**SUNDAY WORSHIP SHEET:**

**11th October 2020 at 10.30am**

**Rules for Christian Households**

**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.**

**It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24, NIV)**

*READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:*

*Welcome to our time of worshipping together, but in different places and in different ways – in Church or at home (either with or without Facebook live streaming).*

*We suggest that you have a Bible by your side to use.*

*And, as usual, we suggest that those of you who are watching live on Facebook have the links to today’s songs already open and set to play so that you can sing them as a continuous part of our worship. For those who are in the Church building, the songs will be played as soon as the live Facebook broadcast has ended – even though singing still isn’t allowed in Church, it will still be good to hear the songs together and sing in our hearts.*

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

*At 10am, on Facebook, Chris & Catherine will lead us in singing three worship songs, as a preparation for worship – see overleaf for lyrics:*

* *Let us take this moment to stop whatever else we are doing and thinking about. This is God’s time. Sit comfortably. Picture Jesus with you, sitting alongside you and be still with Him. Know He truly loves and cares for you and He can be trusted.*
* *Now picture our church family all joining you to worship God in this moment in their own homes or church. Know that we are worshipping together, even though we can’t see each other.*
* *Remember that we are one in the Lord.*
* *If you aren’t following the service on FB, we suggest that, if you are alone, you say the prayers and readings aloud. If you are with others, choose someone to lead and the rest of you join in with the words in bold. On FB, simply join in the words in bold.*

Church Family, we come together either on Facebook or in church or reading this service alone at home, to praise and worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Today we hear our sixth reading from Paul’s letter to the Colossians – Chapter 3.18-4:1 ‘Rules for Christian Households’

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:*

We celebrate the loving presence of God in our life.

**May God’s loving presence be a strong influence in our life.**

**Nurturing God, we gather in your name to worship you.**

**We rejoice that God teaches us about love and forgiveness.**

**As we grow in faith, trust and love for God; may our worship, witness and service bring honour to God’s Holy Name.**

*On the FB Live Video and in Church, Catherine now reads a story to ‘set the scene.’*

*Opening Prayer*

**Heavenly Father open our minds so that we may receive Your eternal wisdom.**

**Open our spirits so that we may know Your leading and guidance.**

**And open our hearts so that we may receive Your wonderful love. We ask all this in the glorious name of Jesus. Amen.**

*The Confession- Naomi*

**Almighty and most merciful Father,**

**we have wandered and strayed from your ways**

**like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires**

**of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against your holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things**

**that we ought to have done;**

**and we have done those things**

**that we ought not to have done;**

**and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.**

**Spare those who confess their faults.**

**Restore those who are penitent,**

**according to your promises declared to mankind**

**in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,**

**that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,**

**to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Prayer for the Day -*

**God, our Judge and Saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*BIBLE READING*

*Now read Colossians* *3:18 - 4:1 or listen to it read in Church or on FB.*

*THE SERMON - Chris*

* This passage isn’t often read out in Church. It seems to offend our sensibilities these days, especially perhaps in that bit about wives having to submit to their husbands!
* Then, also, many of us might feel that Paul’s words aren’t all that relevant to many of us - to those of us who have never been married, or who do not now have a wife or a husband, who no longer have parents alive, or dependent children, or who are not in paid employment or employ other people
* But if we see it as being about ALL our close relationships - with our families, with those who live near us, etc, then its instruction to ‘remain relational,’ to see people as more important than issues, is relevant to all of us!
* And, ‘submit’ isn’t the best translation of the command to wives. ‘This conjures up in many people‘s imaginations the image of a downtrodden woman, the victim of her husband’s every whim, unable to be herself, to think her own thoughts, to make a grown up contribution to the relationship.’ That’s from Tom Wright, a very eminent NT scholar.
* But, Wright goes on, ‘Nothing could be further from the truth, as Paul’s parallel command to husbands indicates.’ He goes for ‘treat your husbands with respect.’ That’s rather different!
* So we shouldn’t shy away from the passage because of the word ‘submit’!
* We should realise that, actually, the passage is very balanced, in a way that was totally new when Paul first wrote it. In those days, pagan moralists (who were all men!) gave very detailed instructions for wives, children and slaves, but none at all for husbands, fathers and masters!
* Paul gives equally key instructions for all groups! There is reciprocity! It’s wives AND husbands; children AND parents; slaves AND masters. That was really radical back then!
* But the real reason why this passage is important for all of us, whatever our domestic situation, is that it reminds us that our first - and in many ways most important place - where we have to live out our discipleship, our following of Jesus, is in our domestic or home lives, with and among whoever we are in the closest relationship (whether we live under the same roof as them or not), with those in the next house or flat, with our parents and children, whenever they are.
* And we do have to live as Disciples - yes, of course, we are saved by God’s grace, not by us trying to live the Jesus way, BUT we can only make God’s grace real for us if we seek to live as Disciples. There’s no discipleship without grace, but no grace without discipleship.
* And discipleship is about how we live the whole of our lives, under and in obedience to Christ. And the whole of our lives includes our home life and our personal relationships.
* Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in the 1940s: ‘The disciple’s exclusive adherence to Christ … extends even to [their] married life. Marriage is marked by discipline and self-denial. Christ is the Lord even of marriage’ - and, I should say, of all close domestic relationships.
* In some ways, it’s actually easier to be a Christian in Church or out in the ‘world,’ with those we don’t know well or at all than it is at home, with those we spend the most time with. Domestic life is often the most challenging place for us to live out our Christian faith.
* There’s a wonderful old saying that gets this totally - ‘an angel abroad, and a fireside devil, ie when we’re out and about, we can be quite angelic, but when at home we can be totally devilish! ‘An angel abroad, and a fireside devil.’ Does that fit you? Does it sound familiar?
* Of course it does! We can often hide those sides of ourselves that are sinful from those we encounter only occasionally much more easily than we can from those who we share our lives with.
* Almost inevitably, those with whom we share our lives the most closely seem to be the ones who wind us up the most, who seem to bring out or see the worst sides of us, who most often get the rough end of our tongue!
* The ones we love the most we treat the worst - and they treat us worse than they treat anyone else! Sound familiar?
* And yet, Paul, by having these ‘rules for Christian households,’ is reminding us that how we are at home, with those we’re closest to in our daily lives, is part and parcel of our Christian life. Jesus needs to be Lord, Chief, Boss of our home life and close relationships as well as of any other part of our life. There’s no escape. No excuse!
* I have come to see that all the instructions Paul gives to each group of people in this passage actually applies to people in every group - what I mean is that husbands are told to show respect for their wives, not just the other way round; wives are to love their husbands, not just the other way round.
* So, in our domestic relationships, we make Christ the Lord, the Chief, the Boss, if we all treat others with respect, if we all love others, if we all are not bitter towards others, if we all don’t provoke others, if we all do what is just and fair for others, if we all obey others.
* Uh? How can we all obey each other? Surely that doesn’t work? In Ephesians, another of Paul’s letters in our Bible, 5.21, Paul starts his list of instructions to - again! - wives and husbands, children and parents, slaves and masters, by saying ‘Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.’
* ‘Be subject to one another’ in your household. But - ‘out of reverence for Christ.’ Our obedience in whatever is our domestic life has to be a joint obedience to King Jesus! If we do that, then we will be getting it right!
* But we have to be honest and say that this year, with the lock down and now continuing restrictions on meeting others, has put much greater pressure on us and our close relationships than we have ever known before.
* Many of those who live alone have struggled not to feel lonely and isolated, while those who do live in households have had almost the opposite pressure: too MUCH time in close proximity with those we share our lives closely with. That has been really stressful! I’ll own up and say that there have been more moments in the Vicarage this year than ever before when the sparks have really flown!
* We all have to learn how to give other people their own space in our close relationships; to allow them lives outside of us - their own friendships. We have to allow them to be people in their own right, and to express themselves and not dominate them. We have to let them be disciples themselves, not just with or through or behind us.
* Because we are all individuals before God, whatever our domestic circumstances. Bonhoeffer again (I’ve been reading him lately!): ‘Every person is called separately [by Christ] and must follow alone …. But the same Mediator who makes us individuals is also the founder of a new fellowship. [Christ] stands at the centre between my neighbour [and my spouse, and my children] and myself. He divides, but he also unites.’
* But we also need to learn how to build up in faith those we share our lives with. Those of you who are parents with dependent children, I want to recognise that it has perhaps been hard for you to keep your children close to the Lord this past six months. There has been no Sunday Club, no Messy Church, no school for much of the time!
* But don’t make that an excuse! You have a responsibility before God to enable your kids to come to know and love Jesus. Our Messy Church leader has been sending out the Messy Church at home materials each time they have become available - have you been using them with your children? The past 2-3 weeks we’ve been posting Douglas Talks on the Church Facebook page four times a week - are you watching them and talking about them with your kids?
* All that is what I think being ‘subject to one another out of reverence to Christ’ looks like!
* And if I’m right that all the instructions to all the groups of people in our passage in fact apply to everyone, then what Paul says to slaves is a key word for all of us:
* ‘Whatever you do, give it your very best, as if you were working for the Lord, and not for human beings.’
* That’s quite like 3.17, which we heard last week: ‘Whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.’
* Paul’s challenge to us is to make Jesus Lord, chief, boss of all we do and say each day, which means seeking to give it our best efforts, seeking to bring Him glory by all we do and say, seeking to say and do ONLY things that honour and please Him.
* Seek to honour and please Him all day, every day, in everything and in every way!!
* That’s total discipleship.
* Our reading is a real reminder to us that we are never NOT a Christian. Being a Christian isn’t something we can take up and put down when we feel like it, it’s not something we can leave behind when we come home. We have to let our faith affect - rule! - every part of our life.
* And that’s Paul’s fundamental message in our section today. So I, for one, am thankful to God that we have given ourselves the opportunity to hear and reflect on these verses for once.

*Affirmation of Faith- Chris*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine, He did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, He was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death – even the death of the cross. Therefore, God has raised Him on high and given Him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** (Phil. 2:2-11)

This is the faith of the Church

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

*PRAYERS: in Church & on FB, Catherine will now lead our prayers:*

As members together in the body of Christ, let us pray in faith to the true and living God.

God of Justice, we bring before you the many places in the world where there is violence and war, for those living in fear, who are suffering and afraid. We pray that countries with influence will take on the responsibility of trying to shape a possible course to peace with wisdom and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we learnt recently of one million lives lost worldwide to the pandemic, we grieve with all those who grieve. We urgently pray for all leaders to make wise decisions, for those with particular scientific skills to find a vaccine and for us all to think about others as we go about our daily lives. We look to you for hope and the courage to carry on through these difficult times, certain in the knowledge that you are in control and this is all in your hands.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for our church here in Lord’s Hill, that all who are in ministry, teaching, preaching and leading, do so with conviction and dedication. We pray also for our PCC and our Annual Meeting, that you will raise up people to serve in positions of leadership and that we will encourage them and pray for them. Whatever way we serve you, whether in a leadership role or behind the scenes, may it be a joy and a blessing and always Christ-centred.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for the work and service of all those working in the Health Service and in care homes who care for the elderly and sick and for those carers who look after family and friends in their own homes. We thank you for the many charitable organisations who raise money and provide supportive services to help, particularly at this time as they find inventive ways for fundraising. Bless their work and the work of all in the caring profession.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all finding their life painful, lonely or uncertain, especially those struggling financially, those with addictions and those who struggle with mental health. Bring them hope, an end to their sufferings and a resolution to their difficulties. Show us the best way to help them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we remember those who have died and for all who are saddened by the death of a loved one, whether recently or marking an anniversary. Comfort them in their time of sorrow. May all those who have gone before us, rest in your eternal peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord, as we go out into the world this week, let us do so with courage, loving our neighbours and being faithful witnesses.

**Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,** **our Saviour, Jesus Christ.    Amen**

*The Peace- Chris*

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you**

*We greet those with we are with, with the Peace of Christ.*

*In Church and on Facebook, Chris will now lead the Eucharistic Prayer, with the usual responses. If you are not watching on Facebook, please now read 1 Corinthians 11.23-26*

Let us continue our prayers by saying together the Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father**, who art in Heaven……**

*In Church and on Facebook, Chris now breaks the bread. Those in Church will be brought the blessed bread. Those at home are invited to make a ‘spiritual communion,’ by imagining Jesus giving us the bread and the wine and saying to us, ‘This is my Body,’ ‘This is my blood.’*

*Prayer after Communion*

**We praise and thank you, O Christ,**

**for this sacred feast:**

**for here we receive you,**

**here the memory of your passion is renewed,**

**here our minds are filled with grace,**

**and here a pledge of future glory is given,**

**when we shall feast at that table where you reign**

**with all your saints for ever.**

**Amen**

Next our church prayer whose words are taken from the Hillsong United worship song, ‘Oceans’:

**Spirit lead us where our trust is without borders
Let us walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call us. Take us deeper than our feet could ever wander
And our faith will be made stronger
In the presence of our Saviour. Amen**

*And the Blessing, from Colossians 3.1-4:*

Since you have been raised with Christ,

**Set your hearts on things above,**

Where Christ is,

**Seated at the right hand of God.**

Set your minds on things above,

**And not on earthly things.**

For you died,

**And your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**

When Christ, who is your life, appears,

**Then you also will appear with him in glory**

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among us now and for ever. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*We invite you to end your worship today by either singing or reading aloud the worship song whose lyrics we’ve included after the words of this service.*

**WORSHIP SONGS FOR 10AM**

**Love Divine**

Love divine, all loves excelling
Joy of Heaven to Earth come down
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling
All Thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus, Thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart

Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in Thee inherit
Let us find that second rest Take away the love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith, as its beginning
Sets our hearts at liberty

Come almighty to deliver
Let us all Thy life receive
Suddenly return and never
Never more Thy temples leave
Thee we would be always blessing
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing
Glory in Thy perfect love

Finish then Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee

Changed from glory into glory
'Til in Heaven we take our place
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder, love and praise

Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com/)

Songwriters: Seal Samuel / Mark Batson

Love Divine lyrics © Bat Future Music, Perfect Songs Ltd., Kobalt Music Copyrights Sarl, Perfect Songs Ltd

**Father I Place Into Your Hands**

Father, I place into your hands
The things I cannot do,
Father, I place into your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
We love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
And in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
And in your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
And do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That you will draw to you,
For I know that I am one with you.
For i know that i am one with you

Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com/)

Songwriters: Jenny Hewer

Father I Place Into Your Hands lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd.

**How Deep The Father's Love For Us**

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Source: [LyricFind](https://www.lyricfind.com/)

Songwriters: Stuart Townend

**Words of all songs printed under CCLI no 16884**

**WORSHIP SONGS**

**These are the words for the songs that we invite you to join in online after the worship:**

**This is Amazing Grace**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

*Chorus:*

*This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You would lay down Your life*

*that I would be set free*

*Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me*
Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

*Chorus:*
*This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You would lay down Your life*

*that I would be set free*

*Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave (x 3)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy, Worthy, Worthy.

*Chorus:*
*This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You would lay down Your life*

*that I would be set free*

*Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me*

(Phil Wickham© Bethel Music Publishing)

[**https://youtu.be/cgsbaBIaoVc?list=TLPQMDMxMDIwMjDh0zPuNE6bSQ**](https://youtu.be/cgsbaBIaoVc?list=TLPQMDMxMDIwMjDh0zPuNE6bSQ)

**Words of all songs printed under CCLI no 16884**

**Before the throne of God**

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE,

I have a strong, a perfect plea,

A great High Priest whose name is Love,

Whoever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,

My name is written on His heart;

I know that while in heaven He stands

No tongue can bid me thence depart,

No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,

And tells me of the guilt within,

Upward I look and see Him there

Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Saviour died,

My sinful soul is counted free;

For God the Just is satisfied

To look on Him and pardon me,

To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,

My perfect, spotless righteousness;

The great unchangeable I AM,

The King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die,

My soul is purchased with His blood;

My life is hid with Christ on high,

With Christ, my Saviour and my God,

With Christ my Saviour and my God.

 (Charitie Bancroft / Vikki Cook)

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<https://youtu.be/LULK2nZ6sCc>