

Wimborne Methodist Church

Sunday 25th April 2021 Worship at home sheet

Call to Worship

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Amen

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Hymn StF 298

- 1 Christ the Lord is risen today ;
Alleluia !
All creation joins to say :
Alleluia !
Raise your joys and triumphs high ;
Alleluia !
Sing, you heavens ; let earth, reply :
Alleluia !
- 2 Love's redeeming work is done,
Alleluia !
Fought the fight, the battle won ;
Alleluia !
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal ;
Alleluia !
Christ has burst the gates of hell :
Alleluia !
- 3 Lives again our glorious King ;
Alleluia !
Where, O death, is now your sting ?
Alleluia !
Once he died our souls to save ;
Alleluia !
Where's your victory, boasting grave ?
Alleluia !
- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
Alleluia !
Following our exalted Head ;
Alleluia !
Made like him, like him we rise ;
Alleluia !
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies :
Alleluia !
- 5 King of Glory ! Soul of bliss !
Alleluia !
Everlasting life is this,
Alleluia !
You to know, your power to prove,
Alleluia !
Thus to sing, and thus to love :
Alleluia !

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death and alive for evermore; we praise you for changed lives and new hopes through your living presence:

You came to Mary in the garden and turned her tears into joy.
For your love and mercy: we give you thanks O Lord.

You came to the disciples, locked away in fear and gave them courage.
For your love and mercy: we give you thanks O Lord.

You came to the disciples who fished all night and caught nothing, and turned their failure into faith.
For your love and mercy: we give you thanks O Lord.

You came to the travellers on the Emmaus road, and turned their despair into hope.
For your love and mercy: we give you thanks O Lord.

You come to us in our unworthiness, and turn our weakness into strength and faith.
For your love and mercy: we give you thanks O Lord.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

Lesson: Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Lesson: John 10:11-15

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

Sermon notes: Coming out of the shadows

Coming out of lockdown is like leaving the shadows and entering the light. David experienced times of crisis, shadows and fears but through them he developed a deep awareness of God.

The psalm sets a pastoral scene but we have been walking through the *valley of shadows*. Covid-19 has caused chaos, despair and death for so many families but David affirms 'I will fear no evil, for thou art with me'.

The shepherd uses his staff to guide and rescue the sheep. Jesus, as the good shepherd, does this too. Before us is a table laden with wonderful food. Honoured guests are anointed. Jesus anoints us with the Holy Spirit so that our cup overflows. In our darkest moments we can still 'Thank God with hearts and hands and voices'.

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we bring to you all those who struggle, suffer and are bewildered today. We pray for the people of Myanmar, Nigeria, Yemen, Syria and all places where there is unrest, turmoil and disruption. We pray for migrants and displaced people who have experienced injustice and exploitation and also for all who feel they don't belong anywhere and who live in fear of the future.

Lord in your mercy...Hear our prayer

We pray for our country; for those in authority, that they will have integrity in their decision making. We give thanks for the progress of the vaccination programme and for the reduction in infection and deaths from Covid-19. We thank you too for all who work in organisations which seek to relieve hardship, enabling people to have better lives. May your Spirit move throughout our nation, engendering respect for others, care for the needy and concern for those who find it difficult to face each day.

Lord in your mercy...Hear our prayer

We pray for the sick and bereaved, for those known to us who are going through difficult times. May they know your loving arms around them and may they experience your power to heal body, mind and spirit. We thank you for those we have known and loved and who are now part of the communion of saints in heaven.

Lord in your mercy...Hear our prayer

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn StF

- 1 Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

- 2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessèd peace to cheer us ;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart (1586–1649)

translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)

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The Blessing of God, father Son and Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.