**SUNDAY WORSHIP SHEET:**

**15th November 2020 at 10.30am**

**2nd Sunday before Advent/**



*READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:*

*Welcome to our time of worshipping together, but in different places - all at home once again (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. If you don’t have Facebook, just read or sing the songs – words provided after the Order of Service – after you have used this Order.*

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

*At 10am, on Facebook, Chris & Catherine will lead us in singing two worship songs,and Catherine will tell a story, as a preparation for worship – see overleaf for the song 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. 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 reading this service alone at home, to praise and worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***THE GREETING***

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognize his presence with us.

**Let us worship him together**

***CALL TO WORSHIP***

Loving God we have come to worship you.

**help us to pray to you in faith,**

**to sing your praise with gratitude,**

**and listen to your word with eagerness;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

*Prayers of Penitence- after some words of introduction we say together*

**God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Prayer of Forgiveness*

May God, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*The Prayer of the Day*

**Heavenly Lord, you long for the world’s salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will be healed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Bible Readings*

*Now read John 14:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 or listen to them on read on Facebook*

*The Sermon* ***–*** *Lynne*

* This week we are looking at part of Paul’s letter written from Corinth to the Thessalonians, both places being in modern day Greece.
* Thessalonica was and is a large city and Paul was writing to encourage those that had listened to his message when he visited the city and formed a church, that is a group of believers not a building, consisting of some Jews but mainly gentiles.
* The purpose of his letter was: to encourage the new believers, to give them instructions in Godly living, and to speak about Jesus’ second coming and give assurance of eternal life.
* When we read in the Bible or hear expressions such as -Jesus’ second coming, the Day of the Lord, the last day, the great day, the day of redemption, the day! when God will intervene with judgement and blessings we might quite understandable ask *‘please explain what exactly does that mean, what will it be like, when will it happen’*. After Jesus’ was risen from the grave his disciples asked the same questions about the future and Jesus replied *‘it’s is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his authority’* (Acts 1:7)
* Nevertheless, we are being instructed to have faith and trust to this future and naturally we really want to have an idea of what it might be like. Tom Wright, the theologian, gives a good analogy, a parallel, of trying to understanding the future. Mr Wright says ‘it is like trying to explain the concept of colours to a blind person, never mind the difference between colours’. He suggests we might try the following way – the colour blue is cool and smooth, red is hard and loud, and yellow is prickly. Do these descriptions really help someone who has never seen anything to understand what colours might be like? And similarly, description of the second coming, the day of the Lord are beyond our possible understanding.
* But one description of the life to come that Jesus gives in John 14 is a great comforter and does tell us so much *‘in my father’s house are many rooms, if it were not so, would I have told you I am going there to prepare a place for you’.* Jesus does not tell us what the rooms are like and when we might get there but he assures us He is going to prepare a place for us. Paul looks forward, and encourages his readers to look forward, to the ‘coming day’ when Jesus again will be revealed and will be personally present with His people as Lord of the world.
* When Paul instructs his listeners that they need to be ready for Jesus’ return, as it will come unexpectedly, it is to encourage them and bring them hope and comfort and to assure them that the Holy Spirit will enable them, and us to remain steadfast and sure. The Thessalonians need and we need to be alert and to be spiritually watchful and Paul urges the readers to stay awake and alert.
* We are not walking in the dark, we do not need to be fearful and feel insecure – if our hope is firmly fixed on Jesus. As children of the light we need our spiritual eyes open, watching to see where God is working now, asking ‘what would He have me do’? ‘how would He have me behave in this situation’? Paul is warning his readers not to slip back into the old habits and ways of living before they knew Christ. Now they are, we are, in the new age – Jesus died for our sins. If we have accepted Him into our lives, we are His – we are in the age of life, light and hope. Things might appear dark but we have Jesus with us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. We can trust Him. He will see us through and into the light and love and joy of His kingdom. We belong to the new world not the old dark world
* Paul instructs His readers to be self-controlled and full of faith, trust and love. Faith needs to continue and grow with each new day and trial we travel through. With our trust firmly planted in the salvation that Jesus secured for us by His death and resurrection. Paul tells us to *‘cloth ourselves ready for battle, keeping our faith strong with faith and love as our breastplate’* – bodily protection, and ‘*our hope shielded with salvation as our helmet to keep us from being discourage when we go through difficult times’*. At this present time we are so aware this is what we need each day, every day, all day to be clothed with faith and love and trust and to protect our heads, our minds and thoughts we need to put on the helmet of salvation – Jesus died for us – for you, for me, for all and He rose again.
* Paul was warning the people of his day that the Romans’ promise of their rule and peace was coming to an end, bringing destruction, which happened within twenty years of Paul’s letter.
* Praise God, he has not chosen us for his wrath and anger but to receive salvation, so that both at this present time and in the life to come we may live with Jesus. **We may live with Jesus … Wow!!** May we be continually thankful for all our blessings.
* And the final verse we heard today – therefore encourage one and another – continually. Jesus died on our behalf so that we can be confident that we will experience eternal life. Christ’s death has vanquished the fear of death. Trust God, hold fast to what Jesus has won for us by His death and resurrection and continue to live a life of faith, faithfulness, loyalty and allegiance.
* Don’t let anyone or anything rob you of that trust and hope. And help each other, encourage each other, pray for each other.
* Hold fast to Jesus promise. ***‘in my father’s house are many rooms, if it were not so would I have told you I am going there to prepare a place for you’***. And take hold of the comfort and strength you need and Jesus offers you.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the World?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

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

*THE PRAYERS****:*** *on FB Angie will now lead our prayers:*

God is our refuge and strength; an ever present help in trouble. Psalm 46

Let’s spend some time in the quiet connecting with God and letting him know the things that are on our hearts and minds. Then as people connected to the living God we can say

**God is our refuge and strength; an ever present help in trouble.**

The next prayers have a response. When I say:

Through our lives and by our prayer,

You reply **Your kingdom come**

Lord God,

In Jesus you touched the suffering, listened to the ignored,

gave the depressed something to hope for.

You bandaged the broken with love and you healed them.

We believe the power to heal is still present,

So, on your help we call:

For Bob and Clive and ask for your restoration for them. Surround them and their families with love and give the doctors wisdom as they treat them.

We remember those we know who are lost in the darkness of depression,

Those who are consumed with worry about the coronavirus; especially those who are feeling financially insecure; or concerned about taking time off work.

Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one,

Those who are facing the present situation alone,

Those whose bodies and minds are filled with pain, especially those we know.

Those who feel discarded or disposable;

O Christ put your hands where our prayers beckon.

Through our lives and by our prayer,

**Your kingdom come**

Lord God,

In Jesus your body was broken and in your love you redeemed us through his death and joined us to you.

We remember the countries facing the coronavirus epidemic without public health care systems like ours.

We pray for all who work in the NHS and in the care services in our city, in the health centres and hospitals and in the surrounding areas. Protect them and give them all the stamina and perseverance they need.

We remember the work of the local food bank. We pray that there will be enough food and other essentials for those in need.

O Saviour of the poor and distressed; may your truth and justice prevail.

Through our lives and by our prayer,

**Your kingdom come**

Your kingdom come, Lord God,

In joy and generosity

In the small and the large,

The ordinary and the special,

In hope, faith and courage,

To you be the glory now and always. **Amen**

We *continue* our prayers by saying together the prayer that Jesus taught us: the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, **who art in heaven………..**

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

**Spirit lead us where out 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*

May God bless our past and remind you of his promises.

May Jesus reassure our hearts and minds of joys to come,

May the Holy Spirit fill our present with the will to trust and serve. And the blessing of God, who is father, Son and holy Spirit be with us always. **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**

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

**THE LORD’S MY SHEPHERD**

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

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<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=The+Lord+Is+My+Shepherd+Stuart+Townend&&view=detail&mid=5CF1>

**AMAZING GRACE**

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.  
  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.  
  
Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come,  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.  
  
Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.  
  
When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

John Newton

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=you+tube+amazing+grace+with+lyrics&docid=607989209919193198&mid=8371AE61FE511FBF434B8371AE61FE51>

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

**WORSHIP SONGS FOR THE 10am SERVICE OF PREPARATION**

**There are just two songs this week. This is because, as Chris and Catherine are not leading the worship at 10.30am, Catherine will read a story as part of this time instead.**

**O HAPPY DAY**

1. O happy day, that fixed my choice  
   On Thee, my Saviour and my God!  
   Well may this glowing heart rejoice,  
   And tell its raptures all abroad.
   * *Refrain:*  
     O happy day, O happy day,  
     When Jesus washed my sins away!  
     He taught me how to watch and pray,  
     And live rejoicing every day:  
     O happy day, O happy day,  
     When Jesus washed my sins away!
2. It’s done: the great transaction’s done!  
   I am the Lord’s and He is mine;  
   He drew me and I followed on;  
   Charmed to confess the voice divine.
3. Now rest, my long-divided heart,  
   Fixed on this blissful centre, rest;  
   Here have I found a nobler part;  
   Here heav’nly pleasures fill my breast.
4. High heav’n, that heard the solemn vow,  
   That vow renewed shall daily hear,  
   Till in life’s latest hour I bow  
   And bless in death a bond so dear.

Lyrics: Philip Doddridge

**JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM**

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom (ad lib)

From Taize