in the UK, and now over 100,000 people in these islands have died of it. We pray, Lord, for the families who have been affected by the death of a loved one from Covid-19. We thank you that more than 10 million are now vaccinated with their first dose against this virus. **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Lord, there is so much unrest in our world. We pray for the people of America, led by their new President, Joe Biden, that he may show strength and determination to bring peace and justice to a fragile community. We pray for all the persecuted Christians in other countries who stand up for their faith yet face death as a result. We pray for Christians in Myanmar following the military coup. **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. We pray for all the refugees who are in makeshift camps because they have been displaced from their homes, villages and towns through war. They beg for food and water, but often the food parcels which have been donated by people in other countries don't reach them. We pray also for our own country, where many families rely on foodbanks and free school meals. Their incomes have dried up and many are going hungry. We pray for those who thirst for living water, which only Jesus

can give. Help them to turn to Christ, to receive the life-giving water which will sustain their thirst. **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. On our local streets we see homeless people begging for food and drink, trying to keep warm. We pray for them, Lord. We know that some are begging because of situations at home or through redundancy. We thank you for the work of the Salvation Army and night shelters, who provide a hot meal or a bed for the night. **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. We thank you, Lord, for our churches and the many gifts which you give to your people. Each of us has a part to play in the life of a church. Although we are not physically meeting at present, help us to support one another by our prayers. We thank you for those who are caring for our buildings, making sure that they are all right while not in use. We thank you, Lord, for our Prayer Groups, Home Groups and Discussion Groups, and pray that more people will want to join as we try to keep our fellowships together. We pray for those who have recently been bereaved. Surround them, O God, with your loving arms. **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.** Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today. **Amen.** Written by Pam Sturtridge

**Benediction:** Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice, for our joy is in Christ. Seek the restoration of relationships, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you, now and always.

**Amen**

Phillip Dixon, February 2021. YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182.