



Chet Valley Churches
Last Sunday Praise
24 April 2022



Welcome

Welcome to Last Sunday Praise. In this file you will find links to the songs we have chosen for our worship. Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons, including Covid, we are having to hold this Last Sunday Praise online, but we will hopefully be back singing together in May.

Introduction

Today in the Church calendar is Low Sunday. It's seemingly so called, because after the great remembrance of Jesus' death on Good Friday and the celebration of His resurrection on Easter Sunday, things get back to 'normal'. However, I would query whether for anyone who comes to know of Jesus' death and resurrection, life could ever continue as before.

Most definitely, the message of Easter is not reserved for one Sunday a year, hence we are continuing with that theme this evening.

Just before writing this I'd read these words in Deuteronomy. 'The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms'. These lead us nicely into the first song.

♪♪ All the songs link to YouTube. Just click with your mouse on the link, which will take you to a song with on-screen words. You may have to skip a few YouTube adverts if we have chosen songs that are not currently on the Chet Valley Churches YouTube channel.

♪♪ From Everlasting to Everlasting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfCOJWYfp9I>

♪♪ **When I was lost you came and rescued me**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI2mch45_Q4

Pause for thought, and prayer...

Lord, thank you that we can come and worship you this evening, the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you that at our darkest moments you came and rescued us. Thank you that you are eternal, from everlasting to everlasting. Help us to worship you this evening we pray. Amen.

Psalm 62

¹ I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from him.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken.

♪♪ **Cornerstone**

<https://youtu.be/BHzlxSuHtqs>

♪♪ **You're the Word of God the Father**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVpkR4gYTlg>

Pause for thought, and prayer...

In a world where so much seems to be going wrong, how great it is to know that we have a God who is strong, all powerful and yet cares for each one of us dearly. How we need to trust Him through the difficult times of life and how we need to show that His love is available for all who will turn to Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Perhaps you might like to read this passage aloud, and think about God's assurance of His care for us.

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.'

♪♪ Everyone needs compassion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY46Bea7w74>

♪♪ Because he lives

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA>

Bible Reading

Luke 12: 13-32

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem

who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.

²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Talk

Paul Mizen has written this reflection.

The bible story that we read takes place later on that first Easter Sunday. Two people were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, one named Cleopas, the other completely unknown. As they are on this seven mile walk, they are discussing all that has happened. Jesus draws alongside them, but they were kept from recognising Him. Jesus asks what they were discussing but Cleopas' response suggests there was only one topic of conversation at that time.

Clearly there is much confusion in their minds. Everyone knew from the Old Testament the promise of the Messiah who would come, right through from the chief priests to a Samaritan woman of dubious moral standing that Jesus met at the well at Sychar. The trouble was that most saw this Messiah as someone who would come and throw out the occupying Roman army and make Israel great again. That was never God's plan.

Instead, imagine their confusion when thinking Jesus is going to ride into Jerusalem in great power and authority, they see Him riding on a donkey! Imagine their confusion as on that day the crowds are crying out 'Hosanna. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'. Yet only days later, the cry across the city is 'Crucify Him. We will not have this man to reign over us.'

Despite all that Jesus had taught His followers about His forthcoming death, they couldn't really comprehend the fact that this Messiah would die. It's a confusion we've perhaps all faced and is summed up in Charles Wesley's hymn 'And can it be' in the line 'Tis mystery all, the immortal dies.' I guess also that if you can't comprehend Jesus dying, it's even more difficult to understand the resurrection. So there's even more confusion at

the events they've heard today of Jesus' body having disappeared.

As Jesus draws alongside them, He begins to explain to them all the things that had been said about Him by the prophets. He's trying to bring some order to their confusion so that they will know the truth of all that has happened.

By the time they reach Emmaus, it is late in the day and they invite Jesus to stay with them, as Jewish custom virtually required. However, what followed wasn't within that tradition. It would have been the role of the host to take the bread, give thanks and break it, but it's Jesus who takes on that role.

For Cleopas and his friend, this is their 'light bulb' moment. Suddenly all that they have been talking about and perhaps the way Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks led them to realise this was indeed the risen Lord Jesus Christ. They can say 'were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?' Despite the lateness of the day, they rush back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

I wonder when our hearts last burned within us as the message of Jesus death and resurrection have been spoken about. The death of Jesus on the cross is the greatest sacrifice that could ever be made. The resurrection of Jesus is the greatest miracle that will ever take place. God has done all that for us because He loves us beyond measure. He didn't want us to be lost because of our sins, but instead be restored to Him and assured that when this life is over, we will be with Him for eternity.

If you are confused today, ask God to show you all that He did for you through Jesus. I pray for each one of us that we will regularly feel our hearts burning within us as we think of the salvation that God offers us through Jesus.

In a different way, let us affirm our faith by listening to a song based on the Creed.

🎵 I Believe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNiYUPsHgIs>

Time for prayer...

We pray firstly for our community.

- Those that are unwell, particularly those suffering from Covid or longer-term after effects.
- Those struggling financially in the present economic climate.

We pray for our country.

- For our Government and all in authority.
- For all Church leaders.

We pray for our world.

- For the situation in Ukraine, that God would intervene, particularly in the Russian leadership to bring the conflict to a close.
- For all world leaders that God would give them great wisdom.

And a prayer for ourselves:

Lord we trust in You, because you are the only answer to all our world's problems. We pray that you will use us to spread your love to a needy world. We pray that many will come to know you and put their trust in you. Help us as we seek to serve you we pray. Amen.

You might want to pray aloud the prayer that Jesus taught his first disciples. Use whatever version or language you wish!

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.
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.

🎵 **In Christ Alone**

<https://youtu.be/ljlsOQ269I4>

🎵 **Men of Faith**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUei3JMg2uA>

A benediction

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

So now let's go forward as our last song says in the assurance that God is with us wherever we go.

🎵 **God is our strength and our refuge**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA0zJnWIRr8>