**YOUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SHEET**

**For 10.30am Sunday 14th June 2020**



*READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:*

*Welcome to our 13th week of worship together, at home.*

* *Please have a Bible by your side for your use.*
* *For those of you who are watching live on Facebook, we suggest that have the links to today’s two songs already open and set to play as our worship comes to an end - so that you can sing them, together with everyone else, as the final part of our worship today.*

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

*I invite you to take this moment to stop whatever else you are doing.*

*This is God’s time. Sit comfortably. Picture Jesus with you, sitting alongside you and be still with Him. He is truly there.*

*Now picture our church family all joining you to worship God in this moment in their own homes. 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.*

*………………..*

*The Call to Worship:*

Loving God, we have come now to worship you.

**Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*On the FB Live Video, Angie reads a story. The script for this follows:*

First, let’s imagine God’s wonderful, original, perfect creation.

In the beginning, when the seas sparkled and everything was clean and new, God made Adam and Eve – the first human beings!

They were wonderful! God gave them minds to know him, hearts to love him, and ears to listen to his voice. In fact, God loved Adam and Eve so much, that he made them a beautiful garden.

He told them that they could eat the fruit from any tree – except one. God said, “If you eat the fruit from that tree, you will die”. He wanted to keep them safe, you see. So, Adam and Eve enjoyed the garden.

God was their best friend, and every day was perfect. But not for long … Somebody wanted to spoil their happiness and that somebody was God’s enemy, Satan, the snake.

The crafty old snake hissed “Guess why God won’t let you eat that special fruit? He knows it will make you as clever as him. Go on – try it! You won’t really die!” Eve gazed at the fruit. How scrumptious it looked and how delicious it would taste.…How stupendous to become so clever!

She took a bite – and so did Adam. How ashamed and miserable they felt, and they tried to hide from God. “You’d better leave the garden if you think you know better than me,” God told them sadly. “Now work will be back breaking, and when you

grow old, you will die.”

Oh, dear! One friendship broken. Snap!

Those human beings spoiled everything when they disobeyed God.

Nasty thistles and thorns grew in the earth – ouch! And worse still, the children of those humans started fighting and hurting each other in that wonderful world that God had created!

*Time of Confession:*

Since the Garden, God has been calling to us, “Where are you?” Since the Garden, humans have been hiding in shame. Let’s stop hiding and bring our sins to light.

*Now be silent as we remember before God the ways in which we have let Him down over the past week, as we prepare to ask for His forgiveness.*

**Our God, you created the world and called it good.** **You created man and woman in your image** **and called them very good.** **But we have been deceived by half-truths and false promises.** **We have tasted temptation and it is bitter in our mouths.** **We thought our desire for forbidden fruit would bring us wisdom,** **but it brought us only the curse of pain and death.**

**Please cover us in your love.** **Take away our sin.** **Restore our relationship with you, our God.**

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**

*We say the ‘prayer for the Day’ together:*

**O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

*Now read – or listen to – Genesis 3: 1-12*

This week’s sermon is a continuation of our God’s Big Picture sermon and study series, presented by Angie, on the topic of ‘The Perished Kingdom’.

*Reflections on Genesis 3:*

* A talking snake: it might be a character in a children’s story. **NO** this snake was different; it was a part of God’s perfect creation and Adam named it snake.
* Here it is at the heart of the sad story of how God’s perfect creation was spoilt.
* Vaughan Roberts, author of God’s Big Picture writes that the Snake is a symbol of the concept of evil.
* Recap: last week in Genesis 1 and 2 we learned that:

God is sovereign, absolutely holy and absolutely loving.

* The snake was part of the original perfect creation and he must have rebelled against God. As a result, the snake became known as Satan. **It’s extremely important that we know of the existence of evil.**
* In Genesis 3 we hear the Snake’s conversation with Eve.God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they would die.Satan countered with a lie. If you eat from this tree you shall NOT die.Satan lied by changing just one word**.** Satan set out a reason why God might lie to Adam and Eve when he said, “You will be like God, knowing good and evil.”Satan implied in his words, “Eve, God doesn’t want you to grow wise as he is wise. God doesn’t want you to be like him.
* In the snake’s conversation with Eve there is much deliberate miscommunication. The result is that Eve takes a deliberate decision to eat the fruit and when she realises the fruit is good to eat, she gives one to Adam.
* What was wrong with eating the fruit?It’s an act of disobedience and Adam and Eve rejected God’s authority and created their own independence. This is the nature of sin and this act of rebellion is known as The Fall.The consequences of this act of rebellion are disastrous. God acts in judgement and all the perfect relationships between God and the humans, between the humans and God and between the humans and creation which were established in creation are spoiled and broken.Perfect trust and intimacy have gone.
* The harmony of a perfect relationship between human beings and the created order is ended.Adam and Eve have turned away from God in rebellion and God turns away from them in judgement.Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden and a guard is placed to stop them returning to the Tree of Life.Ever since then, The Fall, all human beings face the punishment of death and eternal separation from God.
* Genesis chapters 4- 11 chart the spread of sin and death through the descendants of Adam and Eve where the consequence of sin is death which was also inherited. Then come the accounts of Noah and the flood and the Tower of Babel.
* The perfect kingdom that God created and established is now a distant dream. That is where the Bible should have ended.No reason why God should do anything to help us.
* But he is a gracious God who is determined to put things right again and restore his kingdom on earth.The creation story taught us that God is absolutely powerful and rules over everything. He is absolutely holy and absolutely loving.God is in control and continues to rule even when people disobey him.The Kingdom of God which is God’s people in God’s place under his rule and blessing.
* Something practical to take away. Today and in the days ahead when we face temptation, Satan’s attempt at miscommunication with us, our greatest source of wisdom and direction is the word of God.
* A friend of mine told me about this, which I feel illustrates The Fall and the effects of sin.
* A group of scientists in the 1980s set up a small private computer network. All went well for 6 months. The joy of a new toy was ruined when an anonymous member of the group began sending many abusive taunting messages and refused to stop. The network was discontinued.
* As a result, the online community broke up and it permanently affected the trust those people had for each other in the face to face world because they could never work out who did it. To this day they don’t know which one of them it was. Everyone was suspect. They could no longer be trusting friends. They could no longer be open in their sharing and be unguarded in their work.
* That’s the way it is, isn’t it? Sin destroys everything it touches. Sin destroys our Paradise.
* And so, the story goes on in the next session of the Promised Kingdom.

*Now let’s affirm our faith together:*

**We believe in God the Father,**

**from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

*Prayer Time (on FB, Naomi will now lead our prayers):*

And so, we come now to our time of intercession keeping that promise in our hearts and minds;

To the words of ‘Lord of the rainbow’, please respond, ‘hear our prayer’.

Lord of the rainbow **hear our prayer.**

Green – the colour of creation. There’s so much green, Lord, and so much beauty in our world. Many of us have enjoyed the opportunity to stop, look out of our windows and listen to your creation – the amazing world of plants and the canopy of trees, the peace of green fields and the thunder of the seas. And yet daily we’re destroying your world and abusing our privilege as stewards of creation. May we turn again, and love, honour and conserve what you have so graciously given.

Lord of the rainbow **hear our prayer.**

Yellow – the colour of the sun, of warmth and light, and so the colour of smiles and love and friendship. Thank you, Father, for the delight we have in family, friends and special communities. Thank you in particular for our special people who we think of quietly now …..

We pray for those who have few friends, whose loneliness is a daily burden, and for those who seem unable to make or keep the friendships that are so life-giving to others.

Lord of the rainbow **hear our prayer.**

Red – the colour of blood, the blood of the martyrs and saints who gave their lives for the faith we often hold so lightly. We pray for the Church that nurtured both them and us. Give to your Church in every culture and nation, the courage to be different, to speak the truth and live the life that draws others to Jesus Christ. Especially we pray for this church and our neighbouring churches, that we may be beacons of light in this community.

Lord of the rainbow **hear our prayer.**

Blue – the colour of the United Nations’ flag. Today that blue flag is having to fly in very many places because so often people opt for ways of hatred and violence, when you’ve given our world more than enough for all to prosper. Have mercy on us and strengthen the desire of all people to live their lives in friendship, cooperation and mutual care, against a backdrop of justice and honest peace. In particular, we pray for the family of George Floyd in their grief and distress as we seek a justice that is guided by your love.

Lord of the rainbow **hear our prayer.**

Green – for creation and yellow for warm relationships; red for the blood of the martyrs and blue for the flag of the united nations. And there’s orange for the sweet fruits of the earth, and indigo for the colour of shadows, and violet for the colour of sorrow.

Lord God, you surround us with so much colour, and the colours of the rainbow combine in the white light of your dazzling presence. So, take the prayers we’ve offered, together with the promises you’ve given us, and bring all creation to the fulfilment of your kingdom, according to your will.

Lord of the rainbow **hear our prayer.**

*We say our closing prayers together:*

First, the Lord’s Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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.**

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**

Blessing & Dismissal *(Chris shares this on FB):*

Christ give you grace to resist temptation, to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, to take up your cross and to follow him, rather than walk in your own way. And the blessing of Almighty God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this day, this week and for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let’s now 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*

*Thank you for joining our church family today. May God make His face to shine upon and give you His peace*

*…………….*

Worship Song Lyrics Reproduced under CCLI No:160884

**LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS**

by Slane & Struther

Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking,
And give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
At the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours,
And give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing,
And give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping,
And give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

Tune: Slane. Irish; harm. *Hymnal* 1982

Lyrics: Jan Struther (1931)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8mti7VL3gg>

**WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME** by Hillsong

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, Our God reigns
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, Our God reigns
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Words and Music by Ben Fielding & Brooke Ligertwood © 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QlAH3L4>