

HOW MC AND KSAT WORSHIP SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 6TH JUNE

Thanks to Tony Longworth for reflection and Avril and Dacre Swinbank for prayers.
Also belated thanks to Joyce Worsfold for last week's service. Jackie

Opening Hymn Holy,holy ,holy CMP 237 <https://youtu.be/JwuDSw-9cUQ>

- 1.Holy,holy,holy,Lord God almighty !
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy!-merciful and mighty, God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!
- 2.Holy,holy,holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shall be .
- 3.Holy,holy,holy!-though the darkness hide Thee,
Thou the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.
- 4.Holy,holy,holy,Lord God almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy!-merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Opening prayer.

We thank you Lord that you have brought us safely through the week that has just gone. As we join together in our homes we ask that you will renew our love for you .Clear our hearts and minds of all the things that can clutter our minds and distract us from you so that we may concentrate on you and your word. Open our eyes to see things clearly , open our minds to recognise new ideas and open our ears to hear things anew that we may be willing to grow and change and to become more like your son Jesus Christ our Lord Amen
Lord's prayer.

Hymn Lead us heavenly Father lead us CMP 400 <https://youtu.be/OpkEeXWtWg0>

- 1.Lead us heavenly father lead us ,O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us ,guide us ,keep us ,feed us-for we have no help but Thee,
Yet possessing every blessing if our God our Father be.
- 2.Saviour breathe forgiveness o'er us, all our weakness thou dost know:
Thou didst tread this earth before us, Thou didst feel it's keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary, through the desert Thou didst go.
- 3.Spirit of our God descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending, pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided ,pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.

CONSECRATION Bible reading John 12 vv 1-7

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived in Bethany, where Lazarus lived whom Jesus raised from the dead.² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served ,while Lazarus was among those reclining at table with him.³ Then Mary took

about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected. 5. "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages" 6. He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7. "Leave her alone", Jesus replied, "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."

Dictionary definition;-To wholly dedicate ,setting ourselves apart, to honour God through Jesus Christ. To live a holy life (amended by Tony)

The Hidden Treasure-(Cosmo Gordon Lang) When once we have taken the revelation of Jesus Christ as true, there is only one place which it can fill in our lives it is the place of supremacy; to secure it, to realise it as our own, to enjoy its wealth, we must be ready to make any sacrifice .We do not possess it if we only believe that it exists, or that it is of great value. We do not possess it if we only discern it-see at times visions of its beauty and richness ,that all it might bring into our lives. We do not possess it even if in moments of high emotion we seem to feel and know its wealth and power; possession is secured only by sacrifice-sacrifice which is willing to cover the whole range of life. We must be willing to sell all that we have in order to buy. Is it not true-do we not know it to be true-that the reason why so many of us believe in the truth of our religion ,who even have glimpses of its wonders and beauty, and occasional experiences of its power ,do not really possess it ,and are not possessed by it ,is simply that we have not yet made up our minds that for us it is to be the supreme thing? It is when we stake something for Christ and His truth, stake some inward struggle or outward service that we begin to make sure of our vital hold on Him; certainly those who stake most fully always seem to possess most surely.

Challenging words !

In the reading Mary shows the complete surrender of the heart to Jesus. Lip service is not enough-she must give. The unbroken was not enough-,it must be outpoured.

As the ointment permeated the room it would have given off an aromatic fragrance-so it must be in our witness as we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit ,our lives a Christlike fragrance rising up to God (2 Cor2:15)

The ointment is costly ,but there can be no monetary value put on love.

In the bottle the seal was tight, no hint of its contents could be sensed-so it can be for us and must be guarded against. We may have closed down our spiritual lives so that nothing of what God has done for us can escape and influence others.

We have kept this precious life in an alabaster jar(figuratively speaking) for the right occasion ,which never comes. God's love is extravagant and is meant to be outpoured everywhere (1)in the same way that the fragrance would have filled that room. This openness is expensive (2);as Mary had choices, so we have too. Her choice of devoting it exclusively to Jesus, her Lord, must be for us individually .Where the fragrance is outpoured , no-one could have denied its presence or control where it would have an impact, or deny its significance.

For us, as with Mary, the key is consecration .what matters is being in that place of intimacy. We most probably have all heard the expression that we ‘learn at the feet of ‘our parents, relations or spiritual leaders-the key to our Christian walk is learning at the feet of Jesus; for there we lay down our griefs , pre-occupations and our sorrows, and all that would distract us, and there too we learn the importance of brokenness (3), when we can learn to lay aside our own agendas and our self-ego. All that we choose to hold back will turn fragrance to sourness in the end-the decisions we make will both affect and reflect our true heart. Our highest choice must be our consecration to God.

1)’Word’ releasing- quite a few years ago there was a talk on Radio 4 on book releasing-the leaving of any book in a public place, park, bus/train station complete with which country it was left- one found its way from London to Australia via South Africa! Taking a spiritual parallel , we may never know where or when we share The Word either by word or action, it might impact for God’s glory.

2) Openness /obedience will be personally costly-Jesus says ‘if any person would follow Me, He/She must deny themselves and take up their cross daily(Luke 9;23)

3)Brokenness-Mankind will go to almost any limit rather than appearing vulnerable-it goes to the heart of what feels is their identity. Yet Our Lord Jesus laid aside His Majesty for a season to be the perfect human being and became vulnerable for us. I knew a man once who said he would never go into a church because the congregation always looked so aloof on their way to it! If we are serious about consecration we must be prepared to allow God to break us from being proud, conceited and self-contained from being self centred to God centred.-we are all on this journey.

As living in repentance is the key to spiritual maturity so true consecration doesn’t just happen-it is the consequence of our hearts desire to put God’s will at the centre of our lives in every situation and at all times, it is a continual act of commitment of which praise and worship are central

How important then is our study of His Word and Prayer, listening to His voice and, discerning His loving heartbeat, being obedient to His purpose for our lives.

At this time especially when we are all ‘social distancing’ and in lockdown and not minimising its devastating effect on many, could this be a divine opportunity to assess our spiritual priorities ?

In God’s timing, this state of emergency will come to an end so we should redeem the time whilst we are still able(Ephesians 5:16)

We cannot do this in our own strength-it is the work of the Holy Spirit; yet we are to be active in this, God never over rules our free will ‘Therefore, I urge you, in view of Gods mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship”(Romans 12 v1) In the light of God’s self giving for us on the cross we are stripped of every claim to ourselves and our own agenda.

Indeed, to the extent that we resist Gods will and refuse to consecrate ourselves to

Him, we are simply expressing our failure to grasp what the cross meant.
Dr Alan Redpath put it this way 'We are not saved to serve but to submit'.
In summary then, This is a time for deep reflection - to meditate on God's sovereignty and grace

To know from within - 'for us He was made sin, help me to take it in, what it meant for Him, to take away my sin' Jesus is risen and 'ever lives to make intercession for us' (Hebrews 7:25) Alleluia !

To respond in consecration and our lives poured out for His glory.

Do are lives show the complete surrender of ourselves to our Lord, Jesus?

To quote the great apostle Paul, may we all press on to the high calling we have in Christ Jesus.(Phil 3:14)

And finally pray for each other, keep in touch to encourage and bless them, especially our Ministers among every Christian faith for their spiritual wisdom and pastoral care and pray physical and spiritual protection.

To God be the glory. Amen

Hymn -How deep the Father's love (MP 988) <https://youtu.be/8CNF-4tC8m4>

- 1.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.
- 2.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.
- 3.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.

Prayers of intercession.

Lord, we come to you now and we pray for our world. A world that is broken by persecution, wars and pain. We remember the people in all countries where there is war, we pray for harmony within and between nations and we pray you will bring healing and peace to these troubled lands.

We remember those who live and work in developing countries, those who are paid less than the amount they need to survive. We also pray for those who are exploited, children who are paid only pennies for their work and for everyone who works in sweatshops. You desire justice for all people, you desire all people to be treated fairly and equally. Lord of the world and the church, bring healing and peace to these people and may we work for a better world.

We pray for our world at the time of this pandemic. We commend to you those who are suffering as a result of Covid 19, those whose lives have been altered forever,

those whose livelihoods have been taken away from them, those who have lost loved ones and those who are frightened and scared. We pray for an end to this pandemic and a return to health and wholeness for all people.

Lord, we pray for all places of worship throughout the world. We pray for the ministers and church leaders, we pray for caretakers and cleaners, treasurers and guides. Each one of us has a role to play in your church, help us to carry out the role you have given us and help us to do it to the best of our ability that you may be glorified.

We pray for our families and friends and thank you that you have given us people to share our lives with, we thank you for those who enrich our daily lives just by being there.

We bring to you now those about whom we are especially concerned, those who are ill, those who are in need, lonely or stressed. Draw close to them Lord, and may they feel your healing touch on their lives.

We bring all these prayers before you now Lord knowing that you hear us. Amen

Hymn Take my life and let it be . CMP 624 <https://youtu.be/Gf11rReeWIs>

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands ,and let them move at the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing, always, only, for my King;
Take my lips ,and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use every power as Thou shalt choose.
5. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.
6. Take my love, my Lord I pour at Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be ever, only ,all for Thee.

Closing prayer .

Now may God bless us and keep us. May He give us light to guide us, courage to support us and love to unite us; this day and always. Amen. THE GRACE.