

## All-age service 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Call to worship:

Psalm 22 verses 25 to 31

“I will praise you before all the people. I will fulfil my vows in the presence of those who worship you. The poor will eat and be satisfied. All who seek the Lord will praise God’s name. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy. The whole earth will acknowledge and return to the Lord. All the families of the nations will bow down before God. For royal power belongs to the Lord. The Lord rules all the nations. Let the rich of the earth feast and worship. Bow before God all who are mortal, all whose lives will end as dust. Our children will also serve God. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord. God’s righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything God has done.”

Let us sing: **Light of the world**

### **Here I Am to Worship**

Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

And I'll never know  
How much it cost  
To see my sin  
Upon that cross

I'll never know  
How much it cost  
To see my sin  
Upon that cross

I'll never know  
How much it cost  
To see my sin  
Upon that cross

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### **Bible reading: John 15 verses 1-8**

*"I am the true grapevine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce, and prunes those branches that bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*

*Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.*

### **Prayers including the Lord's prayer:**

Jesus, you are the vine  
*Stand up straight and tall.*  
and we are the branches.  
*Hold arms out wide.*  
Thank you that we are connected  
to you and to each other,  
*Hold hands.*  
rooted and grounded in love. Amen.

The Lord's prayer:

Our Father in heaven, you are awesome! Show us who you are and how you want us to be. Make earth more like heaven. Please give us what we need to keep going each day. Help us when we are wrong and clean us up on the inside. Help us to let other people off and move on. Keep us from bad stuff. You're in charge! You're strong and powerful and always there. Forever! Amen.

**Song: God is here.**

If you can live without it then I'm sure that you can see  
That it's a want and not a need, it's very clear to me.  
I need to eat, I need to drink, a place to call my home  
I want a new Playstation or a brand new mobile phone  
I need to feel that I am safe and never all alone, God is here...

*Chorus*

*For God is with me every hour of every day  
God is taking care of me and God is showing me the way  
God knows me and God loves me  
God below, beside, above me  
I know that God will save me when I fall*

Sometimes I feel all alone, when all my friends have gone  
And I feel really lonely, as though I'm the only one  
Although I cannot see God I can feel that God is near  
God promised to stay with me so I know that God is here  
God gives me all the things I need and takes away my fear, God is here...

Sometimes I have to make a choice and don't know what to do  
It's really very hard and I just try to muddle through  
Sometimes the road is very long, the river very wide  
I'm scared to start the journey, I would rather run and hide  
And that's when God will say to me "Please, let me be your guide", God is here...

God knows me when I'm very good and knows when I am bad  
God knows when I am happy and God knows when I am sad  
God knows when I am hungry and God gives me food to eat  
God knows when I am lonely and God gives me friends to meet  
God knows me from my hairy head right down until my feet, God is here...

God keeps me safe and loves me, God is with me all day long  
And God will save me from myself when I am going wrong  
I know that God is with me and God helps me every day  
That's why I like to sing God songs, that's why I like to pray  
For God is like a Mars bar when I work or rest or play, God is Here...  
God is here...

## Talk 1: puppet script

### **Mickey the monkey and Sandy.**

S: Hi Mickey, what do you have there?

M: It's a dandelion, I picked it yesterday.

S: Oh, Mickey, it doesn't look very well.

M: I know, I don't understand it, I put it in water.

S: well, plants don't just need water, can you think what else it might need?

M: Well, I put it in a sunny window too!

S: Okay, but there is something else plants need.

M: I know, I know! It needs a ladybird to keep it company!

S: No, that's not it..

M: Umm, I know, a whole field of yummy grass!

S: No, there is something else, keep thinking.

M: It needs a mummy dandelion to look after it!

S: Nooo,

M: I can't think anymore, I'm too upset!

S: Well, okay, I'll tell you, it needs roots that go down into the soil so that it can have nutrition, the food it needs to stay alive.

M: Oh dear.

S: Did you know we're a bit like that dandelion? The dandelion needed to stay connected to its plant to stay alive and we need to stay connected to Jesus to grow in our love for God and others. If we are cut off from Jesus, just like the dandelion was cut off from the plant, we won't grow and we won't produce good fruit— like showing Jesus' love to others and doing the good works Jesus has for us to do.

### A Reflective prayer

*A meditation on 'I am the vine'. Read it slowly with significant pauses after each line.*

I am the vine.

I am your origin, your nutrients, your mainstay.

Root yourself in me.

Let yourself be fed.  
Let yourself grow...closer and deeper.  
And in the growing, allow the pruning.  
Allow me to prune, to trim, to cut away your broken branches,  
your fruitless parts,  
your strivings,  
branches that are going to seed.  
And watch and wait.  
Wait for the new shoots.  
Wait for the new fruits to bud slowly and open gently.  
Turn to my warmth, and let your fruits open in my glory.

**Amen**

**Song:**

**I the Lord of Sea and Sky**

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,  
I Have Heard My People Cry.  
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,  
My Hand Will Save.  
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,  
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.  
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?  
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.  
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

I, The Lord Of Snow And Rain,  
I Have Borne My People's Pain.  
I Have Wept For Love Of Them, They Turn  
Away.  
I Will Break Their Hearts Of Stone,  
Give Them Hearts For Love Alone.

I Will Speak My Word To Them  
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.  
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

I, The Lord Of Wind And Flame  
I Will Tend The Poor And Lame.  
I Will Set A Feast For Them,  
My Hand Will Save  
Finest Bread I Will Provide,  
Till Their Hearts Be Satisfied.  
I Will Give My Life To Them,  
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.  
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

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**Talk** about fruit "If I was a fruit..."

## **Bible reading 2 – 1 John 4 verses 7-21**

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

*We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

*We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God, must also love his brother.*

### **Song: A New Commandment**

A new commandment I give unto you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all men know that you are My disciples,  
if you have love one for another.

By this shall all men know that you are My disciples,  
if you have love one for another.

### **Talk 2**

This second bible reading needs very little explanation, and is one of my favourite passages. John, one of Jesus' special friends, who also wrote the gospel of John, is now a lot older and is writing letters to the early Christians, sharing his knowledge of Jesus.

How wonderful it must have been to have known Jesus and been able to walk and talk with him, learning from him. The love John had for Jesus shines out of this passage, spilling over into every sentence. Just in the first paragraph alone John uses the word love or loved 13 times!

Earlier we looked at the vine and branches passage from John's account of Jesus' life, where Jesus reminds his followers to stay connected to God. In this letter, John tells us that God is Love, and God will live in us. God sent the Holy Spirit to be with each one of us so that if we live in God we live in love, we are connected to God. Have you ever felt that amazing and sometimes overwhelming feeling when you love someone so much you want to be with them, look after them and protect them always? As a parent I know I have! This is the kind of love God has for each one of us. You need never feel alone if you have God at the centre of your lives. And it's the kind of love that spills out to the people around us and those we meet. I was once told you can always tell a true Christian, because of the way they shine out for all to see, and I believe that this is God's Holy Spirit shining out the love of God. Who will you shine out on today and share God's love with? Let's stay connected to God and each other in any way we can this week, and continue to make our vine spread and produce good fruit.

**Let's have our prayers of intercession, where we pray for others:**

Dear God, we pray for our families, those living with us and those further away. Keep them safe Lord and wrap your loving arms around them.

Dear God, we thank you for our church and we ask that you will help us to grow closer to each other and closer to you. Help us to love each other as you love us.

We think about all your people who are connecting with each other today by listening to this service. Be with each one of them and help them to know they are loved.

Dear God, we thank you for the town where we live and we ask that you will help us to spread your love to our friends and neighbours and the people we meet.

Dear God, we thank you for the time we have spent together and we ask that you will be with us throughout the rest of this week.

Dear God, bless all who are sad, or ill or lonely and those who do not know you.

Be with those who are hungry, cold, and need our help.

Dear God, we think about people in other parts of the world, help us to do what we can to help where help is needed. We particularly think about people suffering from the coronavirus in India and other parts of the world where they are struggling to cope. And we pray for all of our doctors, nurses, carers and cleaners who are continuing to work under pressure.

And we pray for governments both here and in other parts of the world. May they make good decisions for their people and for your world.

Lord, thank you that you listen to all our prayers spoken and unspoken. Amen.

Let's sing again: An action song; **Jesus' love is a bubbling over.**

Jesus' Love is a bubbling over (X3)

Hallelujah

Ooo, Love is a bubbling over (X3)

Hallelujah

Ooo ah, bubbling over (X3)

Hallelujah

Ooo, ah, ssshhh, over (X3)

Hallelujah

Oo, ah, sshhh, weeee (X3)

Hallelujah

Jesus' Love is a bubbling over (X3)

Hallelujah

Let us pray:

Dear Lord,

Thankyou for all those people listening to this service at home, for those who took part and for all of our church family, no matter how far away they are physically. We are all part of your Christian church Lord, help us to go out into the world and spread your message as we are able. Thankyou that we can feel your love within us, your Spirit working in our lives. Help us not to cut ourselves off from you Lord, so that we may remain in you and you in us. Lord we pray for anyone who is feeling cut off from you, maybe because of loss, pain or disbelief, hold them in your loving arms Lord, so that they may feel your love flowing through them. Amen

**And the blessing:**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *(Hold out hands as if expecting a present)*

And the love of God *(Put your hands on your heart)*

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit *(Hold hands)*

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! *(raise hands together on the Amen)*