

TAMWORTH AND LICHFIELD CIRCUIT
Worship at Home: Sunday 10th October 2021
This resource has been prepared for use by Kevin Barry

Living within a Kingdom Community!

Philippians 2: 1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

We welcome you to this worship material and pray that through it you will come to meet with the Lord Jesus and interact, through faith, with His Spirit. As a Christian community we are called to come together and bring our collective worship to Him. However, we know that worshipping at home can sometimes seem lonely, but the truth is that at any time of the day or night, there are Christians around the world giving praise to God: somewhere. By using this material, you will not only be joining other members of our circuit, but Christians across the whole of God's world. May this therefore be an act of Christian love and unity.

Before we start this act of worship why not light your self a candle and place it in front of you and use it to focus on Jesus' promise, that as two or more are gathered (literally or spiritually) in His Name then He is with them. As you watch the flame dance in the air let it remind you that Jesus is alive and active in and through us all. Then as we move into our worship let's allow the words of Singing the Faith (StF) 313 to draw us even deeper into worship as we raise our voices in joyous praise:

1. Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death has won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where the body lay:

*Thine be the glory
Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.*



2. Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing:

Thine be the glory ...

3. No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above:

Thine be the glory

Edmond Budry

Prayer of Praise, Thanksgiving and Confession

As summer moves into autumn and the colours of the leaves begin to change from green to various shades of gold and brown let us all take time to reflect on the beauty of the world that we live in and the abundance of God's provision. At the same time considering the harsher side of life and creation, experienced by so many people across this country and the world. Each fleeting image that we see on our TV screens represent lives and families, each loved and cherished by you. Let us feel united through their suffering and learn to reach out in prayer and compassion into their situations.

Help us Lord to pray on the passage above from Philippians and take seriously your call for us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Let each of us now take a moment to consider those times, during the last week, when we have not followed the light of God's path. As we repent, and turn again into the light, God is righteous to forgive us. Amen

The Lord's Prayer – remembering that in our worship we are joining with others across the worldwide Christian community let us join in saying the pray that Jesus taught his followers (in which ever format you feel most comfortable):

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name;
your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as
it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin
against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from
evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours, now and for ever. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is
in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from
evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Mark 10: 17-31 - New Revised Standard Version

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' ²⁰ He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.' ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' ²⁹ Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

Isaiah 61: 1-3 - New Revised Standard Version

¹ The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**Pope Francis, Justin Welby and Orthodox
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the UN**
*We call on everyone, whatever their belief or world
view to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth
and of people who are poor, examining their
behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for
the sake of the earth which God has given us.*



Hymn: StF 407 (Keith Getty)

1. Hear the call of the kingdom,
Lift your eyes to the king;
let his song rise within you
as a fragrant offering of how
rich in mercy,
came in Christ
to redeem all who trust in his unfailing grace

2. Hear the call of the kingdom
To be children of light
With the mercy of heaven,
The humility of Christ;
Walking justly before him,
Loving all that is right,
That the life of Christ may shine through you.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, brining hope to the world,
Filled with passion, filled with power
to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name.*

3. Hear the call of the kingdom
To reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion
In the wonder of the cross,
Bringing peace and forgiveness,
And hope yet to come:
Let the nations put their trust in him.

King of heaven, we will answer the call

Reflection

May the words of this reflection and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer.

One of the key themes that runs through Mark's gospel is that of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. In our passage from Mark, we hear about how a rich man (Matthew tells us that he was young, whereas Luke says that he was a ruler – hence the usual translation 'the rich young ruler') comes to Jesus and asks what appears to be a good question to pose to this *good* and gifted teach.

It appears from the question, that the man has previously spent some time listening to Jesus, and had a general idea of his message, but as we will see, he had missed the whole point. The problem that the man had was that he could only see the world through the lens of his own life. Hence his question, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' – what must I do, what must I do...? My guess is that whenever he wanted anything his wealth had previously allowed him just to get it – and he had grown to expect it.

It is clear that Jesus has immediately discerned the problem, and Mark begins to lay it out for us, in the form of the challenge to the young man – 'you know the commandments (Exodus 20 – before you read on look at this passage a pray over those commandments missing and those included by Jesus).

Spoiler alert – Jesus misses out the first four commandments (the ones that the young man no doubt thought should be the most important – and they are, but only when founded on the last six) and goes straight to the last six (placing number five to the end – I will leave you to think why?). That is, Jesus concentrates on those commandments that have to do with human relationships – community.

This passage used to remind me of those little 'I Spy' books, where the intention was to collect all the objects identified in the book and place a tick in the box next to them. There were always some that were easy, so in the I Spy at the Beach, there was such things as sandcastles, but then there were always those that you never managed to get. The result of this was generally to make you give up part way through the holiday. Now this 'rich young ruler' had gone beyond the normal and appears to have almost completed the set. So, the man asks, 'What must I do?' knowing that as so many do, that there is still something missing in his life.

Jesus response is, '**everything**'. Jesus challenges him with selling all that he owned and following him. The problem was that the man's obedience was based on calculations of self-interest rather than on a single-hearted love of God (commands 1 to 4) that was prepared to fling everything away.

Isaiah pointed to the kind of kingdom that God would inaugurate. One where the marginalised and poor would be comforted and enabled to live full and meaningful lives, free from all the bondages of life that restrict so much potential. And finally in their address to the UN the world's Christian leaders are again laying

down the challenge, in particular to those of us living in relative comfort – make a meaningful sacrifice. It is not just up to world leaders at COP26 to save the earth, but each and everyone of us can make a difference. This is a part of the call to be a disciple in 2021.

Genesis 2: **God placed mankind in the world till it and keep it.** Amen.

Prayers of intercession

People complain that they do not always see the answers to their prayers, as promised by Jesus. As we come to prayer let us focus on the possibility, that we might actually be, the answer to the prayers of others.

Dear Lord, we have witnessed tourists going into space, international arguments over building weapons of mass destruction (submarines for Australia) next to images of human beings suffering hypothermia in the boarder forest of Poland. Help us to discern your will, and to encourage the leaders of the world to redirect their priorities.

Lord hear our prayers **and show us how to respond to the prayers of others.**

Allow us to see the link between each decision that we make and the impact it has on the lives of others. Do not let our prosperity and security be founded in the misery and degradation of others. As we walk the streets of our towns open our eyes to see a world of victims and guild us to make meaningful sacrifices.

Lord hear our prayers **and show us how to respond to the prayers of others.**

We thank you for the selfless love shown by so many in the health and caring communities. We remember all those known directly by us, but also for those suffering alone and seemingly uncared for. Through Christ we reach out to the least of these and pray that we might be given the opportunity to show real practical love over the next week.

Lord hear our prayers **and show us how to respond to the prayers of others. Amen.**

Maybe in response to our prayers, you could take time call on a neighbour, preferably someone that you do not already know, and introduce yourself. I will not tell you what do next, but trust the Spirit to guide you – God Bless you as you channel His Love into the world.

In the opening reading from Philippians we are reminded that it is by acting in a selfless way, centred on the needs of others, that we will bring our true worship and glory to God.

Hymn: StF 6 (Donna Adkins)

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| 1. | Father, we love you,
We worship and adore you:
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name, in all the earth. | 3. | Spirit, we love you,
We worship and adore you:
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name, in all the earth. |
| 4. | Jesus, we love you,
We worship and adore you:
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name, in all the earth. | | |

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all now and forever.
Amen.

Remember to blow the candle out and if this worship material has been useful why not share it with someone you know or even your previously unknown neighbour.