

THE HAVEN CHURCH WORSHIP SHEET.

JUNE 21st 2020.

Link for song playlist on YouTube: [Haven CC - Sunday 21-06-2020](#)

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

Theme: THE WONDER OF WORSHIP

Week 3. The Marks of True Worship

“And the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah—said: “Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. ” “Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.” Nehemiah 9:5-6

Opening Prayer

Lord we are humbled as we wonder at Your greatness and power, Your gentleness and love. Help us to worship you in our words, in our thoughts and in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father we praise You
For Your miracle of love
By which You used the death of Jesus on the cross
To set us free.
The place of defeat
Has become the place of victory;
In the humiliation of one man
We are confronted by Your glory;
Where life was lost we find eternal life.
Thank you Lord.
Amen.

Alan Gaunt

I am happy because You have accepted me, dear Lord.
Sometimes I do not know what to do with all my happiness.
I swim in Your grace like a whale in the ocean.
The saying goes: “An ocean never dries up,”
But we know that Your grace also never fails.
Dear Lord, Your grace is our happiness. Hallelujah.

Prayer from West Africa.

Lord our God, help us to give our minds to you in worship, so that we may listen to what you have to say to us, and know Your will.

Help us to give our hearts to you in worship, so that we may really want to do what you require from us.

Help us give our strength to you in worship, so that through us your will may be done.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Song: Jesus put this song into our hearts

Song: I hear the sound of rustling

Song: Let Your Living waters flow

Father's Day Prayer

Fatherhood does not come with a manual,
and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all –
and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember
the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families,
and the ways – both big and small –
they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void
when fathers pass early or are absent –
grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins,
teachers, pastors and coaches –
and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers,
we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting.
Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.
In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen

Song: God of Grace

Intercessions:

Let us give thanks for the incredible privilege of prayer. We praise You Lord that You have made a way open for us to come before you through Jesus dying on the cross. We pray for this world You have made, rejoicing in the many beautiful things in it. Yet we are saddened because many suffer and have great need. Throughout the world there is the coronavirus pandemic, causing much suffering and need.

We remember Zimbabwe where there is food insecurity due to drought, and pray Your provision for them. We pray for protection for all in refugee camps around the world where congested conditions and communal living can accelerate the spread of disease, including covid-19. We think particularly of the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, where people suffer terribly.

There is continuing civil war in Yemen, ravaging the nation. Please Lord, supernaturally intervene and overcome the region with Your peace. Meet the humanitarian need – hunger, thirst, disease. Thank You that in the midst of all of this the gospel is spreading and people are coming to know the Lord.

We pray for our own nation, as lockdown ends and things open again. Give wisdom to the Government as they seek to kick start the economy, and make decisions about what is safe for us to do. We also pray about the unrest regarding racism and ask for peace on our streets again.

Be with those who face anxiety about future employment, especially those who work at Rolls Royce whose jobs are under threat.

We bring our own Church family at Haven to You Lord. We think of those who have recently been bereaved, and pray Your comfort for them. Several folk are unwell and need Your healing touch (please name those you know before the Lord).

We give thanks to You, our good, good Father on this Father's day, and pray for all the fathers amongst us asking for Your special blessing on them this day.

Pray blessing upon one another according to the words of scripture: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace." (Numbers 6 v. 24-26)

Song: I love You Lord

Bible Reading: John 4:19-26

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

Sermon

If you stop someone and ask, "How would you define true worship?" Most people would answer by talking about a style of music, various elements of a worship service, or they will

start talking to you about their church, or their view of religion. People generally are confused about this topic. Worship is something that has to do with the heart. Yes, hopefully we do worship as we pray, as we hear the Word of God read and proclaimed, as we give, and as we sing. However, we can do all of those things and never really worship at all.

The last couple of weeks we looked at some texts in the Bible regarding worship. In John 4 we are reminded that it is God who is seeking worshipers and last week we looked at things that hinder our worship. This morning we return to John 4 to look again the discussion that Jesus had with a Samaritan Woman. There are lots of great things to teach from this passage. We are going to learn some things about true worship.

There is a good chance that the woman came to this well at this time because of her stained reputation. She may very well have come to the well that day simply to escape the gossip of the other women. Before she could receive the water Jesus needed her to understand something. He told the woman to go and get her husband. She responded honestly that she was not married. Jesus agreed, and told her that she was not married and commented that she had been married five times and was now living with a man apart from marriage. Jesus wanted this woman to know that He knew exactly who she was but His arms were open to her anyway. God is the One who seeks us. **True worship is available for all.**

Jesus said true worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." Notice that Jesus said, his worshipers **MUST** worship in spirit and in truth. This is the only kind of acceptable worship.

When Jesus talks about worshipping in spirit he does not appear to be talking about the Holy Spirit (even though we do need the Holy Spirit to lead us to worship) but he is referring to our inner spirit or our heart. Notice that the various translations do not capitalize the word spirit. That means that translators understand this not as referring to the Holy Spirit but the spirit within us. Worshipping in spirit is the opposite of worshipping in merely external ways. It is the opposite of empty formalism and traditionalism.

Jesus tells us the woman that true worship is a worship that is in spirit and truth because God is spirit. God is not limited to one particular location. He can be worshipped at any time and in any place. God is spirit which means He is not looking merely at what we do externally, He sees our heart, He knows our emotions. He is looking for us to *really* worship Him. When the Bible talks about worshipping in spirit I think He means that worship should be a time when we are vulnerable, open and honest before the Lord. We should be more honest with Him than with any other person (even our spouse) because we know that He knows us and loves us.

Consequently, true worship should involve our emotions. This worship will sometimes involve genuine sorrow for sin, overwhelming gratitude for grace and forgiveness, the stunned silence of awe, or the exuberant celebration of God's greatness. The point is this: If you are unaffected in your worship you have not truly worshipped at all. The person who worships in spirit is not merely present in a certain location and doing certain things. They are fully engaged in response to God. **True worship involves the spirit.**

When Jesus told us that we must worship God in spirit and in truth He was not only telling us we must worship Him emotionally but also that we must worship the true God in a way that is consistent with His nature and desire. **True worship doesn't just involve our feelings; it also involves our head.**

Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full of artificial admirers. On the other had, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. True worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship.

Spirit and truth must go together. We can whip up people's emotions for all kinds of things. We see people cry, dance or become filled with anger at a sporting event. People cry at movies or television shows. We are can be moved by a beautiful piece of music or a stunning piece of art. However, none of these things is necessarily worship. True worship must be directed to the right place.

True worship can only happen in a person who has been made new in Christ. This is the only way we can come to God. Jesus said, "No man comes to the Father except through me." A person must understand their sinful nature, they must recognize that God has provided a way of forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus in our place, and they must be willing to entrust themselves to the resurrected Christ. Only the Spirit-born individual can worship Christ in truth.

There are lots of people who engage in "acts of worship". Some are very devote. However, if they are not worshipping the true God, if they have not come to God in the way that He has provided in Jesus Christ, their worship is merely annoying noise to the Lord. Suppose you hired someone to help you on the farm. They arrive at the farm every day but they spend the day working on rebuilding their car. Would you feel they deserved their pay at the end of the week"? Of course not! You would fire the self-absorbed little twerp. Suppose they argued, "But I was working hard the whole time I was on the job, I deserve to be paid!" After you finished laughing you would explain that they may have been working hard but they were not doing what they were hired to do. In the same way, people all around us tell us that they worship "their" God in "their own" way. They may be wonderfully sincere and very devoted. However, if they are not worshipping the true and living God they are no different than this farm worker. They are no different from those who

bow before sticks of wood or slabs of marble. WHO you worship is the most important matter.

The true worshipper is eager to learn the truth about God's character, about His will, and His instruction. As they come to glimpse the true and living God, they are moved by His character; they are stunned by His grace; they are overwhelmed with His mercy; and they are eager to follow His lead in their life.

We must look beyond the actions of worship and focus on the heart of worship. Our challenge is to not merely to have worship services, but to truly honour God. Our goal is to get beyond the mere performance of our duties and to enter into the glorious celebration of His grace. Our goal is lay ourselves open before Him knowing that no One is greater than He is; no One knows us better than He does; no one loves us more than He does; and no One, no One is more deserving of our heartfelt praise and adoration.

Reflection:

“True worship does not begin with ourselves. It comes in response to divine revelation.”
In light of this statement and what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman in John 4:22, how important is it that we know God?

Do you take time to study those passages which reveal God's glory and greatness?

How can you more meaningfully worship God in spirit and in truth:-

- In church worship services? (Psalm 95:1-7)
- In your personal life during the week? (Romans 12:1)

Song: When the Music Fades (Heart of worship)

Blessing

May you be strong to grasp, with all God's people, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, and to know it, though it is beyond knowledge. So you may attain to fullness of being, the fullness of God himself.

The blessing of God, life-giver, pain-bearer, love-maker, be with us all, now and always.
Amen.