



# Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 "Jesus strengthens his church" Luke 24: 36-49. Deacon Paul Wayne.**

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 and trust that this series, "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:** Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40: 28-31 NIV

**Prayer:** Loving and gracious God we thank You for this day. This is the day You have made and we give thanks for it. At a time when we cannot be together physically, we are encouraged and strengthened by knowing we are a people of "one accord" in our love, trust, faith and devotion of You. As we gather together in our own homes this morning to worship You, we pray for Your



presence with us and Your abundant and generous blessing upon us. We pray that all we do in our praise of You glorifies Your Holy name. We pray in the name of our precious Saviour and Lord, Jesus. **Amen.**

**We sing:** Strength will rise / Everlasting God  
Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.

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

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord x2

Our God, You reign forever  
Our hope, our strong deliverer  
You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord x2

Our God, You reign forever  
Our hope, our strong deliverer  
You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Our God, You reign forever  
Our hope, our strong deliverer  
You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Brown Brenton Gifford, Riley Kenneth Henry

### Prayer of Confession:

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:15,16*

Lord, as we worship you today, we recognise our weakness and fragility. Help us to see in a fresh way today Your calling on our lives.

Open the eyes of our hearts to what is possible when we give over all of our lives to You and stop relying solely on our own strength. We are sorry for the times when we have not come to You first in times of trouble. For the times when we have spoken critically of another in ways that are demeaning or unkind. For times when we have not been a good witness of Your unfailing love, when we have not been an encouragement to others but instead used negative words.

*Pause*

Lord Jesus, in the stillness of my heart I name the specific things for which I come now, in humility and sorrow, repenting of and asking Your forgiveness...

*A time of silence to hear what the Lord may be saying to us.*

God of love and power, thank You for the forgiveness from my sins, strengthen me I pray, by Your Holy Spirit, that I may walk, this and every coming day, the path of righteousness and holiness with You. Thank You for placing with this group of people -Your church- who in love hold me accountable for my actions and words. My past life of sin is behind me and Your cross ever before me. I am forever Yours, a redeemed child of light, bought with Your sacrifice and blood on a cruel yet now empty cross, I am dead to sin and fully and gloriously alive in You. **Amen.**

O God our Father, You sent Your Son to be my Saviour: renew in me day by day the power of Your Holy Spirit; that with knowledge and zeal, with courage and love, with gratitude and hope, I may strive powerfully in Your service: keep my vision clear, my aspiration high, my purpose firm and my sympathy wide; that I may live as a faithful soldier and servant of my Lord, Jesus

Christ. **Amen** Based on the prayer of William Temple (1881-1944). Archbishop of Canterbury.

**Song:** God's Spirit is in my heart StF 404

Sing/read /pray/ proclaim the words.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzi2q2m65mA&ab\\_channel=MattBeckingham](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzi2q2m65mA&ab_channel=MattBeckingham)

God's Spirit is in my heart,  
He has called me and set me apart.  
This is what I have to do,  
what I have to do.

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom  
of God has come,  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom  
of God has come.*

Just as the Father sent me,  
So I'm sending you out to be  
My witnesses throughout the world,  
The whole of the world.

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom  
of God has come,  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom  
of God has come.*

Don't worry what you have to say,  
Don't worry because on that day  
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,  
Will speak in your heart.

*He sent me...*

V1 and refrain Alan Dale (1902-1979) vv. 2-4 Hubert Richards (1921-2010)

#### **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:** Lord, prepare our hearts for the reading of Your Word. Help us to understand the meaning of what we are reading and how You are speaking to us through it. We pray that we may be both strengthened and challenged by its meaning. May Your Holy Spirit, who inspired these words of scripture to be written come to us now in power and truth. Thank you Lord for the message you have given Deacon Paul to faithfully share with us today. **Amen.**

#### **Gospel Reading: Luke 24: 36-49**

<sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

<sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." **Amen**

New International Version (NIV).

#### **Ephesians 3:12-21**

<sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through

faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! **Amen**

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

### **Preaching Notes:**

After the resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples over a six-week period. The two on the road to Emmaus have come back to the upper room and told them that they had met with Jesus and he had been in their home and suddenly, Jesus stood among them.

The question I ask myself is, why did he come back for that 6-week period? Why didn't he go straight from the grave back to his Father? As I read this story, I get the impression that he was putting the finishing touches to his disciples. He had trained them for three years and they would graduate in a couple of months and he was giving them the final touches, he is teaching them certain lessons. What are these lessons?

#### Firstly, he showed them his body.

All through the 3 years of ministry he had always drawn attention to his spiritual self. After his resurrection he drew attention to his physical qualities. He says I am real touch me I am not a ghost. Jesus wanted them to know that the future for us in our resurrected lives are going to have bodies like Jesus, real bodies, bodies that can be touched. This is why he took pains to make sure that they knew he was real.

#### Secondly, he taught them his book.

During his years of ministry while he had quoted a text here and there, he never gave a bible

study. He had never taken them through the word. Now you see a change he takes them through the bible. He takes them through all the parts of the bible he had. He didn't have the new testament he only had the old. Here is a lesson for many—Jesus taught them the old testament as the word of God and the book about himself. There is a notion amongst some that Christians should not bother about the old testament that it is a sub-Christian book. Don't believe it—if you want to find out about Jesus it is the old testament that you will need to learn.

#### Thirdly he emphasised the need to be witnesses.

They needed to leave the upper room and share centre stage with him and go into all the world with the call to repentance and the offer of forgiveness in his name.

#### Fourthly Jesus makes a solemn promise.

I am going to send you what my Father promised, but stay in the City, until you have been clothed with power from on high.

#### Ephesians 3:14-21

in the book of Ephesians Paul offers a prayer for the spiritual

empowering of the church. He offers this prayer with the trust that through faith in Jesus Christ they would experience the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit in their hearts. That they would grasp the full extent of Christ's love and be filled with the fullness of God. **Amen** Written by Deacon Paul Wayne

**Offering:** Had we been meeting physically this is the point when we would have taken our financial offering for God's work. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving. For ways to give to support the work of our church please contact our treasurers, Kate Phillips for Bransgore and Ken Sidding for Highcliffe.

**Prayer:** Lord we offer up our gifts, all things come from You and from Your hand we have gratefully received. We return a portion that it may be set apart and used wisely for Your work. **Amen**

**Song:** Hear the call of the kingdom StF 407

Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLUdwB0Qvc&ab\\_channel=Bridgewater](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLUdwB0Qvc&ab_channel=Bridgewater)

Hear the call of the kingdom  
Lift your eyes to the King  
Let His song rise within you  
As a fragrant offering  
Of how God rich in mercy  
Came in Christ to redeem  
All who trust in His unfailing grace

Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To be children of light  
With the mercy of heaven  
The humility of Christ  
Walking justly before Him  
Loving all that is right  
That the life of Christ may shine through us

King of Heaven we will answer the call  
We will follow bringing hope to the world  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
Salvation in Jesus' name

Hear the call of the Kingdom  
To reach out to the lost  
With the Father's compassion  
In the wonder of the cross  
Bringing peace and forgiveness  
And a hope yet to come  
Let the nations put their trust in Him

King of Heaven we will answer the call  
We will follow bringing hope to the world  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
Salvation in Jesus' name

King of Heaven we will answer the call  
We will follow bringing hope to the world  
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
Salvation in Jesus' name

Keith and Kristyn Getty with Stuart Townend.

**Participation in God's Mission:** During the past three weeks we have shared in understanding more of the mission work, both near and far, undertaken by Compassion, Pace and Barnabas Fund. I very much hope you agree with me that we do not wish to merely raise an awareness of the work of Christian mission on a particular week but rather consider partnering with them continually through prayer and financial support. The need exists every day.

**Prayers of Intercession:** With humble supplication we bring our prayers of intercession to you Almighty God in awareness that Your Son our Resurrected Lord and Saviour provides for us His People, His Church here on Earth, that He walks with us, Providing, Commissioning, Strengthening and Renewing us.

**Lord God hear our prayer and renew us to serve you.**

**Listening God,** we bring before you the Young People and Children of this area, this country and the wider world. May they through their interactions with Christian Agencies and individual Christian witness catch something of the wonder of your love and care for them and all people, for in your earthly life you said "Suffer the little children to come unto me".

**Lord God hear our prayer and renew us to serve you.**

**Searching God** you find us when we go astray. In this our modern society so much is lost and torn – some of our young people carry knives because they feel insecure and frightened. The internet and social media which can have great influence for good can be used to bully, to spread discontent and evil thoughts and deeds. We humbly ask that you be with and support policy makers, teachers, youth workers, family workers and all those who stand for truth, loving care and justice for all people.

We ask too that you be with our country at this time of continuing uncertainty and local elections. Be with our leaders and politicians and help us to care for one another being unselfish in

our interactions and in our giving of our time, talents and money.

**Lord God hear our prayer and renew us to serve you.**

**Suffering God who bled and died for us on the cross** be with those in all areas of the world suffering from natural and man-made disasters, with those who are hungry, who lack shelter, who mourn the loss of loved ones. The needs of the world have been intensified by Covid to such a degree that it makes it impossible for us to really attempt to name before you all individual countries, all groups of people needing your loving care. We know however, that all of your creation and every person created in your image is of importance to you, so we simply and humbly place the needs and concerns of our Church Family and the whole world into your hands.

**Lord God hear our prayer and renew us to serve you.**

*“Risen God, you show us love too strong for death, evil deeds defeated by your living breath. In love you teach us never to despair, your new life reminds us, hope is always there.” (Verse 4 STF 524*

*Marjorie Dobson) Amen.* Contributed by Worship Leader Win George.

**Closing song:** 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)  
Sing/read / pray / proclaim the words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUFyowttv mY>

*Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name*

The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes.

*Bless the Lord...*

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find

*Bless the Lord...*

And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore  
Forevermore

*Bless the Lord...*

Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name  
Jesus I will worship Your Holy name  
Worship Your Holy name

Songwriters: Jonas Myrin / Matt Redman. 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)  
lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

**Benediction:** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

**Response:** It is important to remember that we do not rely on our own strength and resources. We were never meant to live this life alone and out of relationship with God or each other. If anything has stirred within you today please remember that learning and growing in Christ is best done together in the community that God calls His church where we can support and care for one another. Phillip, 01425 673350  
phillip.dixon@methodist.org.uk

Next week “Jesus gives hope to his church”  
1 Peter 1:3-13 with Local Preacher Joyce Wild.

Phillip Dixon, May 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.