



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 16th May 2021 "Jesus warns His Church"
Revelation 3: 15- 22 Local Preacher Diana
Middleditch.

These written worship sheets are for you to use as we gather, as one, in our homes and in our buildings to worship God. We are in the time between Resurrection 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." This is the final week in this series and next Sunday we will gather to celebrate Pentecost.

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

Good morning church!

Opening words: "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

John 14: 23,24 New International Version

We sing: Lord of the church we pray for our renewing SoF 1433.

Sing/read /pray/ proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E7bDWf7bel&ab_channel=allsoulsmusic

Lord of the church we pray for our renewing
Christ over all our undivided aim
Fire of the Spirit burn for our enduing
Wind of the Spirit fan the living flame
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing
The will that lacks the courage to be free
The weary labours all but unavailing
To bring us nearer what a church should be.

Lord of the church we seek a Father's blessing
A true repentance and a faith restored
A swift obedience and a new possessing



Filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord
We turn to Christ from all our restless striving
Unnumbered voices with a single prayer-
The living water for our souls' reviving
In Christ to live and love and serve and care.

Lord of the church we long for our uniting
True to one calling by one vision stirred
One cross proclaiming and one creed reciting
One in the truth of Jesus and His word
So lead us on till toil and trouble ended
One church triumphant one new song shall sing
To praise His glory risen and ascended
Christ over all the everlasting King.

Opening Prayer: "I waited patiently for the Lord,
He turned to me and heard my cry. He put a new
song in my mouth, a hymn of praise".

God of all ages, accept our sacrifice of praise!

Eternal God it was Your Spirit hovering over the
waters at the dawning of the first day it was Your
voice echoing in the darkness and brought forth
light. God of all ages, accept today our sacrifice of
praise! Heavenly Father we come before you in
love and adoration this morning, we thank you
for the beauty that surrounds us each day. Yours
Lord is the glory in everything we see, feel and
smell; be it a country scene, a gently flowing river

or the waves breaking on the shore. We praise You that we can come together and share in sweet fellowship.

Lord, in everything we sing, pray, read and meditate on this morning may we worship You in truth and with our whole hearts giving You the glory, fill us afresh Lord with Your Holy Spirit and help us to bear good fruit honouring to You.

Jenny Hutchins, Bransgore Worship Leader

Prayer of Confession: Lord our God we humble ourselves before you as we confess our sins and all that separates us from you and those we live amongst.

We see the temptations of the world around us and feel ourselves being drawn into the ways of the world. We confess that it is easy to turn a blind eye to the attitudes that abuse others through words and actions that hurt and harm. We confess that we forget to thank those around us, who support and care for us when life gets hard. We confess, we ignore the needs of people, whose lives do not measure up to our privileged standard. We confess, that we find it easy to judge others, when they get things wrong but find it hard to take criticism, when we are at fault.

A time of silence when we confess our sins to God and listen to what He may be saying to us.

Father God, forgive our sins and renew us in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. God is slow to anger and full of compassion. He forgives all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **Amen.** Prayer written

by Glenda Sidding, Assurance of Forgiveness from Exodus 34:6-7 and Romans 8:1.

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: May the Spirit of all Truth open our minds today as we read Your Word. May we be willing to be led into all truth and to be taught what is the will of the Father in our lives. Lord give us willing hearts and ears to listen to all that You are saying to us. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3: 15-22

¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." New International Version.

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

Preaching Notes:

The British people are often described as being reserved, not prone to showing our emotions, maybe even sitting on the fence.

In some cases people think it is a mark of sophistication to not have any real passion about their faith in Christ. People can be passionate

about many other things such as cars, houses, clothes, political views, and movies, but they dare not be passionate about Christ and His kingdom.

This condition of apathy is not just a contemporary condition; it has been around a long time. In this passage in Revelation, John delivers Christ's message to the church at Laodicea. They suffered from the same problem. They were lukewarm about Christ. I believe we can learn much from this passage.

First and foremost we must make sure we are not lukewarm spiritually.

Secondly, we must repent,

Thirdly, we must turn to God in repentance, be restored, and be rich in faith.

Finally, Christ will discipline us, restore us, and dine with us!

Let us just look at each of these lessons in more detail. Firstly the Laodiceans were very comfortable in wealth and probably felt they were better than other churches. They were in need of nothing but in reality they needed everything, in a spiritual sense. They were described as being neither hot nor cold for the Lord. They were lukewarm and we know how unpleasant drinking lukewarm water can be. They are warned that if they do not become fully committed, on fire for the Lord, Christ will spit them out of His mouth.

Secondly the message of God's love for us is powerful. We are saved because of the grace of God. Without God's grace, we could not be saved. Neutrality is not an option for Christians however we can be fully committed to Christ and still treat those who are not with dignity. But we cannot be lukewarm in our convictions.

The third point is the instruction to repent and return to their first love, overcome complacency and turn with joy to God. Our God wants us to be rich in faith not in gold, you cannot buy spiritual blessing with money. The Laodiceans are shown God's love for them by the rebuke in verse 19:

"Those whom I love, I reprove, I reprove and discipline therefore be zealous and repent."

Finally His love is unparalleled. Even though they have been lukewarm and full of pride, He longs for them to return to His fold. He invites those who become zealous to dine with Him. Think of it! We along with the early saints will dine with Christ.

Christ concludes with the refrain contained in all His letters to the seven churches. He declares (verse 22), "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Christ and the Spirit speak powerfully to the churches and to us today.

The Spirit is clearly saying to us, "Be fully committed to Christ! Stand firm for Him! Be passionate about His cause!" When we do, we have an invitation to dine with Him! **Amen.** Written by Local Preacher Diana Middleditch

Prayers of Intercession: *Jesus stands at the door knocking, wanting to enter the hearts of those who invite him in. So may we open our hearts to his living presence and rejoice in the delight of serving him as we bring our prayers for the world.*

Gracious God, we pray for all countries divided by race and religion. We pray today for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Jerusalem, between Israeli and Palestinian. We pray for peace in all places of war, exploitation and instability; where violence overshadows goodness; where people are vulnerable and helpless. We pray particularly for Myanmar, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria.

May your Spirit move in the hearts of governments and leaders of the nations that they may give good leadership and enable their people to thrive without fear of the future. **May your kingdom come your will be done, O Lord we pray.**

We pray for our country, giving thanks for the progress made in reducing the horrendous effects of Covid-19 which have affected so many in our country. As many of the constraints we have endured over the past months are relaxed, we

pray for people to respect others and act with integrity and common sense. We pray for those countries where the virus is still causing havoc, especially for India and Brazil. May your Spirit move in the hearts of those who lead the nations, enabling them to promote policies which give hope and confidence for all. **May your kingdom come, your will be done, O Lord we pray.**

Today in the Methodist Prayer manual we are asked to pray for the church in Pakistan, giving thanks for the people of many faiths who have joined together to create pockets of hope, peace and justice in that country. We pray for our church in Highcliffe, thanking you for the reopening of the building today and our church in Bransgore, still meeting online. We pray for those meeting physically together and for all who join in worship at home; that each one of us might experience your loving presence. May your Spirit open our hearts to receive your love and guidance for our future, enabling us to bring light and hope to those around us. **May your kingdom come your will be done, O Lord we pray.**

We pray for those of our church family who are struggling with sickness, bereavement or passing through difficult times. May they know your presence in those moments when sadness and despair threaten to overwhelm them. May your Spirit open our hearts to receive your love, making us sensitive to the needs of others and empowering us to go forward in faith and hope, whatever the future holds. **May your kingdom come your will be done, O Lord we pray.**

Eternal God, you have given all authority in heaven and on earth to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Grant that we may never lose the vision of your kingdom but serve you with hope and joy. Through him who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.** Written by Christine Stuckey.

Closing song: O breath of life StF391

Sing/ read / pray / proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QHZB_v0ZaY&ab_channel=EFCNorwich

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
Revive Your church with life and power.
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit Your church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in Your tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of love, come breathe within,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win,
Revive Your church in every part. Elizabeth Ann Head
(1850-1936).

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.**

Notices: We invite you to take part in our weekly services, perhaps by reading, opening the service with prayer, prayers for our world and practical help like the weekly graphics from the computer. Please speak to Diana, Angela, Janine or Kathy for Highcliffe and Jenny or Pam for Bransgore who will happily let you know what is required.

Join us on Sunday 6th June at 6pm using the garden of Bransgore Methodist Church to celebrate Phil's Testimony Service. Being outside means you can sing! Attendance is limited and priority is being given to Phil's congregations at Highcliffe and Bransgore, If you would like to attend please advise Angela Freeman or Jenny Hutchins by the 16th of May.

Monday: "At home" discussion group on Zoom at 7pm.

Tuesday: Prayer meeting on Zoom at 8am, "At home" discussion group on Zoom 7pm.

Thursday: "At home" discussion group on Zoom 10.30am.

Sunday: Pentecost service with Holy Communion at Highcliffe 10:30am and outside Pentecost celebration at Bransgore at 6pm.

Please ask your stewards for more details.

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.