**SUNDAY WORSHIP 12th JULY**

**Sunday: 10.30am, 12th July 2020**

**God’s Big Picture: The Prophesied Kingdom**



*READ THIS SECTION BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS:*

*Welcome to our time of worshipping in different ways. This week – praise the Lord – for the first time some of us are together in the church building and some are in the Vicarage garden (from where Chris & Catherine & Angie will be leading our Facebook live worship). But still those who are at home are able to join in our family union, either through Facebook or through following these worship sheets.*

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

*And, as usual, we suggest that those of you who are watching our live worship on Facebook at home 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 as a continuous part of our worship today. For those who are in the church building, the songs will be played straight after the Facebook live broadcast has finished – even though singing is not allowed in church, it will still be good to hear the songs together.*

*………………..*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:*

*We sing ‘God is Good’ together to give everyone time to join our Facebook worship. (lyrics printed overleaf)*

* Once again, 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 together to worship God in this moment - even though we are still in different places and 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 Greeting***

In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit **Amen**

The Lord be with you **And also with you**

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

Seek the Lord while he may be found.

**Call upon him while he is near.**

Let us return to the Lord, who will have mercy.

**To our God, who will richly pardon.**

***Prayers of Penitence***

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God’s thoughts are not our

thoughts nor are his ways our ways – for as the heavens are

higher than the earth so are his thoughts higher than our

thoughts and his ways higher than our ways.

For as the rain and the snow come down from above and return

not again but water the earth, bringing forth life, seed for sowing

and bread to eat, so is God’s word that goes forth from his

mouth: it will not return to him fruitless but it will accomplish that

which he purposes and succeed in the task he gives it:

Let us therefore examine ourselves and repent of our sins….

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,

Who forgives all who truly repent:

Have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your

sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you

in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Almighty God, who spoke to the prophets that they might**

**make your will and purpose known: inspire the guardians**

**of your truth, that through the faithful witness of the few**

**the children of the earth may be made one with the saints**

**in glory; by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord, who alone**

**redeemed the world and reigns with you and the Holy**

**Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Bible Readings: Hosea1:1-11 and Hosea 3:1-5*

**Reflections on the Bible readings--- the sermon, this week brought to us by Angie**

**God’s Big Picture Part 5: The Prophesied Kingdom**

* Today we come to part 6 of our journey through the ‘Story-line of the Bible.’ The Prophesied Kingdom
* We have followed the ups and downs of the history of the Old Testament from The Creation through the Fall, the Promise, the Exodus, the giving of the Law, the Conquest and the Monarchy. The diagram in chapter 6 of the study book ‘God’s Big Picture’ reminds me of a roller coaster.
* Last week we explored God’s place and then God’s kings as the rulers of God’s people.
* Today we will look at the role of the Prophets in the Old Testament; the division of the kingdom of the kingdom of Israel after civil war which is the Prophets’ historical context and the Prophets’ message which looks to a new covenant and a new king.

**The Prophets’ role**

* God’s spokesperson speaking God’s word which is the message he has revealed to them.
* Peter in 2 Peter 1 verse 20-21 says:

‘Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. **21**For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.’

* The Prophets’ role was to remind the people about God’s covenant and enforce it.
* Moses is the definitive prophet who told the people how to live in the light of God’s covenant
* He also told them of the consequences of obedience and disobedience to God’s covenant.

**The Prophets’ historical context**

* After the death of Solomon, civil war broke out which led to the split of the Kingdom in 922BC with
* Israel in the north with King Jeroboam’s idolatry continued by his successors until the northern kingdom destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC
* And Judah in the south with some good kings like Josiah**,** but corruption and compromise ensued until Judah is defeated by the Babylonians and exiled in 597 and 586 BC

**The Prophets’ message: Hosea**

* Today we will look at the message of Hosea. He lived and worked in the northern kingdom of Israel, as did Amos during the eighth century BC.
* Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah were prophets at that time in the southern kingdom Judah.
* Later Ezekiel and Daniel were prophets in exile in Babylon and during the sixth century BC, Haggai, Malachi and Zechariah were prophets in Judah. This is towards the end of the Old Testament.
* God’s judgement is the reason behind Israel’s and Judah’s destruction.
* Hosea warns, reminds and explains to the people of Israel about God’s judgement.
* The book of Hosea has a roller coaster effect as it swings from despair to future hope and back again for the Israelites.
* In chapter 1 God tells Hosea to marry a promiscuous woman called Gomer.
* He has three children with her:
  + Jezreel, a son whose name means ‘God sows’
  + Lo-Ruhamah , a daughter whose name means ‘no compassion’
  + Lo-Ammi, a son whose name means ‘not my people’
* So Hosea could personally understand and demonstrate how loving God is to his unfaithful people
* In chapter 2 of Hosea Israel is portrayed as an adulterous wife and we read of the raging anger of a betrayed and rejected husband. This is how God warns, reminds and explains through Hosea.
* Israel is punished because God is faithful to his word.
* Then the message turns to HOPE.
* In chapter 3 Hosea is reconciled to his wife. Hosea was to do this because this was what God would do with the Israelites
* This sad human situation symbolises God’s dealing with the Israelites - when he disciplined them rather than divorce them.
* God always remembers his covenant with Moses; I will be your God if you will be my faithful people.

And with Abraham God promised in Genesis 12.2 ‘I will make you into a great nation’.

* God’s covenant - which is the basis of the prophets’ message of judgement - is the basis of the theme of ‘Hope’.
* The people of Israel and Judah will not be completely destroyed
* A new exodus takes place as they return from exile
* And there will be a new Passover lamb who will face the punishment - exile from God - in their place so that they can be forgiven and  a new Israel constituted
* The promise to Abraham of blessing to the nations will be fulfilled. All nations will be included.

**Conclusion**

* The Partial Kingdom has been destroyed and God will not be reinstated within that old context.
* The final verses of Hosea 3 indicate Israel will again seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will again receive his blessings in the last days.
* God’s kingdom = God’s People in God’s Place under God’s Rule and Blessing
* Those blessings are the future hope of the servant King who will die in place of others
* In a great, unexpected and glorious way the King will come and that is what we will learn about in The Present Kingdom next week.
* ***Alleluia the Lord our God reigns and he has established his kingdom in Jesus!***

*The Affirmation of Faith:*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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**

*Prayers Time: on FB, Catherine will now lead our prayers:*

Lord, as we study Your ’Big Picture’ and get to understand it better, we thank You that it helps us to trust that You are indeed working Your purpose out as year succeeds to year.  
So today we come to You in that trust: a trust that the time is coming nearer and nearer: the time that will surely be - when the earth will be filled with Your glory, as the waters cover the sea.

Lord, we trust you.

**Lord, we trust You.**

And Lord we place into Your care all of those people whose voices proclaim Your message. We place into your care those people who today are speaking out your love from the furthest point east to the furthest point west on our planet, regardless of personal risk.

We thank you for their courage and faithfulness.

Lord, care for Your messengers.

**Lord, care for Your messengers.**

We ask you Lord that their efforts would not be in vain.

We ask you that the ears of the people in all the continents of this beautiful world that You have created will listen to them.

We ask that the earth will be filled with Your glory, just as the waters cover the sea.

Lord, open the ears of the people.

**Lord, open the ears of the people**.

And Lord show us what we personally can do to work Your work.  
Show us what we personally can do to prosper and increase the well-being of all humanity.  
Show us what we personally can do to increase the reign of the Prince of Peace.  
Show us what we personally can do to hasten the time - the time that will surely be - when the earth will be filled with Your glory, as the waters cover the sea.

Lord, show us what we can do.

**Lord, show us what we can do.**

Lord give us courage to walk forth in Your strength, with the banner of Christ unfurled.  
Give us courage to shine out the light of the glorious Gospel of truth throughout the world.  
Give us courage to fight the good fight against sorrow and sin so that their captives may be set free – so that the whole earth may be filled with Your glory, as the waters cover the sea.

Lord, give us courage.

**Lord, give us courage.**

Lord we know that what we do is worth nothing unless You bless our deeds.  
We know that we wait in vain for a good harvest unless You give life to the seed.  
So in faith and trust, we await the time, the time that shall surely be - when the earth shall be filled with Your glory, as the waters cover the sea.

Lord, we await Your timing. **Lord, we await Your timing and we thank You that we can trust that You are always working Your purposes out for each of us and for Your whole world.** **Amen.**

***The Peace***

The Lord is our strength and our song and he has become our salvation.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

*We share the Peace with those who are with us, or imagine sharing it with the other members of the Church*

**The Eucharistic Prayer (on Facebook) –**

T*hose not able to watch the broadcast are invited to read 1 Corinthians 11.23-26*

*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.**

*On Facebook: The Breaking of the Bread and the Invitation to Communion; then those present at the service receive the Bread and the Wine. Those not present are invited to make a ‘Spiritual Communion.’*

*Post Communion Prayer*

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works they may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord**. Amen**

*Chris now leads us in our closing prayers together*:

*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**

*On the FB Live Video, Catherine now reads a story that naturally leaps the gap between the Old and New Testaments, in preparation for next week when we begin to look at the New Testament.*

*The Blessing and Dismissal*

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that

you may reign with him in glory.

And the blessing …

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*We invite you to end our 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**

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

**GOD IS GOOD**

**by Don Moen**

God Is Good, We Sing And Shout It.  
God Is Good, We Celebrate.  
God Is Good, No More We Doubt It.  
God Is Good, We Know It’s True.  
And When I Think Of His Love For Me,  
My Heart Fills With Praise  
And I Feel Like Dancing.  
For In His Heart There Is Room For Me,  
And I Run With Arms Opened Wide.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WhsNNWQJgw>

**THESE ARE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH**

These are the days of Elijah,  
Declaring the word of the Lord.  
And these are the days of Your servant Moses,  
Righteousness being restored.  
And though these are days of great trial,  
Of famine and darkness and sword,  
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying  
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

CHORUS: **Behold He comes, riding on the clouds,  
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call,  
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,  
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.**

These are the days of Ezekiel,  
The dry bones becoming as flesh,  
And these are the days of Your servant David,  
Rebuilding a temple of praise.  
These are the days of the harvest,  
The fields are as white in Your world,  
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard,  
Declaring the word of the Lord!

CHORUS x 1

There's no God like Jehovah x many times  
There's no God like Jehovah, hey!

CHORUS x 4

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

Songwriters: Edgardo Santiago / Jose Luis Abreu / Orlando Mendez

Days of Elijah lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc, Music Services, Inc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca9LnzJnpjQ&list=PLWqBTWF6iJu-TcTMUL7Al6ok0gEKIl7vz&index=4&t=0s>

**WORSHIP SONG LYRICS**

**GOD WILL MAKE A WAY**

CHORUS: **Oh, God will make a way  
Where there seems to be no way  
He works in ways we cannot see  
He will make a way for me**

**He will be my guide  
Hold me closely to His side  
With love and strength for each new day  
He will make a way, He will make a way**

By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me  
And rivers in the desert will I see  
Heaven and Earth will fade, but His word will still remain  
And He will do something new today

CHORUS x 1

By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me  
And rivers in the desert will I see  
Heaven and Earth will fade but His word will still remain  
And He will do something new today

CHORUS x 1 (and repeat last two lines)

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

Songwriters: Don Moen

God Will Make a Way lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zo3fJYtS-o&list=PLWqBTWF6iJu-TcTMUL7Al6ok0gEKIl7vz&index=3&t=0s>