



Highcliffe and Bransgore **Methodist Churches**

Sunday 13th September 2020, 10:30am, Matthew 8:23-27 "Creation Disrupted"

Prepared by Rev'd Phillip Dixon

This written worship has been prepared to bless you and help bring us closer together, as a physically separated fellowship, into the presence of God to worship Him in Spirit and Truth. We gather in separate places, some in our homes and others in chapel but united in love by the Holy Spirit for our Lord Jesus Christ. The Highcliffe morning gathering will today physically share in God's gift and grace of Holy Communion, I encourage you to participate with us in whatever way you feel is right and proper to bring us all closer together, as a family of believers and followers of Jesus Christ.



Good morning church!

Opening Prayer:

Loving God we gather with joy and faith this morning as we continue our celebration for Your glorious creation. Unite us by Your Spirit so that we may be of one accord with our faithful brothers and sisters in the faith.

We are separated by distance but not in our desire, love and devotion to You. We welcome Your Holy Spirit into our lives afresh this morning as we worship You.

We give thanks for all of Your miraculous work which continues to assure us of Your peace, love, truth and power. Thank you Father for Your human incarnation, Your Son Jesus, entering into a broken creation 2,000 years ago to disrupt this sinful world and to show us a new way, the Way to eternal and abundant life, the Truth of Your Word and the Life which we may live with You. May all be said and done today for Your glory. **Amen.**

Proclamation:

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, **"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**

Amen Luke 4: 18-21 NIV(UK).

Hymn: StF 443 Come let us sing.

Sing/read /pray/proclaim the words.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCSx7ZZ3-2I&ab_channel=CornerstoneMethodist

Come let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came;
came with the helpless and hopeless to
dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame;
seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home! weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love,
come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Robert Walmsley (1831-1905)

Memory Verse for today: "Christ in you,
the hope of glory". Colossians 1: 27

The following song performed by
CityAlight beautifully accentuates the fact
that a believer gives him/herself fully to
Jesus, the hope of glory. The old is gone
and the new has begun. All is
accomplished through Christ who came to
disrupt the fallen creation and redeem us.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwc2d1Xt8gM&ab_channel=CityAlight

Prayer of Confession:

In Ezra 9 we read that many of the people
of God had "taken-up" and accepted the
immoral practices of the surrounding
peoples. "Worse yet, the leaders and
officials have led the way in this outrage."
In response, Ezra, whilst he has not
personally done this, laments, mourns and
prays forgiveness for the sins of the
people.

*"O my God, I am utterly ashamed; I blush
to lift up my face to you. For our sins are
piled higher than our heads, and our guilt
has reached to the heavens". Ezra 9:6*

Let us confess our sins:

God we come to You in sorrow and
repentance for our sins. For the times of
not fully trusting, abiding and relying on
You as we should. For turning away from
You, and ignoring Your will for our lives;
Lord, forgive us, **save us and help us.**

For times when we have behaved with
selfishness, just as we wish, looking out
for ourselves and those we favour without
thinking of You or our brothers and sisters
in Christ; Lord, forgive us, **save us and
help us.**

For failing You by the wrong we do and
think and say, forgive our foolish ways and
our quickness to judge others based on
our biased or preconceived opinions.
Lord, forgive us, **save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from
You by the temptations of this world;
forgive us for the times when we have
allowed half-truths and anything less than
complete honesty to fall from our mouths.
Lord, forgive us, **save us and help us.**

For not living our lives in step with Your
Holy Spirit, for times when we have

compartmentalised our faith in You as being only for a special day or time. Lord, forgive us, **save us and help us.**

Forgive us for our unwillingness to trust fully in Your word, for the times when we do not put Your Son Jesus at the very centre of our lives, for our missed opportunities to share You with those You place in our path each day. Lord, forgive us, **save us and help us.**

A time to bring your personal prayers of confession and to hear what God may be saying to you in the silence:

Assurance of forgiveness:

Loving and merciful God. Your Grace is an unmerited gift to me each and every day. You are rich in mercy and as I resolve to live a life closer to You I give thanks for Your forgiveness for my weaknesses and errors and pray that Your Holy Spirit will strengthen and guide me in the days ahead.

Fill me afresh today Lord with Your power light, love and kindness so that my life may always reflect Your wondrous glory

Amen. With excerpts from the Church of England Common Worship, Prayer for the Family.

Song: Remembrance (Communion Song)
by Matt Redman.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdx9AeiPTGk&ab_channel=dhaliamia

Oh, how could it be
That my God would welcome me
Into this mystery?
Say, "take this bread, take this wine"
Now the simple made divine
For any to receive
By Your mercy we come to Your table
By Your grace You are making us faithful

Lord, we remember You
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation
We remember You

See His body, His blood
Know that He has overcome
Every trial we will face
None too lost to be saved
None too broken or ashamed
All are welcome in this place

Dying, You destroyed our death
Rising, You restored our life
Lord Jesus, come in glory
Lord Jesus, come in glory

I invite you to pause and spend time responding to God's invitation.

Preparation for the reading and preaching of scripture:

Lord, prepare our hearts like fertile soil 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. May Your Holy Spirit, who inspired these words, come to us now in power and truth. **Amen**

Reading: Matthew 8: 23-27

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!'

²⁶ He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?'

Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

²⁷The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!' New International version UK (NIV-UK).

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

Preaching notes:

"Hail! the heaven-born
Prince of peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the son of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King !"" Charles Wesley.

The coming of God to earth in human form -the incarnation- was "the world's most significant event on a parallel with the creation itself". The birth of Jesus (note the repetition of "Born" in the hymn) disrupts the old sinful and fallen creation, bringing the key Christian teaching of rebirth (second birth). Wesley's hymns always came directly from the truth contained within the Bible. "Light and life to all" and the promise of "second birth" are truths for every season, not just at Christmas time.

John Piper, author and pastor, gives a helpful link between the miracles of Jesus pre- crucifixion such as our passage for today and the miraculous healings of body and mind, and our own invitation from

Jesus today concerning new birth. "In the new birth, the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ in a living union. Christ is life. Christ is the vine where life flows and we are the branches (John 15: 1-11) What happens in the new birth is the supernatural creation of new spiritual life, and it is created through union with Jesus Christ". The birth of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem 2,000 or so years ago is the genesis of the new life that is available to us today, it is miraculous when we remember our sinful human nature.

To remind ourselves of the "bursting in" of God in human form to disrupt our sinful ways and to show us a "new path" is to remind ourselves of the power and love of our creator. The gift of new birth and the acceptance of "Christ in you", changing your mind, heart, attitude and views is a miracle of God to be likened with raising the dead: "just as in baptism you shared in his death, and in him are sharing the miracle of rising again to new life—and all this because you have faith in the tremendous power of God, who raised Christ from the dead" Colossians 2:13 Phillips.

"What kind of man is this?" was the exclamation from the disciples on the boat. When people ask you the same question about Jesus how do you respond? Are you like many in today's church, "Christians on mute", unwilling or unable to believe the supernatural miracles that Jesus, through us, still performs today? John Wesley refused to accept spiritual apathy or denial of God's supernatural power of those who joined the Methodist movement. What is your response to God's disruptive entry onto the sinful stage of humanity with the offer of a new, forgiven life in Him?

We pray together our Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Song: Water You turned into wine.

Sing/read /pray/proclaim the words.

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like you
None like you
Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's No one like you
None like you

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome in power
Our God, Our God

Into the darkness you shine
Out of the ashes we rise
No one like you
None like you

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome in power
Our God, Our God
Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome in power
Our God, Our God

And if Our God is for us, then who could
ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what can
stand against?

And if Our God is for us, then who could
ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what can
stand against?

Then what can stand against?

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome in power
Our God, Our God
Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome in power
Our God, Our God

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Then what can stand against?

Then what can stand against?

Chris Tomlin / Jesse Reeves / Jonas Myrin / Matt Redman

Prayers of Intercession:

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray
about everything; tell God your needs, and
don't forget to thank him for his
answers. If you do this, you will experience
God's peace, which is far more wonderful
than the human mind can understand. His
peace will keep your thoughts and your
hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in
Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6,7 TLB.*

We pray with Open Doors: "Lord Jesus,
thank You for drawing hearts to You in
Kazakhstan. Protect each new Christian
convert, provide them with fellowship to

strengthen them in their new faith. Draw their family members to You, too. Grant wisdom and boldness to leaders as they seek to run churches under oppressive and unfair restrictions”.

For the Christians of Syria and in other oppressive and hostile regimes around the world who face discrimination in the provision of aid. We pray protection for those who support them and ask Lord that many more from a Muslim background would come to know You as their Lord and Saviour. Put Your protection around them and provide teachers and pastors to help deepen their faith.

We pray for our Government, local and national leaders and those with influence to exercise wisdom and integrity as they make decisions about easing restrictions. We pray also for our church leaders as they interpret the new restrictions. Help them Lord to be good witnesses to those around them and keep their congregations protected.

We pray for all displaced people, those who have fled dangerous and oppressive regimes or have been forced by violence to leave their homes. We pray for them to find a new, welcoming and safe place to live. We pray particularly for those in Lesbos, Greece who have lost what little they had.

A prayer from the Jesuit's: “Lord, bring an end to the loss of lives and the loss of homes in U.S. West Coast. Bring aid to the firefighters who, by serving others, serve you. Give them courage and strength to persevere, to find the ability in their bodies and souls to keep working for another day or hour or minute. Ease the winds that spread the flames and disperse the smoke that covers the sky”.

Loving God, we bring to you those who we know are suffering the pain of illness, those awaiting operations and those recovering from surgery. Be with them Lord in their times of trouble and pain and give them your peace in the waiting.

We pray for the unity of believers in our midst, not just a tacit, overlooking of disagreement but a deep Christian love of one another as fellow labourers, called by You, give strength and wisdom Lord to overcome disunity.

We bring these prayers in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Song: StF 363 My Jesus My Saviour

Sing/read /pray/proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSQvoinDE4&ab_channel=lauraahloiscool

My Jesus, my Saviour
Lord there is none like you
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will
roar*

At the sound of Your name

I sing for joy at the work of your hands

Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand

Nothing compares to the promise I have

In you. Darlene Zschech (b.1965)

Blessing: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ **Amen**

Phillip Dixon September 2020

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