

THE HAVEN CHRISTIAN CENTRE WORSHIP SHEET.

JUNE 28th 2020.

YouTube Link for the playlist for the songs and the sermon:

[Haven CC – Sunday 28-06-2020](#)

You might like to open this in a separate tab before commencing worship

Theme: THE WONDER OF WORSHIP

Sermon 4 “Come let us Worship”

Call to Thanksgiving

(based on Psalm 92:1,2,4; 95:1-3; 100:2-4)

It is good to praise the LORD
and make music to your name, O Most High,
**to proclaim your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night.**
For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD;
I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

**Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
**For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.**

Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
**Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, High King of Heaven, we come to worship you this morning. Thank you for your faithfulness, thank you for your love, your grace and your mercy. Thank you that you welcome us into your presence and call us your children. Open up our hearts and minds to you as we sing your praise and consider your Word. We pray that your Holy Spirit will guide us and prompt us so that we encounter you and are changed by you as we come and surrender our all to you in worship.

- **Song:** This is Amazing Grace
- **Song:** Waymaker

Prayer of Confession

To you, O God, do we lift our voices in praise?
 We come before you this morning
 We sing aloud bursting with joy
 We want to shout aloud about your goodness
 You are the rock of our salvation.
 You are definitely worth getting excited about
 It's so right to come and give you thanks.

You are a great God,
 There is no other one like you,
 We feel small in the shadow of mountain ranges
 We feel insignificant when we contemplate the vastness of the ocean
 Yet the psalmist says you made it all
 It all belongs to you
 You hold the world and all that is in it in your hands
 Its mind blowing and we bend the knee to you

Yet you are a Good God
 We worship you because of your great love
 You made each one of us
 Our uniqueness a precious gift
 You care for us, feed and provide all we need.
 As we have gone astray wondered from your ways
 You sent your Son, the Good Shepherd, to bring us back
 Your Spirit is our comforter and guide

You are not silent O God
 You have spoken to us, and revealed yourself to us
 Shown us your mercy and grace, invited us to follow you
 Forgive us O Lord, we've let our hearts grow hard
 We are sinners from a whole line of sinful people
 We do what we should not do
 We leave undone the good we should do
 How can we find rest in you?

It is only because of you O God
 You are faithful and Just
 As we confess our sin you forgive us
 You wipe the slate clean
 Fill us afresh with your Spirit
 Soften our hearts with Jesus love to love
 Set us anew on the path following you
 That in all we do we may bring glory to you, O LORD

- **Song:** Build My Life (Pat Barrett)

Intercessory Prayers (Based around Psalm 86)

(Contributed by Helen Skinner)

Lord we are poor and needy in spirit. Guard our spiritual lives. You know we struggle to abide in You. Forgive our lack of devotion to You, when our behaviour doesn't always match the words we sing. As You examine our hearts we know we are not all that we should be. Jesus, our wonderful redeeming Saviour, may Your costly sacrifice continue to inspire us to desire Your Presence above the other gods we run after and to be satisfied to seek all that You have for us. We know You do marvellous things, we can testify to this and give glory to Your name.

Teach us Your ways at the Haven Lord, even during this period of lockdown, give us an undivided heart that we may fear Your name and walk in Your truth. Holy Spirit, be the glue that holds us together. We continue to lift those who are shielding and self-isolating to You. Bring knowledge of Your comfort that although at home, there is a spiritual journey in motion, like an ever flowing stream to be travelled in the company of a good, good Father. For those parenting at home, establish Your peace and grace for all the challenges each day brings. For our young people associated with the Haven, with independent lives and hopes and dreams on hold, remind them of Your goodness Lord and how You have helped them in the past and that You have a plan for each of them.

We lift our city and nation before You, Gracious Father. Whilst we thank You that, unusually, the homeless were provided for with rooms in a hotel during these weeks of lockdown, this arrangement has now ceased. We ask for wisdom for our local authority, the police, aid agencies and Derby City Mission. Lord may the momentum of collaboration with all these groups be reignited, that the good work they have done together in Derby in the past may continue to help the homeless. We pray for resources for the Food Bank to be restocked and renewed zeal for the Jubilee Project where debt advice is given. You know the Increasing demand from those who have lost jobs, or where benefits are inadequate – the poor are always in Your heart; bring their plight to the attention of our government that we would be governed by Your standard of justice for the poor. Help us all to be wise as lockdown eases and to learn from this experience so that appropriate resources are applied to planning for future viruses to ensure we are better equipped.

We bring to You our world and those who are poor and needy both spiritually and physically. For Lebanon, where many Syrians fleeing war have taken refuge, the country is now in economic crisis from the pandemic, but hunger is now very much a priority. Jehovah Jireh have mercy and provide for this essential need out of your store houses. Show us what we can do, Father, to bring relief. For Zimbabwe, where corruption has been

rife for many years, and there is now an opportunity to bring the perpetrators to justice, we ask for transparency to prevail, that justice may be done and for new leaders to emerge who will be accountable and not swayed by the power of the office they hold. Relieve the plight of the masses who live in poverty Lord.

For our prejudices, the world over, we need You Lord; to change the way we think. History teaches us that each nation in the past has been guilty of suppressing the freedoms of other people groups, thinking they are superior to others. Deliver us from these entrenched attitudes today, Father and give us courage to talk to and empathise with those who look or live differently to us.

We commit these concerns to You Lord, our help and comforter. For You are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.

Amen

Bible Reading:

Psalm 95 (New King James) – A Call to Worship and Obedience

*¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
² Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
³ For the Lord is the great God,
And the great King above all gods.
⁴ In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
The heights of the hills are His also.
⁵ The sea is His, for He made it;
And His hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
⁷ For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand.
Today, if you will hear His voice:
⁸ “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,
As in the day of trial in the wilderness,
⁹ When your fathers tested Me;
They tried Me, though they saw My work.
¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with that generation,
And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts,
And they do not know My ways.’
¹¹ So I swore in My wrath,
‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”*

- **Song:** Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - All Sons & Daughters

Sermon

(Contributed by Donald Craig)

Hopefully a good number of you were able to join Martin live last week as he shared about “The Marks of True Worship” which of necessity concentrated on the individual and how they might worship in spirit and in truth. Something that we all have really had to put our minds to in our socially distanced society of the last 3 months plus.

You could say it was a “me” message.

But today I have a “we” message for you. Which is an interesting challenge to address when we cannot, as yet, gather together, at least physically, for corporate worship.

I don’t know if it’s ever been done but I would be interested to see an analysis of our modern collection of worship songs to see the split between me/I songs and we/us songs. My intuition tells me the latter may well be in the majority. And that’s no bad thing as it is important that each one of us examines ourselves before the Lord to ensure our hearts are right with Him and in so doing, as Martin reminded us last week, we can bring our personal worship to Him whenever, wherever or how ever we can.

But today I would turn our thoughts to the people of God coming together in worship. The New King James has the title – *A Call to Worship and Obedience* for this Psalm, which is an interesting combination.

As the writer to the Hebrews reminds us Christianity is not a solo faith – we need each other

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb 10: 24-25

So let’s look together at what the Psalmist tells us about corporate worship

Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

The default state of our worship should be joyfully coming together. Yes there are times when we need to reflect a more sombre mood, to allow for times of repentance, for times to grieve together. But underpinning us should be the joy of

- Knowing Him as our Heavenly Father
- Being able to come as His people in the name of Jesus
- Being invited to come to Him
- Acknowledging forgiven sin
- Receiving the promise of eternal hope
- The confidence that He will never leave us

We are allowed to smile and make a bit of a racket! Or maybe we identify with a very short term that I remember Eric Delve using many, many years ago when he talked about Christians having “Deep joy”! This is where last week’s message links to this. When we come together there should be no preparation because we should come as worshipping individuals who are able to join with like minded friends and family to bring our corporate expression of joy and worship!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving

Why do we come to gather together for worship? Is it about what we can get or what we can give? Do we come to get our spiritual “top up” or to have a feel good sing along?

We come to bring our Father our Thanksgiving as individuals but also as His people in whatever congregation we may find ourselves.

It is right and proper that before we expect him to do something for us we should remember what He has done for us

- Remember that God has supplied in the past
- Submit to God’s will in the present
- Trust in God for the future

For the Lord is the great God

Come knowing who it is we worship

“Let them praise your great and awesome name--he is holy.” “Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.” Psalms 99:3, 5, NIV.

God is almighty, omnipotent. “O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.” Psalms 89:8, NIV

Remember who the one we call Abba Father (Daddy) is, His love is as gentle as the wing of a dove but He is the Mighty God creator and overseer of all.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Psalms 19:1, NIV

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker

Come with reverence. Perhaps we need a little bit of Isaiah in us

‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.’ Is 6:5

One translation of the Hebrew word for worship means to prostrate oneself – to bow and kneel. Not a practice we do too often in our services – but maybe we should?

In response to acknowledging who God is we cannot but bow before Him and submit ourselves to Him to reverence Him

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,” Hebrews 12:28

And this is where we meet His Holiness and His Love. We should not take this privilege which is ours for granted – it is only through Christ’s blood and the indwelling of the Spirit that we can come like this and all through love.

“Taking the knee” is very much in the news currently but in this context we are very much submitting ourselves to Him. This world encourages us all to be leaders but there is a great gift in knowing what it is to be a follower submitting to our Shepherd and to be under His care.

Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion

As I said in the introduction the title for this psalm in the New King James is “A Call to Worship and Obedience”

Do you ever wonder that it would have been great if some of the Bible writers, like David, had had a Twitter account that limited the number of words they could use! The first 7 verses of this psalm are just right thank you very much. I think it’s just fine if David had rounded it off with

And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand

But the Spirit inspiring David has an important conclusion to bring us

Very much a change in tone and weight – a warning and a call to repentance

Today, if you will hear His voice: “Do not harden your hearts...”

These concluding verses of the psalm are in some ways the negative of the first part.

The psalmist uses the tale of the people of Israel rebelling and complaining to Moses and God at Rephidim. It was certainly not the only time the people rose up in such a way and ultimately it prevented a whole generation from entering in to the promised land. And the nature of the people – they were gathered together but they did not

- Come together joyfully
- Come with thanksgiving
- Come with an understanding of who God was
- Come with reverence
- Come repentantly

Despite all that they had experienced Israel did not fully trust God and never gave themselves wholly to Him.

So when we come to worship what do we bring into the congregation of His people? Do we come already worshipping or do we come with other thoughts and motives?

I cannot conclude without making reference to one of my favourite parables – the prodigal son. The son who had done everything to lose the love of his father finished up enjoying a joyous banquet whereas his brother's hard heart could not allow himself to join the celebration.

I pray that when we can join together again in worship it will be a thankful celebration!

- **Song:** Every Crown

Communion:

Please remember to have bread and wine or grape juice ready before joining on Zoom for communion

Zoom Link:

Topic: Haven Communion

Time: Jun 28, 2020 11:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82780910255?pwd=TC9JN2haRk9QM0FTV0ZnY0czOXVKUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 8091 0255

Password: 834635

Creator of all time and space,
In this, our own time and place,
we give You thanks and praise for giving us life,
and inviting us to share in the history of a people who are
blessed by your faithfulness,
challenged by your prophets,
forgiven by your mercy,
and ever surprised by your power to do more,
working in us, than we can ask or imagine.

Therefore we join our voices with voices of
all You have created
all You have loved
all You sustain to praise You, saying:

Holy, Holy , Holy, God.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory:

Hosannah in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosannah in the highest.

We thank You for your life manifest in our brother Jesus
--Bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh—
Whose life, death and resurrection reveal You fully:
your love for humanity,
your desire for human freedom,

your passion for justice.

We remember that Jesus,
gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear,
took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying "Take and eat: for this is my body.."

And after supper, Jesus looked forward to your desired day of joy and power;
and took the cup of wine, blessed it and said
"Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood.
I will share this meal with you again in the reign of God.

Share this bread and this cup in memory of me."
Let us proclaim together the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Come now, Holy Spirit of God—
As You were present at creation,
be present now,
and let these gifts of bread and cup
become for us the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing.

As You were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith,
be present now,
and make this community, in receiving this bread and cup,
one body in Christ.

And in unity may we join our voices together as we say the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

(Sharing of the bread and the wine)

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever

Amen

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

- **Song:** Before the Throne of God Above

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face towards you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**