

THE HAVEN CHURCH WORSHIP SHEET.
JUNE 14th 2020.

Link for song playlist on YouTube: [Haven CC Sunday 14-06-2020](#)
You might like to open this in a separate tab before commencing worship

Theme: THE WONDER OF WORSHIP
Week 2. What hinders true worship?

"I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes it's boast in the Lord;
Let the humble hear and be glad.
O Magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt his name together. "Psalm 34v1-3

Prayer

God in the midst, come close to us,
and help us to come close to you,
as for a fraction of time,
we step back from the activities of the day.
May we treasure such moments with you.
Moments when we can bring to you
the things we are doing
and find new meaning for them,
and new strength for doing them.
And moments for recalling
How we are meeting you already,
In the stuff of daily living and engagement
when faith is tested
and compassion is translated into action.
So if, as the day goes on, we forget you,
Do not forget us, Oh God. **Amen.**

(The Iona Abbey worship book)

Song: Light of the World.

Song: Every Crown

Confession.

Let us turn to Christ as He reaches out to us in our troubles.
Father God, when we find it hard to keep our minds fixed on you,
Lord have mercy.
Holy Spirit, when we begin to sink beneath the weight of life's difficulties,
Lord have mercy
When we fail to extend to others the forgiveness you have shown to us,
Lord have mercy
When we are ashamed to declare the work of God the Father in creation
Lord have mercy

When we grow weary of doing what is right
Lord have mercy
When we are unwilling to bear one another's burdens,
Lord have mercy
When we go our way and turn our back on you
Lord have mercy
Holy Spirit, you would daily transform us, yet we resist your call to change.
Lord have mercy, and forgive us
You offer us time, space and strength
TO BEGIN AGAIN.
Giving and Forgiving God
WE THANK YOU. Amen.

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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
Forever and ever
Amen.

Song: When the music fades

Song: Thank you Jesus

Reading 1: Genesis 35v1-7

Jacob Returns to Bethel

35 Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau."

² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. ³ Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone." ⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. ⁵ Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.

⁶ Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. ⁷ There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother.

Reading 2: Psalm 24v1-6

- ¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.
³ Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.^[a]
⁵ They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Savior.
⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob

The sermon: (contributed by Rev. Ingrid Munro)

A few years ago, I went with a friend of mine to a Welsh retreat house at Ffald-y-Brenin. About six of us got to know each other through chatting and sharing how we had arrived there. We were quite a mix of backgrounds but all drawn together by the need to learn more of God, and in Jesus Christ. We began to get and when the time for evening worship came, we went in together.

After the service ended we stayed together in the chapel and began to pray for one another. As I prayed with a lady who was virtually blind, suddenly a voice came out of her that clearly was not hers. A deep reverberating voice that filled the whole chapel. The voice declared himself 'I am the God of Jacob, the one true God.... the list and description was of biblical proportions.

He had been in what I said to the blind lady, which unleashed his presence. I experienced something I had never done before, nor known since. All of us present were caught up in it... His presence!!!

Now feet back on the ground, most of you know I come from an Anglican background of traditional worship.

This day cemented the change of direction that I had been walking towards for some time. Everyone in that chapel heard the voice, and afterwards were filled with such exuberance we couldn't hold back our joy and exhilaration. We were swept off our feet with wonder and the most magical feeling that words alone can't do justice to!! We danced around, we sang, we chanted, and I can't remember when it came to an end, or how long we were like it for!! We felt that we had entered His presence. He was there with us moving amongst us.

Now as I come back to my place writing this, thinking about worship, I asked myself the question, "What happens when we worship?"

I've tried to tie it together in the following.

It's an outward physical manifestation that comes from an inner spiritual grace, a joy from being at one with the Father to whom all thanksgiving and praise is addressed. There are many of us who seek to worship, but there may be times in our lives when somehow though when we join in with others, something isn't happening deep inside?. We've been part of it, but not touched deeply by it.

Looking at our reading from Genesis 35 by the cleansing and purification of body and soul, putting aside all foreign gods and idols, and building an altar to God, cleared the way for the re-establishment of the relationship between God and his people.

In Psalm 24v1-6 again only those who have received inner cleansing can receive his blessing and together 'seek the face of the God of Jacob'.

For us it can feel like something is holding us back from where we want to be? Something is hindering our progress in getting a closer relationship with God? In 2020 are there any false Gods that we worship? What do you value most in terms of your money or property? Or how you use it? How you spend your time? How much time do you give to God? How compassionate is your heart for others? In short how do you prioritise?

Spiritual stocktaking can be useful to ascertain our spiritual health.

There are many things that can 'silence' us in our worship

- a) An unrepentant or deceitful heart.
- b) Being untruthful with ourselves (Acts 5v4-5)
- c) Lack of relationship with God. We need faith in him (Hebrews 11v6)
- d) Unconfessed sin. We need to 'come clean' with God and allow Him to do the full work of granting forgiveness by His grace.
- e) Is there a lack of prayer, or time given to it? (Matt21v13) We are to be a people of prayer. Prayer is dialogue with God. If we do not have a habit of speaking with him through prayer, how can we worship Him properly? We have nothing to talk or sing about! Prayer is part of worship and cannot be set aside.
- f) Are trying to improve our biblical knowledge? The more we know of God, the more we know God
eg paddling in the shallows on the beach is not the same as knowing the joy of swimming in the sea!? (Mere Christianity by CS Lewis)

Do we harbour any toxic attitudes?

Do we have any ill feelings or negative thoughts that may hinder our worship? (Ephesians 4v32)

Ungratefulness, dishonesty, pride, jealousy, cynicism? Not getting our own way, disappointment with God? Resentment? Bitterness?

Shame? (there is nothing that shocks God!)

You brought your 'to do list' with you to church, and it plays like a video in your head!

So Stop!!!

Pray that our God in his infinite mercy will lift all these obstacles from our lives and put himself firmly in their place that he can get closer to us, and that we can draw closer to Him! Amen.

Reflections

- a) Does any of the above ring bells with you? Can you see a way of putting things right?
- b) Do you think any of these things can be true within a church community? How do you think they can be responded to, so improve the issue?
- c) When do you feel the most 'uplifted' in worship?

Song: Spirit of God unseen as the wind.

Intercessions

(Contributed by Kathleen Letford)

Heavenly Father

We praise You and thank You for creation. We praise You and thank you that before the beginning of time Your hand was at work through the Word who spoke and was later revealed as our Saviour. By the Spirit who moved across the water and came to dwell within us.

You are an awesome God with all power in your hand yet you love us with unconditional love.

We pray for all people suffering racial or religious discrimination. We are all equal in your sight regardless of colour or creed. May your Kingdom be reflected in our society and all racial and religious tensions cease. May all people feel valued. Help those who police difficult situations be calm and hold your Kingdom values.

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort.

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, tend the sick, and to assure the isolated and house bound that we are alert to their needs and are willing to help them. We pray for the gravely ill and dying.

Comfort those who mourn, hold them in your loving arms. (mention those who you know) Lord Graciously Hear Us

Let us pray for for all in authority, national governments, scientists and all media. Give them skill, wisdom and honesty as they try to move us safely out of lockdown. Please Lord give success in finding a vaccine that is safe and works.

For our schools, colleges and universities we pray for safe opening. We lift all those responsible for the younger generation that you will keep them safe and endue them with wisdom to make the best arrangements.

We thank you for all who are working to supply our basic needs. Bless them and keep them free from harm.

We pray for all caregivers whether in the home, hospital, or nursing homes. Protect and give them your strength to carry on with their work. Especially we pray for those caring for loved ones in the home. May they have the support and care that they depend on.

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Lord it is easy to praise you as you provide all our needs according to your riches in glory. We often find it hard to worship you in Spirit and Truth and allow you to lift us into your presence. In our busyness help us to make space and time to worship you.

(Reflection)

Jesus take me as I am
I can come no other way.
Take me deeper into you
Make my flesh life melt away.
Make me like a precious stone
Chrystal clear and finely honed.
Life of Jesus shining through
Giving Glory back to you.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of God Merciful Lord, Accept these prayers for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen

Song: Jesus is the name we honour

Closing Prayer and Blessing

May the treasures of the past guide us.
The practicalities of the present shape us.
And the challenges of the future nudge us forward.
May we worship and serve Our God through Jesus, in Spirit and in truth, our whole lives long. In His blessing may we find lasting joy and peace. **Amen.**