



Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Sunday 6th June 2021, Bible Month Week 1 "Identity" Rev'd Phil Dixon

These written worship sheets are provided for you to use as we gather as one in our homes and in our different buildings to worship God. Our hope is that for all of us, those who attend the in-person worship and for those who don't, that these sheets can accompany us as we go through the week. To pray, read and reflect on this time of worship together and nurture us through the week ahead. This week we begin the Bible Month series using Mark's Gospel, the subtitle of Identity using Mark 2:1-12.

Opening words: This is the beginning of the wonderful news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. ² It starts with Isaiah the prophet, who wrote:

Listen! I am sending my messenger ahead of you
and he will prepare your way!

³ He is a thunderous voice of one
who shouts in the wilderness:

"Prepare your hearts
for the coming of the Lord Yahweh,
and clear a straight path

inside your hearts for him!" Mark 1:1-4 The Passion

Translation.

We sing: King of Kings Majesty StF331

Sing/ read / pray / proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5VutCGsVXE&ab_channel=citrail

King of kings, Majesty
God of Heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end
All within me falls at Your throne.

*Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty.*



Earth and Heaven worship You
Love eternal, Faithful and True
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls
Brought this sinner near to Your throne
All within me cries out in praise.

*Your majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty.* Jarrod Cooper

Opening Prayer:

We come today to worship you O Lord, for many we are still physically separated yet we are united by your Holy Spirit. We come to adore and praise You O Lord, You created the whole world and everything in it, how majestic is your name in all the earth. *Pause*

We see the beauty of the moon and the stars, the mountains and the valleys and we gaze in awe at the wonderful surroundings in which You have placed us, forest and seaside. O Lord, how can we praise you enough and reflect Your glory? *Pause*

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever. We bring our praise and adoration, gracious God, for all that You have done throughout time.

We offer ourselves to You afresh today, through
Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Pam Sturtridge, Bransgore Worship Leader

Prayer of Confession: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9

Loving and forgiving God, we confess to You our errors, our pride, our self-reliance and our lack of love for our brothers and sisters. Your Word says I must love You and my neighbour as myself, we are sorry for the times when that does not happen. For the times when our good intentions are not followed by our sacrifice of self. Father forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

For the times when we have made being a Christian a comfortable status, a statement of attendance or belonging instead of a way of living our lives for You and helping others to do likewise. Forgive us for the times when we have not been good witnesses of selflessness to others. Father forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

For the times when we have believed and taught with our words or actions that our salvation, our being right with You is something to be achieved, a rule to be kept, a creed to say or a hurdle to be jumped over instead of the most beautiful sacrificial gift that we could ever receive, given freely by Your blood. Father forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

For the schemes and plans of man that exclude You Lord, for our thinking that if only we could copy what we may have perceived will result in the growth of our gatherings instead of prayerful obedience and seeking Your will. For the sins of our world, for the aggression, the pollution, the violence, the racism, the greed, lust and the immorality. Father forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

Pause

Father, I name the specific things for which I come to You, asking Your forgiveness.... Father forgive, **Christ have mercy.**

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

"Son / daughter your sins are forgiven" Mark 2:5
God of love and power, thank You for the forgiveness and freedom You have given me from my sins, heal and strengthen me by Your Holy Spirit so that I may walk today a path of righteousness. I am reminded that, as a believer, I am Your redeemed child, a son or daughter, bought back into relationship with You for a price, the suffering and death of my Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Grace is an unmerited gift to me each and every day. I pray Your Holy Spirit will fill me afresh today with miraculous light, love and kindness so that I may always reflect Your wondrous glory **Amen.**

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, may Your Holy Spirit, who inspired these words, come to us now to open our minds to Your truth. **Amen**

Scripture Reading: Mark 2: 1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was

lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man, ¹¹ 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!' New International Version (UK)

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

Preaching Notes: Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four and is well known for being fast moving and action orientated. It was written by John-Mark (see Acts 12:12, 12:25, 15:37-39, Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11 and Philemon 24) to present the person, work and teachings of Jesus. It was written to be listened to, perhaps as a long sermon or series of sermons, which makes our methods of selecting individual verses and preaching on them a challenging way of engaging with scripture. Mark was not a disciple of Jesus but he was close to Peter and was very much a part of the early Christian community among whom these accounts were actively circulating. It is believed that it was Peter who contributed much to this gospel which was written primarily to the Christians in Rome (both Jew and Gentile) and of course for future generations -like us.

Identity is very much the word to describe the early chapters. Mark tells us, as his readers/listeners, that Jesus is the Son of God in his very first verse yet for those who were encountering Jesus as the events unfolded it was a gradual revealing. Mark's gospel is very much

written to be engaged with, for us to place ourselves into the accounts, to think what the people described were thinking and to come to our own understanding of Jesus as the Son of God, Son of Man, Holy One of God, Beloved Son, the Lord -all terms that are used in the first chapters. Even the Pharisees, in their own self-interested and holier than thou attitude, proclaim Jesus as God when they say (verse 7) "who can forgive sins but God alone?" Jesus is God and he demonstrates it by healing the paralytic man. "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" and the man is no longer paralysed, no longer bound to lie on the mat and no longer depending on being carried around. Do you ever wonder where he went, what he did, now that his life has been transformed? We do not even know his name but we can be sure that he and his friends never stopped talking about that day. Everyone who saw this were amazed, they had never seen anything like this before, they praised God. As they raised their arms and voices in praise I imagine that they were looking at the figure of Jesus in wonder and awe at what had just happened. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession: Gracious God whose Spirit helps us in our weakness and guides us in our prayers, we pray for our world and the Christian Church's witness and participation within it, in the name of Jesus Christ.

In these days of recovery and renewal we pray for the life of the Christian Church, strengthen our witness, prompt us to put aside small matters of dispute which divide us and draw us together as one body in Christ.

As the nations of the G7 prepare to meet in Cornwall this week we pray for wisdom and compassion in sharing and distributing the Covid vaccines to the world. We pray for bold and fair decisions to be made concerning the protection of the world which You created and we are to care for and hand on to future generations.

Lord we pray for the protection and strengthening of the persecuted church in the world. We pray today for Christians in India who

are facing the storm of anti-Christian hate as well as the Covid pandemic.

We pray for those who mourn, particularly for the family of Trevor Pelling who died tragically on Thursday whilst saving his two young daughters from drowning in Portugal. Surround this family with Your love and comfort them and all who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Grant compassion to all who are suffering today. In the name of Jesus we pray, **Amen**.

Closing song: Cornerstone

Sing/ read / pray / proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3HH-1Zbs&ab_channel=TheCommissioned

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest friend
But wholly trust in Jesus name.

*Christ alone
Cornerstone
Weak made strong
In the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil.

*Christ alone
Cornerstone
Weak made strong
In the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all.*

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne.

Songwriters: Edward Mote / Reuben Timothy Morgan / Jonas Carl Gustaf Myrin / Eric Liljero.

Blessing: Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous and be strong, run the race that is set before you, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith. May all that you do today and this coming week, be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

Notices: As we begin to see more of your lovely faces (behind masks) at our Sunday morning gatherings in Bransgore and Highcliffe I would like to assure you that it is our intention to continue with these resources (the Worship at Home sheets and the weekly video). Not only for those of you who do not yet feel safe in attending but for our whole worshipping community. These resources are prayerfully woven together for you, to give a full, rich, and connected picture of God's work amongst us and our response to His offer of grace.

Dates for your diaries: Thursday 17th June at 6pm an important meeting for all at Bransgore to discuss the future of the fellowship and the chapel.

Saturday 19th June at 3pm, my ordination at Temple Methodist Church in Taunton. A link will be provided for you to participate on-line.

Saturday 17th July at 10am, Highcliffe General Church meeting, open to all with many important issues to discuss. More details to follow.

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: Our second week in the Bible Month series exploring Mark's Gospel, we use Mark 5: 21-43, our title is, "Mission."

If you would like to join an "at home" group please contact me or your stewards for more details. They are open to everyone; your presence would be an encouragement to others.

Phillip Dixon, June 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.