

## **KSAT Worship Service on Sunday – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

### **THEME – ‘God’s Care’.**

Welcome to worship. Thanks this week to Douglas Birkbeck for the reflection and John and Cath Thwaites for hymns, and to all of you for sharing in worship with us. Stephen.

### **Call to worship**

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3v22-23)  
Let us draw near to God’s presence.

### **Prayer**

Loving Lord, Your grace draws us to Your presence; Your peace unites us in Your love; Your hope inspires us to praise Your glory. May our worship be worthy of You. **Amen.**

### **HymnMP 187 – God is love** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyYWW\\_P9MH4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyYWW_P9MH4)

God is love, let heaven adore Him; God is love, let earth rejoice;  
Let creation sing before Him and exalt Him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth’s foundation, He who spread the heavens above,  
He who breathes through all creation: He is love, eternal love.  
God is love; and He enfoldeth, all the world in one embrace;  
With unfailing grasp He holdeth, every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow’s iron rod,  
All the sorrow, all the aching, wrings with pain the heart of God.  
God is love; and though with blindness sin afflicts the souls of men,  
God’s eternal loving-kindness holds and guides them even then.  
Sin and death and hell shall never o’er us final triumph gain:  
God is love, so love, forever, o’er the universe must reign.  
(Timothy Rees)

### **Prayers**

#### **A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

Lord, you have called us to be your disciples.  
Thank you for trusting us with this privilege.  
Thank you for empowering us in the ways of service.  
Thank you for giving us courage when we are fearful.  
Thank you for your strength when we are vulnerable.  
Thank you for knowing us, loving us, enhancing our lives.  
Thank you, Lord. **Amen.**

#### **A prayer of confession**

We are sorry for the times we get our priorities wrong – when we do not put You first;  
when we fail to see the needs of our neighbours;  
when we lack the courage and faithfulness of true disciples.  
Grant us forgiveness; grant us perseverance; grant us vision;  
that we may serve you as you desire, and play our part in establishing Your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

*‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1v9).*

Gracious God, we thank you; fill us afresh to love and serve You now and always. **Amen,**

### **Lord’s Prayer**

## Reading:

### Genesis 21 v 8-20

*The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."*

*The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."*

*Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.*

*When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob.*

*God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."*

*Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.*

*God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.*

### Hymn MP 793 – You are my hiding-place

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIVC6rfX3Z8>

You are my hiding place,  
You always fill my heart, with songs of deliverance.  
Whenever I am afraid,  
I will trust in You, I will trust in You,  
Let the weak say: 'I am strong in the strength of my God'

(Michael Ledner)

## Reading

### Matthew 6 v 25 – 34

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"*

*"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

## Hymn – Consider The Lilies <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nHfEjiOFZY>

Consider the lilies, they don't toil nor spin  
But there's not a king with more splendour than them  
Consider the sparrow, he doesn't plant nor sow  
But he's fed by the Master who watches him grow

*We have a heavenly Father above  
With eyes full of mercy and a heart full of love  
He really cares when your head is bowed low  
Consider the lilies and then you will know*

May I introduce you to this friend of mine,  
who hangs out the stars, tells the sun when to shine.  
And kisses the flowers each morning with dew,  
yet He's not too busy to care about you.

(Joel Hemphill)

## Reflection

The OT lectionary reading for this Sunday is a story from the book of Genesis, which may still have relevance for us today. It concerns slavery, domestic tension and a desperate situation. Hagar was a female slave in Abraham's household, and Abraham was father to her young son, Ishmael. Sarah, Abraham's wife, was, perhaps understandably, hostile to Hagar and the ill-feeling, which the rivalry between the two women generated, caused Sarah to put pressure on her husband to get rid of the slave and her son. So Abraham, apparently with the Lord's approval, turned both Hagar and young Ishmael out of their home. He gave them a supply of bread and water to afford them some relief as they departed 'into the wilderness'.

It was in their wanderings there that Hagar was plunged into deep distress and fear. Their food and water had gone; they were hungry and weary as they trudged along the desert track, with no-one to meet them or to offer help. In desperation, Hagar left her child in the shade of some bushes and moved some distance away to avoid witnessing the death of her son.

It was then that God came to their help!

Hearing the cry of the boy, the Lord drew near and assured Hagar of His concern. 'What are you troubled about, Hagar?' He asked. 'Do not be afraid'. And God promised that, not only would they survive, but, in years to come, Ishmael would become the founder of a 'great nation'. This promise gave rise to a tradition that it was from Ishmael that the Arab races sprung.

Today, we live in a time of uncertainty. We may not experience such anguish as was felt by Hagar, but for many people there is suffering, grief, fear and a sense of helplessness. The message of our Bible story is that, even in the dark shadows, God's light will break through. **We are not alone.** Sometimes, before we even realise it, God is there to help us.

I once knew an elderly local preacher, whose wife had died and he was left alone, in need of care, for he was unable to manage on his own. A neighbour and his wife took the old man into their home and looked after him for the rest of his life. Speaking of this experience, the preacher attributed his good fortune and the kindness of his friends to God's presence with him throughout his life. He quoted two lines of a hymn by Isaac Watts ('God is the refuge of the saints' Hymns and Psalms No.53):

"Ere we can offer our complaints  
Behold Him present with His aid"

And so, in our times of anxiety and stress, may our trust in our Heavenly Father enable us to hear the words he spoke to Hagar, 'What are you troubled about? Do not be afraid'

## Hymn – Be not dismayed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijytLs96yig>

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you  
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

*God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you*

Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you  
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you

All you may need He will provide, God will take care of you  
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast, God will take care of you

*(Walter S. Martin)*

## Prayers of Intercession

God our Father, thank you for Your great love for us - the love that redeems, freely forgives and watches over us day by day. Accept our thanks and give us grace to love you more .....

**Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer**

We thank you Lord for the church of which we are all members and have our part to play in caring for each other and sharing the Good News of Jesus. We pray that we may all learn to love one another as You love us, and that Your Church may more and more reflect Your love to others .....

**Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer**

We pray for those areas of the world where people are suffering and dying because of the Covid-19 pandemic or because of armed conflicts, injustice and hostilities.

We pray that the barriers, which separate, may crumble and disappear. We pray for our leaders that they may be guided by Your wisdom and in Your love .....

**Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer**

We pray for all those we know and love, especially for those who live away from us – and those we haven't seen in the difficult times .....

We pray for all in sorrow, anxiety or sickness; for the neglected, the abused, the lonely, the distressed. We pray that all in need may know Your love, and in doing so receive courage and strength .....

**Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves, that Your love may unite us to Yourself and that in fellowship with You we may always share Your love and care with others .....

**Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer**

We ask these prayers in the Name of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## Hymn MP 1008 –The Lord's my Shepherd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0>

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.

*(Stuart Townend)*

## Final Prayer

Go in the name of Jesus,  
to follow the way of Jesus,  
to love with the love of Jesus,  
and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## A Song to go out with!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbbGix4ZKL8>

See the birds who are singing in the spring air, they're given everything they need  
They don't worry where their next meal will come from, they don't worry about a thing

*So just look around you and try to listen to the song creation sings  
And don't you worry because you're in the hands of the God who made everything*

See the flowers, in their colourful beauty, they're dressed better than a king  
They don't worry about what they should wear, no! They don't worry about a thing

Because you're not a bird and you're not a flower, you don't have petals or wings  
But there's good news! You're worth much more to the God who made everything

So when you worry about today or tomorrow and the storms that they might bring  
Try to remember that you're in the hands of the God who made every single thing

Just remember - you're not a bird and you're not a flower, you don't have petals or wings  
But there is good news! You're worth so much more to the God who made everything

*(Ellie Holcomb)*

## The Grace

**CCLI 299676**



*“How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.”  
(Psalm 36:7)*

Take a moment of quiet, look at this picture and let God speak to you through it.