

The Bigger Picture

Doing Church Differently

24th May 2020

Word for the week

Words of wisdom from our Pastor, Mike....

What do you miss most about not meeting in the church building? Perhaps, you miss a much loved activity or maybe the physical company of friends you have known for a long time. It could be the sense of God speaking through a live sermon or it might be the opportunity to participate within a meeting.

What do I miss? Well, all of the above for starters. But, I believe that what I am missing most is the privilege of singing worship songs to God alongside other members of the church family. Singing from home alongside the worship leader with all the other mics muted has some worth but just isn't the same.

If we look at scripture, you shouldn't be surprised I feel like this. We studied Psalm 42 at the beginning of lockdown which describes the agony of a temple musician who was stuck in a kind of lockdown experience of his own whilst longing to be at the temple in Jerusalem to sing worship songs with his fellow worshippers.



It would appear that singing worship songs is always vertical as part of the way you acknowledge God's greatness. Sometimes, it is meant to be horizontal as well enabling members of the church community like us to raise our voices together in adoration. I look forward to the day when we can, once again, do both.

In the meantime, don't be afraid to 'sing for joy at the work of his hands' each day wherever you are and whatever you are doing!

Welcome

Welcome to the 6th
The Bigger Picture.
We hope you continue to
find it an inspiration.

May the Lord bless you
and keep you.

Mike & Sharon

CONNECT

Sunday 24th May - Talks on Youtube:-

Mike's sermon - 'surviving the storm', looking at Acts 27

<https://youtu.be/LFfOcWNrbjk>

A short message based on Psalm 118:24. Filmed at Coombe Abbey - <https://youtu.be/BdNqQoSK0fo>

Thursday 28th May

10.30am - Encounter - Bible Study on Zoom - Mike will lead us in a study of Psalm 73.

Sunday 31st May

10.30am - Worship & Praise - a church gathering on Zoom, including, a short talk by Mike, and songs chosen and led by Marinella.

Family Worship

On the MRBC website there are resources for families who want to worship together in a creative way—*church at home*.

This week the worship is based on the story of Jonah. God is everywhere, God speaks. Wake up and listen!

www.mrb-church.org.uk/children-and-families-on-sunday/

**"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."**

(Ephesians 5:14)

Praying as Jesus Prayed

Each week we have been looking at the prayer, commonly known as *The Lord's Prayer*. This week we consider the final lines of the prayer.....

***'For thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory
forever and ever,
Amen'***

In most translations, these lines don't appear along with the rest of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6. They are present in later Greek manuscripts and included in the KJV of the Bible. The sentiment echoes part of the prayer by King David in [1 Chronicles 29 \(v11\)](#).

The word 'for' means we need to look at what comes before it to understand what the lines refer to. They could refer to 'everything above', however, in KJV, and the footnote in other versions, suggest it is part

Keep it Simple

When you don't know what to pray....

A woman went to church each week and always prayed the same prayer, "O Lord, thank you Jesus."

Finally, somebody asked her, "Why do you pray the same little prayer?"

She said, "Well, we live in a bad neighbourhood and some nights there are bullets flying and I have to grab my daughter and hide on the floor, and all I know how to cry out is, 'O Lord.' But when I wake up in the morning and see that we're okay I say, 'Thank you Jesus.'"

When I take my daughter to get on the school bus and I

don't know what's going to happen to her, I cry, 'O Lord.' And when that bus arrives at 3pm and my daughter is safe, I say, 'Thank you Jesus.' And when I get to church, God has been so good, I just put my two prayers together, 'O Lord, thank you Jesus.'"

We sometimes make the mistake of thinking that God is impressed if we use many words in prayer. Jesus warned us,

'And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.'

Matthew 6: 7

The simple woman in my story enjoyed a relaxed relationship with God.

Why don't you try to speak to him little and often?

Mike

of v 13. So the understanding is that we are saying, 'Lord, this is your Kingdom, you are the ruler, protect me from the evil one, give me the strength to resist the temptation to sin, I recognise your power, may all the glory go to you—always. Amen'

"This, then, is how you should pray" (Matt 6:9)
Start your prayers with reverence and worship to God, accept His will and pray for the Kingdom to grow, thank him for his provision and ask for his input in your life, forgive others, repent and ask God's forgiveness, resist evil and the temptation to sin, and recognise God's power, glory and rule over your life forever.

The Prayer by Worship Central

<https://youtu.be/CAIyI5veDYE>

Prayer Challenge

Only pray this prayer if you really mean it....

Lord God Almighty, Creator of all,

I humble myself before,

I commit this day and everyday to you.

I fully submit to your will over my life.

Lord, take me in your hands,

shape me,

change me,

mould me into the disciple you made me to be,

the disciple you need me to be to fulfil the plan you have for me.

Amen



Spend time with God and allow Him to transform you

Prayer & Praise for the Week

Prayer Pointers

This week let us pray for

- Sunday** churches in Coventry trying to connect today via technology. May there be much corporate worship rising up to our awesome God today.
- Monday** workers throughout the UK that employers would prioritise their safety more than their business and their profits.
- Tuesday** church leaders to stay fresh with God and to be given wisdom in caring pastorally for their congregations.
- Wednesday** progress in finding and processing an effective vaccine to neutralise the threat of the coronavirus.
- Thursday** the NHS and Chemist keyworkers within our church family; Tracey Arnett, Elaine Bullock, Lorraine Docker, Fiona Dunn, Sue Davies, Joy Abadilla, Sweetie Arputharaj, Lisa Winchester, Sam Olofinnik, Adam Sprigg, Ivor Green, Denise Merritt-Stokes, Emily Baker
- Friday** five people you know who don't yet know the love of God.
- Saturday** Sharon Roberts, other staff members, 3-4 year olds and their parents as the Cherubs playgroup finalise preparations for resuming soon.

He is worthy of all the praise and glory.

Sing Your Praises to the LORD

A week of worship from worship leader, Rachel.

"Oh, please help us against our enemies for all human help is useless. With God's help we will do mighty things, for he will trample down our foes."

Psalm 60:11-12

"Don't put your trust in mere humans. They are as frail as breath. What good are they?"

Isaiah 2:22

When we are focused on things on earth and listening to human thoughts and opinions, we lose sight of the bigger picture. Yes, we need to obey the laws of the land and hear what is going on with the virus, but we should also look to Him, who loves us, protects us and who can calm our fears and anxieties.

We need to stop trusting in (believing in, having faith in, depending on, counting on, banking on, leaning on, relying on, pinning our hopes on) people, as Isaiah says, and entrust them (commit them, assign them, put them into the hands of, hand them over) to God.

He knows all that is going on and we need to trust (expect, believe, suppose, hope) that good will come from this time and more people will be questioning what life is all about and thinking about spiritual things. Use this time to draw closer to God; lean into Him and learn more about His character.

Be determined to win the battle each day over your fears and anxieties and start standing on God's Word, the unshakeable foundation that is Christ in You, the hope that we all cling to.

Sing praises to Him through the storm and we will see victories being won.

Songs to listen to this week ...

Day One: [Lou Fellingham - Christ in Me](#)

Day Two: [Amy Grant - All That I Need is You](#)

Day Three: [Rend Collective - My Lighthouse](#)

Day Four: [Rend Collective - Every Giant Will Fall](#)

Day Five: [Lou Fellingham - Lord, I Need You](#)

Day Six: [Bethel Music - God, I Look to You](#)

Day Seven: [New Wine - You Restore my Soul](#)

