



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 9th May 2021 "Jesus gives hope to his church" 1 Peter 1:3-13 Local Preacher Joyce Wild

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: I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High. Psalm 9 verses 1,2 New International Version

We sing: Blessed Assurance StF 548
Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDeiy9-t2GE&ab_channel=SilentVoiceTV

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.



This is my story...

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny Crosby) (1820-1915)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We use the words of this beautiful hymn to bring our praises to the Lord this morning as we come into his presence. Lord God, fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit.

Praise to you the Living God!
All praised be your Name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
is still the same!
The one Eternal God,
ere all that now appears,
the First, The Last, beyond all thought
Through timeless years!

Your Spirit flowing free,
high surging where it will
in Prophet's word it spoke of old

is speaking still.
Established is your Law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
On sea, or land.

You plant eternal life
Within the human soul.
Your love shall be our strength and stay,
While ages roll.
Praise to you the Living God!
All praised be your Name,
Who was, and is, and is to be,
Is still the same! **Amen**

Based on the hymn "Praise to the living God StF 87

Prayer of Confession:

*Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.
So let us acknowledge our failure and disobedience,
and return to the Lord with penitence and faith.*
1 Peter 2: 24-25 from "Better Gatherings"

Most amazing eternal God we come before you now as your children to say sorry for the pain we have caused you by our wrong doings. We think of the times we have preferred to do our own thing rather than spend time studying your word, coming to you in prayer or helping someone in need.

Forgive our greed, our pride, our worldly wants, our selfishness and all too often self-centeredness which causes you such pain. Forgive our easy rejection of other people whether that is because of their race, social background, or style of worship. Please Heavenly Father take hold of our lives all over again. Make each one of us a source of hope, joy and confidence. And by the power of your Holy Spirit help us to be beacons of light in this darkened world only ever giving you the glory. **Amen.**

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.

Assurance of Forgiveness: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. I pray Your Holy Spirit will come and fill me afresh today with miraculous light, love, wisdom and kindness so that I may always reflect your wondrous glory. **Amen** Using words from Colossians 1: 13-14 NIV.

Song: There is a Redeemer StF 338

Sing/read /pray/ proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0LA3GvAUGU&ab_channel=MuseTalkChristianNetwork

There Is A Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One,

*Thank you O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit,
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O, for sinners slain.

Thank you O my Father...

When I stand in glory,
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King forever,
In that holy place.

*Thank you O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit,
till the work on earth is done.* vv. 1-2 Melody Green (b 1946)
v. 3 Keith Green (1953-1982)

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 like fertile soil for the reading of your Word. By the gift of Your Holy Spirit may we be eager and active listeners as You speak to each one of us this morning. Lord, enable these words to take root and grow within us so that the assurance of living hope will be the fruit we receive. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-13

³Praise 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest

care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

¹³Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. New International Version.

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

Preaching Notes:

Peter one of Christ's apostles through the inspiration of the same Spirit that spoke to the prophets of old preached the crucified and risen Lord. In his letter to God's elect, strangers in the world scattered throughout the Roman empire he wrote a message of encouragement to Christians facing trials or persecution for their faith.

These came in the form of both social and economic persecution from the Romans, the Jews and even their own families.

Peter wanted to remind these new Christians that they could overcome all things knowing that salvation was theirs. Why? Because they were chosen by God the Father, because Jesus Christ God's own son had died for them whilst they were still sinners, and the gift of the Holy Spirit was living within them.

Peter's words offered joy and hope in their suffering. He reminded them that Jesus endured the cross and the shame because of the joy that was set before him.

"Suffering," said Peter strengthens faith and having that living hope in Christ they could look beyond their trials knowing that troubles only last for a short while but hope in Christ is for ever.

The fires of affliction or persecution would not he assured them reduce their faith to ashes. Rather it would be by these trials they would be refined and any impurities they had would be burned away.

Were they to give up? Definitely not. Jesus Christ was their living hope, and they could always cling to that knowledge.

But, what about you and me? Do we have that living hope that Peter spoke of. The answer must surely be yes if we have offered our lives to Christ. But we too are a work in progress with so many impurities still needing to be burned away.

On our journey of faith, we will be faced with a multitude of problems, worries, upsets, and trials but we must hold fast to the knowledge that we are God's children, loved, valued, and cared for and we have a living Saviour who himself has suffered and who knows and cares about our pain.

Peter emphasised that suffering was not a sign that Christ had betrayed them or that he was no longer Lord, rather it was a sign of their fellowship with the risen Lord who first suffered for them.

And so, it is with us. Jesus the risen and ascended Lord is our hope our strength and our guide. He is within each situation by the power of His Holy Spirit. He is the one eternal King who upholds us to the last and then finally receives us into his glorious kingdom. What a thought! Do you believe and accept the living Lord as your hope? I pray so. **Amen.** Written by Local Preacher Joyce Wild

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.

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: My hope is built on nothing less StF 407
Sing/read/pray/proclaim words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVE-xFDOwg&ab_channel=SouthernSeminary

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every rough and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the vale.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Supports me in the 'whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid rock.....

Edward Mote (1797- 1874)

Thy Kingdom Come:

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension (Thursday 13th May) to Pentecost (Sunday 23rd May) for more people to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have

taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. According to our annual survey findings an astonishing percentage of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and a significant number of people join in for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ.*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus.*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary and the other women in the upper room, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1). Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered particularly at this time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit.'

We are praying this year, following the pain of the past year that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every

tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the whole world to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not yet responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part – along with churches from over 80 different denominations and traditions in nearly 90% of countries (172) around the world.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby. Visit the website for resources. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Prayers of Intercession:

Lord God we pray for your world. For those affected by the Corona virus, thinking especially of the people in India and Brazil at this difficult time. We remember those who live under repressive regimes and those whose lives are blighted by war, famine or climate change. Give each one of us a heart for your world and its people.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer and let our cry come unto thee.**

Gracious God we pray for your church. Especially we remember the persecuted church where to speak about you, read your word or sing your praises brings reprisals. Help our brothers and sisters in Christ to know we are praying for them whilst resting in the knowledge that you are upholding each one of them in their time of need. We pray for the Church in Great Britain that it will uphold Kingdom values and speak out about injustice.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer and let our cry come unto thee.**

Loving God we bring before you those who are suffering at this time worried about money, health, family or job. May they know your peace and may we, where possible, help the need by offering freely our time, our talents or our treasure. We particularly think of anyone we know who just needs to feel your loving arms around them right now.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer and let our cry come unto thee.**

Amazing God, who calls each one of us, help us to know without a shadow of a doubt that you are our righteousness, our rock and our redeemer. By the power of your Holy Spirit may we discern through prayer the way forward.

On our journey of faith when trials come (which they surely will) may we be purified and stress tested. Keep our minds alert, mentally ready for action, help us to be self – controlled, focussed and eagerly waiting Christ’s return. Give us the courage and the strength to share the gospel message with all we meet, emphasizing the living hope we have. You and I haven’t seen Jesus, we don’t see him now but we shall see him one day. **Amen.**

Closing song: The Church’s One Foundation
StF690 Sing/ read / pray / proclaim the words.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHCqXL3mCwU&ab_channel=mkariobangi

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Called out from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,

and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with the God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel John Stone (1832-1900)

Benediction: The Lord who called us sends us.
The Lord who sends us goes with us.
The Lord who goes with us gives us his message
of hope, joy, love and peace.
The Lord who gives us the message gives us the
power of the Holy Spirit to make it known.
We go in the power of the Spirit To live and work
for God’s praise and glory. **Amen** David Clowes (500
Prayers for All Occasions)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
us all, now and forever more. **Amen.**

Response: If anything has stirred within you
today to ask questions please remember that
learning and growing in Christ is best done
together in the community that God calls and sets
apart - His church - here we can support,
encourage and care for one another. Phillip,
01425 673350 phillip.dixon@methodist.org.uk

Next week our final message in this series “Jesus
warns his church” Revelation 3: 15-22 with Local
Preacher Diana Middleditch.

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.