

THE HAVEN CHRISTIAN CENTRE WORSHIP SHEET

JULY 5th 2020

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

[Haven CC - Sunday 05-07-2020](#)

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

Theme: THE WONDER OF WORSHIP

Sermon 5 “Deepening Worship”

Call to worship

This forever-song I sing of the gentle love of God!
Young and old alike will hear about
your faithful, steadfast love—never failing!
Here’s my chorus: “Your mercy grows through the ages.”^[b]
Your faithfulness is firm, rising up to the skies.”

Psalm 89:1-2 (Passion)

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
we pray that as the Holy Spirit came in wind and fire to the apostles,
so may He come to us, breathing new life into our lives,
and setting our hearts aflame with love.
Lord Jesus Christ,
You declared Yourself the way, the truth, and the life.
Reveal to us Your truth, and inspire us with Your life,
that now and at all times we may find in you the way to the Father.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

God our Creator, Father and Friend,
we give thanks for the wonderful gift of life,
with all its joys and responsibilities, its experiences and opportunities.
We praise You for good health and daily food,
for the shelter, and care of our homes,
and the love and loyalty of our friends.
We bless You for work honestly done,
for games well played,
and for all the truth we have learned and the good we have been able to achieve.
We thank You for the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the forgiveness and salvation we have received through Him,
for His presence with us always and for the service into which He has called us.
Help us to express our thanks not only in our praises and prayers,
but also through the lives we lead;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

- **Song:** Who Paints the Skies
- **Song:** Strength will Rise (Everlasting God)
- **Song:** Fill This House With Your Glory

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 we have sinned against You and against Your children,
 our brothers and sisters, in thought and word and deed,
 in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done,
 through negligence, through weakness,
 through our own deliberate fault.
 We have wounded Your love,
 and marred Your image in us.
 We are sorry and ashamed,
 and repent of all our sins.
 For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us,
 forgive us all that is past;
 and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.
 Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is just and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrongdoing.

1 John 1:8-9

Listen –

Here is good news:

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”

- To forgive you in your failure
- To accept you as you are
- To set you free from evil’s power and make you what you were meant to be

Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

Romans 11:33, 36

Intercessory Prayer

(Contributed by Ann Nadin)

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Psalm 105. 1-4.

Gracious God, we bring the Haven before you and pray that , together, we will seek you first, your will, your way in all things. We pray that we will continue to know your binding us

together, that we are able to look forward to a joyous gathering in the not too distant future.

We continue to lift to you those still shielding, may they know and feel the comfort of your presence and your arms around them. For those recovering, those having treatment and those not well we pray your strengthening, healing and restoring. (Name any that you are praying for at this time.)

Please bless Hilary and the family with your comfort and upholding in their grieving.

Heavenly Father, we bring our City and or Nation before you and pray for wisdom for our leaders as they guide us in the transition out of lockdown. Thank you for all the positive, helpful and caring things that have happened over the last 3 months and we pray that many of these will continue. Especially we pray for on-going awareness of and action taken to help the vulnerable, those who have lost jobs and businesses and families struggling to feed themselves.

We pray that all shops, businesses, leisure facilities, pubs and restaurants that are opening will be very Covid-19 aware and that everyone stays safe, that people will be respectful of one another's space and behave responsibly and safely.

Almighty God, we bring to you our neighbouring City of Leicester. We ask and pray that the spike in Covid-19 cases there will be contained, that the people in the area concerned will behave responsibly and adhere to the restrictions imposed. Please comfort those who are fearful at this time. Many of us have family and friends who live in and around the city and we ask your cocoon of protection around them.

Lord of the Nations, we bring the World before you, so many places in turmoil at this time, not just the challenge of Covid-19 but wars, brutality, injustice, oppression and poverty. In Iraq and Syria war has been re-ignited, I S is re-establishing, terrorising and murdering. Many Syrians fleeing the war have taken refuge in Lebanon, a country already in crisis and hunger is now a priority. We earnestly pray aid agencies will get safe access to take in food and medicines. Lord have mercy.

We pray for every country where people are suffering racial, religious or any other type of discrimination, that justice, righteousness and love will prevail.

Lord of truth and mercy, we need you, please help us to change the ways we think, speak and do. May we all find the one heartbeat we share. Come in power Lord we pray.

As the NHS celebrates its 72nd Anniversary we again give thanks for all who have worked so diligently, tirelessly and compassionately over the last three months, may they be blessed and restored.

We pray that trials on a Covid-19 vaccine going on at this time will be successful and result in an effective vaccine that can be produced swiftly and in sufficient quantity.

"May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in His service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always." Amen
(C of E Common Worship.)

- **Song:** Lord I Come to You (The Power of Your Love)

- **Song:** Purify my Heart (Refiners Fire)

Sermon

(Contributed by Mary Rawson)

We are continuing with our series of sermons on worship. This week our theme is 'deepening worship' and our scriptures are taken from the book of Isaiah. A book of prophecy in the Old Testament that contains prophecies of judgement against Judah and Jerusalem but also restoration and redemption. It tells us so much of God's nature and foretells the coming of the Messiah which would be fulfilled through Jesus.

Isaiah 6:1-8

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ "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."

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

This passage from Isaiah 6 gives an awesome image of worship in heavenly realms. Isaiah puts it in historical context: it was the year King Uzziah died. King Uzziah was Isaiah's uncle and initially had been a good King. Look in 2 Chronicles 26:4 and you will see that he was a king who was right in the eyes of the Lord, he set himself to seek the Lord. But how the mighty fall, twelve verses later on we see that he grew proud and that became his destruction because he became unfaithful to the Lord. It might not appear that his crime was so great, he went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense, but he was not a priest and he was not consecrated for the task. As a result, he faced God's judgement and was covered with leprosy for the rest of his life.

So to relate the death of King Uzziah to a vision of heavenly worship demonstrates a contrast between earthly centred worship and heavenly worship. We can't take God for granted, he welcomes us into His presence and yet He is Lord God Almighty. And although we don't have to consecrate ourselves in the same way the priests were consecrated in Old Testament times, it does raise the question Donald asked last week. When we come together for corporate worship do we come prepared? Do we come with hearts and minds prepared for corporate worship because our lives are acts of individual worship? I love the image Donald gave us last week of synergistic worship where the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts as we come together for an act of corporate worship.

Turning now to Isaiah's vision, he saw the Lord seated on his throne. We have seen images of the Queen sat on her throne at the opening of Parliament but its little more than a very

ornate chair. God's throne is an exalted throne, towering high above Isaiah – high and lifted up. The train of his robe is an image of God's splendour, power, authority filling the temple. There aren't the words to describe the amazing wonder of God's presence. Above Him stood the seraphim, angels of flaming fire and they are crying Holy, Holy, Holy. The sound is so great the Temple is shaking to its foundations. Have you ever been somewhere that the sounds is so great you can feel the building shake? This isn't quiet reflective worship, this is LOUD! This is proclaiming the holiness of God. Not just Holy, but Holy, Holy, Holy, the fullness of God's Holiness. God who was and is and is to come. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holiness of God is difficult to conceptualise because it is so vast that if we try to visualise it or conceptualise it whatever we can come up with is too small!

Holy is entirely separate, set apart from the common the ordinary, the everyday. Holy is awe-inspiring, Nehemiah 1:5 talks of the great and awesome God. Psalm 68:35 Says 'Awesome is God from His sanctuary'. We have diluted the meaning of the word awesome, we use it to say that we've had a good time but in its original form it talks of fear, dread, reverence. To be awestruck is to have one's breath taken away.

The Holy One, the Lord of Heaven's Hosts is utterly unique, He has no peers. He alone is worthy of true worship and adoration. When we look at chapter 40 of Isaiah we see the unique nature of God, his infinite nature, He has no equal. Look at these images from Isaiah 40:12-17.

The LORD Has No Equal

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD,
or instruct the LORD as his counselor?

¹⁴ Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

¹⁵ Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

¹⁶ Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

¹⁷ Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.

Who can hold the oceans in their hands? The Cedars of Lebanon which were deemed to yield such magnificent timber that Solomon used them for building the Temple are little more than firewood for a burnt offering to the Lord. Even the nations are nothing more than a drop in the bucket.

Isaiah saw the glory of God within the temple and was awestruck. Who wouldn't be? And then he realised his own sinful nature. Isaiah saw the glory of God and he was convicted of

his sin. Woe is me! said Isaiah. He knew he could not stand in God's presence. When we come to worship do we encounter God in such a way that we realise our own human nature? Our sinfulness? Do we humbly bow the knee because we realise what a great and awesome God we worship. This is the depth of worship, when we see who God really is, high and lifted up!

Isaiah was called to be a prophet, to hear God's voice and to then speak out what was on God's heart. When he comes into God's presence he realises he has unclean lips but God by His grace cleanses him. A burning coal from the altar on your lips sounds very painful. Some commentaries say that this was literal and that Isaiah had scarred lips for the rest of his life from where the coal touched him. He needed to encounter God in a very real way and be open to God's purification because He had an important message to tell his people. It was a difficult message: because of their rebellion they were facing exile. Are we willing to come to the depths of worship of God allow Him to change us no matter what the cost? Isaiah was changed to such an extent that he was ready to accept his commission from the Lord. Are we?

Again, Isaiah brings us back to consider who God is:

²¹ Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

²² He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

²³ He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

²⁴ No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

²⁵ "To whom will you compare me?

Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:

Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.

Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

No one is God's equal. How often do we ascribe to creation something that we should be ascribing to God? When we look at creation do we stand in wonder at the one who created it?

Isaiah compares the peoples of the earth to grasshoppers in the eyes of God. The rulers of this world who think they are somebodies, they are reduced to nothing. Rulers, empires, nations might come and go but God is an eternal God. When we stop and recognise the majesty and wonder of God, we really start to get our own sense of self-importance into perspective. And yet we look at John 1:12 and we read that, because of His grace, God gives us the right to be His children. We, like the children of Israel and like the Seraphim are called to live lives that declare God's glory. However, they were facing attack on all sides, they had rebelled against God, and had not committed themselves to worship of the Lord. Perhaps they were feeling that God had forgotten them. Perhaps they were starting to demand their rights. Perhaps Uzziah's pride and disregard for God's ways had rubbed off on them. Isaiah Chapter 40 concludes with these words:

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob?

Why do you say, Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

What does this mean to us in 21st Century Britain in times of corona virus and slowly coming out of lockdown. Days when we can't visit our church buildings for corporate acts of worship. Are we tired of these days? Tired of not being able to come together, missing one another and wondering where God is in all of this. Perhaps tempers are starting to fray. Or perhaps anxiety is starting to rise. Or a sense of loneliness increase. Do we ask the Lord whether He has forgotten us? Do we demand our rights from him as in verse 27?

As we come to the conclusion of chapter 40 however we see that God is an everlasting God. We can't plummet the depths of His understanding. His ways are higher than our ways. He has the bigger picture and we can trust Him because he has a heart for the weak, the poor and the weary, He recognises our vulnerability and by His grace He will renew and restore us. God responds with grace and compassion when we come in humility and reverence to Him and bow the knee in worship. When we stop trying to do everything in our own strength and according to our own understanding. When we come to the depth of worship, living lives surrendered to the Lord, He will take us, whatever the world might look like from an earthly perspective, to a place where we can soar with Him on wings like eagles.

Reflection

King Uzziah wasn't consecrated to make an offering of incense to the Lord. How do you build your relationship with the Lord during the week to ensure that you are prepared when we come together for worship? Especially during these days of lockdown when we are not meeting together in person.

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty! Spend some time reflecting on the Holiness of God and how this might impact how you come to worship Him

When Isaiah came to the depths of worship of the Lord it prepared him for the ministry God was calling him to. How does worship change you to prepare you for your everyday life?

How are you coping with lockdown and the gradual lifting of restrictions? How can we encourage one another during these times to come to a place of deeper worship?

- **Song:** Thank You for Saving me

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 may you attain to fullness of being,
the fullness of God Himself.

Ephesians 3:18, 19

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
And the love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with all of you.
Amen.