



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 11th April 2021 "Jesus provides for His Church" John 21:1-14.

These written worship sheets are for you to use as we gather, as one, in our homes to worship God. We are in the time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost and this is the perfect time to be considering the role of the Church in our lives, our community and the world to "make Jesus known." I believe that "Jesus builds His renewed Church" will really help us, as followers of Jesus, to learn some important truths. May God's Holy Spirit guide and unite us in these weeks ahead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Good morning church!

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

Prayer: Loving God, as we gather this morning in our homes join us and make us of one accord with our spiritual family, our brothers and sisters in Bransgore, Highcliffe, in many places beyond and the saints in heaven. We are separated by distance but not in our love and devotion to You. We welcome Your Holy Spirit to flood our homes and our lives afresh this morning, may the familiar fragrance and breath of peace, love, truth



and power flow over us and through us just as it did to the first disciples as they hid in a locked room those many years ago.

We represent this morning in our gathering the nations and people of Your beautiful, perfect and diverse creation; we also represent the emotions of our nation today, we are the hurt, the lonely, the fearful, the sick, the bereaved and the tired, yet above all we are a people of the Resurrection, full of Your promise of new life and Alleluia is our cry!

May our worship this morning draw us ever closer to You Lord, be our living hope and comfort. We love You and we worship You. Strengthen us for the days ahead.

We pray in the name of our precious Saviour and Lord Jesus, **Amen.**

We sing: O Church Arise SoF1981

Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.

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

O church, arise and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.

With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!"
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded
whole,
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory. Townend Stuart
Christopher Andrew / Getty Keith © Worship Together Music, Thankyou
Music, Thank You Music.

Prayer of Confession:

*When we repent in sorrow and confess our faults,
our frailty and our weakness, You Lord, being
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse
us from all unrighteousness. We confess our sins
collectively.*

Lord Jesus Christ we confess that we often fail
You as did Your first disciples; our good intentions
are not always matched by our sacrifice of self.
Our self-reliance results in us being less
dependent on You. Lord forgive, **Christ have
mercy.**

We sometimes lack the boldness and courage to
proclaim You and Your mighty deeds of power
and love, particularly at this time of resurrection,
with friends and family who do not know You. To
challenge the narrative of this world with its
greed and self-satisfaction and to stand up,
secure in Your promises, requires a strength that
you offer to us by Your Holy Spirit but we are
often unwilling to accept. Forgive us for the
negative words or thoughts that we allow to rise
up in us. Lord forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

For the times when we have not believed in the
importance of Your Church. You Lord are the
head of the body -the Church- and we are sorry
when we do not recognise or not proclaim your
Headship over us. Help us to know that it is
always Your desire to work in us and through us
and forgive us when we are not obedient and
willing participants. Lord forgive, **Christ have
mercy.**

Pause

Lord Jesus, I name the specific things for which I
am asking Your forgiveness... Lord 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.*

Words of Assurance:

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. I am reminded that, as a believer, I am
Your redeemed child, bought back into
relationship with You for a price, the suffering,
death and resurrection of my Lord Jesus Christ.
Your Grace is an unmerited gift to me each and
every day. I pray for Your Holy Spirit to fill me
afresh today with miraculous light, love, humility
and kindness so that I may always reflect your
wondrous glory. **Amen.**

Song: How sweet the name of Jesus StF322
Sing/read /pray/ proclaim the words.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUW1Dbw1BEg&ab_channel=MartijndeGroot

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name! the Rock on which I build,
My Shield and Hiding Place,
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace!

O Jesus, Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death. John Newton (1725-1807)

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: John 21: 1-14

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

⁶He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his

disciples after he was raised from the dead.

New International Version.

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

Preaching Notes: these notes are an extract from the transcript for the weekly video which can be viewed on our YouTube channel .

The disciples see the resurrected Jesus but were not yet filled with the Holy Spirit. It is symbolic that without Jesus in their lives they return to their old way of living which is unproductive. It is only with Jesus' intervention that things start to turn out alright. How true is that of us in our lives? We need Jesus as our cornerstone to stay rooted in Him.

Fish or fishing can be seen as a symbolism of Jesus providing for His Church running through the Bible, Jesus feeds the 5,000 (Matthew 14:15-21) with 5 loaves and two fish; in (Matthew 17:24-27) Peter finds a coin in the fish's mouth; and we have the stories of miraculous catches of fish in (Luke 5:1-11) and (John 21:1-14). Finally remember Jesus saying to Simon Peter and Andrew come follow me and I will make you fishers of men (Mark 1:17). At least four or five of Jesus' twelve disciples were fishermen.

The account of a miraculous catch in John's Gospel completes a circle because Jesus first called these fishermen to follow Him. Jesus again appears to the disciples (the gospel account states this was to be the third time) yet they do not immediately recognise Him. They have been fishing all night and caught nothing. When Jesus asks the question about their success in catching any fish he already knows their answer. Jesus tells them to fish in a specific area and they obey and catch a net load of fish, 153 large fish. In this part of the story Jesus is demonstrating to His future advocates that on their own that can achieve very little, yet with His guidance the return will be enormous, He reminds them that they are to be fishers of men. Jesus will provide all that they need but they need to follow Him.

Why so many fishermen? Perhaps because that was the most common job in that area? If Jesus

had physically walked upon England's mountains green and on England's pleasant pastures seen as William Blake said, then perhaps He would have asked farmers or farm labourers as they were the most abundant occupations before the industrial revolution. However Leslie Leyland Fields gives several good reasons why Jesus chose hard-working fishermen to be his closest companions. As she herself has a background in commercial fishing, she speaks from experience.

"Fishermen are like farmers, they're completely dependent on the providence of God. We can buy the best nets that we can find, we can keep them mended, we can know where to put our nets, we can have all this human knowledge, but unless God sends the fish, we're not going to catch anything."

Fishermen already know what it means to rely on God. *"So every time we throw our nets in the water, and every time the disciples threw their nets in the water, it's kind of like a prayer, it's like saying give us this day our daily bread. It's a supplication to God, Lord feed us."*

Being a fisherman is not a job for one person, and neither is navigating life on earth. *"We know if we're going to get anything done we have to work together...we are supposed to function together as a body."*

Many of us might think that Jesus would have selected the brightest minds of the Synagogues to be his disciples. However, that wasn't the case.

"He turned away from the synagogue, He walked down to the beach. He walked down to where the people were and where they were working hard. He went to the blue-collar people and He showed them that we don't have to be smart. We don't have to be rich. We don't have to be famous. Jesus wants one thing from us. He wants us to want Him. He wants us to be seeking Him." If we want that He will provide for us, He will provide for His Church.

All of these events or situations demonstrate Jesus providing for His church. He does not provide everything that we might want, He

provides everything that we need to do the work that He wants us to do on this earth and so to bring God the glory.

When we accept that Jesus will provide for us in our work we will see that what is provided is more than sufficient to do the task at hand, the provision is abundant. Our boat will overflow with fish. **Amen** Adapted from an original text written by Local Preacher Chris Slade

Offering: Had we been meeting physically this is the point when we would have taken our offering for God's work. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

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**

Participation in God's Mission: Christianity always was at its very beginning and must continue now to be a missionary movement and the Church exists to undertake this task. Committed disciples gather to strengthen one another and enable a multiplying of disciples, "Go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18). In these coming weeks as we consider what it means for Jesus to be rebuilding His Church I believe we must have a sharper focus on Mission.

We may have faithfully laboured to do so in the past but perhaps now is the appointed time to look afresh at what God's will is for us, as His Church to renew (rebuild) and go into all the world -if not physically then by prayer and the generosity of our resources. This week we feature Compassion who "release children from poverty in Jesus' name."

Releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name is a mission about love. We love God, and we demonstrate our love and live out our faith by extending care to others and living out the meaning of compassion. Compassion means "to suffer with," and it combines sympathy with

an active response. Because we are compassionate we act to lessen the suffering of children in poverty. We offer our programmes to the poorest of the poor, to the children in greatest need, without ulterior motive.

In this week's video Phil meets Mike Robins of Compassion and asks how we as a church can participate in the mission work of Compassion. If you are unable to watch the video please request a transcript of the conversation.

Song: Facing a task unfinished

Sing/read /pray/ proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFHdPCNliwM&ab_channel=GettyMusicVEVO

Facing a task unfinished
That drives us to our knees
A need that, undiminished
Rebukes our slothful ease
We, who rejoice to know Thee
Renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee
To go and make Thee known.

Where other lords beside Thee
Hold their unhindered sway
Where forces that defied Thee
Defy Thee still today
With none to heed their crying
For life, and love, and light
Unnumbered souls are dying
And pass into the night.

*We go to all the world
With kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save
But Jesus Christ The Lord*

We bear the torch that flaming
Fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming
That Jesus died and rose
Ours is the same commission
The same glad message ours
Fired by the same ambition
To Thee we yield our powers.

We go to all the world...

O Father who sustained them
O Spirit who inspired
Saviour, whose love constrained them
To toil with zeal untired
From cowardice defend us
From lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us
To labour for Thy sake.

We go to all the world

With kingdom hope unfurled

No other name has power to save

But Jesus Christ The Lord. Songwriters: Fionan De Barra / Keith
Getty / Frank Houghton / Kristyn Getty / Edward Martin Cash

Prayers of Intercession:

Father we see a lost and troubled world and when we are aware of the sadness, sorrow and pain all around us we pray, send your word of hope, love and joy to bring an end to guilt and fear and suffering Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Father open our eyes that like the prophets of old we may become more aware of your glory and your power surrounding us on every side. We pray save us from despair, fill us with courage join our souls to yours and make us channels of your grace and messengers of your word in all we say and do and are Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Father we pray for your church. There are times when we lose our way and are in danger of losing our hold on you when our soul becomes disconnected from yours. Give you church faith to believe, hope to reach out and love to make real. Rekindle our faith in the promise given to us in the Bible that all tears will be wiped away as death, sadness, crying and pain will cease through the power of your word in Christ Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Father we pray for Christians everywhere. We ask for courage to stand firm on the promises and teaching of Jesus. In a world that increasingly turns its back on its Maker we ask keep all your people faithful to you and your word. Give us the courage, the power and the conviction not only

to live by your word but to make it known everywhere and to everyone Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Father we pray for ourselves. Keep convincing us of your tremendous power. Assure us of the height, depth, length and breadth of your love for us. By your Holy Spirit save us from despair by connecting your soul with ours and so fill us with your power and be present with us and for us forever. Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

In the name of Christ we pray, God's Word made flesh in a lost and hurting world. **Amen**

Contributed by Chris Slade

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

Notices: This Easter we have been unable to distribute the Easter offering envelopes through which we collect gifts of money for The World Church Fund. Also we have not been able to hold the wonderful Circuit Service in which our gifts are dedicated and we learn about the work the Methodist Church is doing around the world. Instead the Easter Offering Committee have put together a YouTube video of a service and set up a Just Giving page to enable us to send our gifts. The link for the service is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qg9uuQq_6qM and for the donations:

justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate using the reference Easter Offering Service 2021. We pray that next year we will be able to meet physically for a Circuit service and distribute the envelopes. Contributed by Deacon Glenda Sidding

Following the sad news of the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh we pray for our Queen, his family and our nation and commonwealth in mourning his passing. His coat of arms states "God is my help" in whose arms he now rests.

Phillip Dixon, April 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.