

## HOW MISSION COMMUNITY AND KSAT WORSHIP SERVICE FOR

11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 prepared by Joyce Worsfold

**Theme 'All the believers were one in heart and mind'**

**Prayer of Adoration.** Precious Lord, how we long for the time when all your believers are indeed one in heart and mind, for the time when the world is how you long for it to be, a place full of laughter, joy and peace, a place of justice, goodness and compassion. How we crave, Lord to come closer to you, to understand that you are here, right here amongst us, thank you that we can listen to your words, look into your heart and that you can breathe on us and fill us with your incredible love and power. Oh Lord, come close to us and fill us afresh. We pray for a world-wide church working with you as partners, a church that is one family where there are no outsiders but all insiders. Thank you Lord that every single person is unique and special, help us to rejoice in that and to make sure that all belong and all are loved. Amen **Lords' Prayer**

### **Hymn 45. At your feet we fall**

At Your Feet We Fall, Mighty Risen Lord,  
As We Come Before Your Throne To Worship You.  
By Your Spirit's Power You Now Draw Our Hearts,  
And We Hear Your Voice In Triumph Ringing Clear.

*I Am He That liveth, That liveth And Was Dead,  
Behold I Am Alive Forever More.*

There We See You Stand, Mighty Risen Lord,  
Clothed In Garments Pure And Holy, Shining Bright.  
Eyes Of Flashing Fire, Feet Like Burnished Bronze,  
And The Sound Of Many Waters Is Your Voice. *chorus*

Like The Shining Sun In Its Noonday Strength,  
We Now See The Glory Of Your Wondrous Face.  
Once That Face Was Marred, But Now You're Glorified,  
And Your Words Like A Two-Edged Sword Have Mighty Power. *chorus*

**Reading. Jesus Appears to His Disciples John 20:19-23**<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me so I am sending you,' And

with that He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit, If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.' *As always the Gospel writers are short and to the point, simply reporting the facts of their experiences. Yet there are so many momentous, important happenings in these 4 verses. The disciples are **afraid**, Jesus, who was dead comes in the flesh **to reassure**. They are **overjoyed, they know peace** and they are given the incredible gift of the **Holy Spirit**, they will never, ever be alone again! Finally, Jesus stresses the utmost importance of **forgiveness**. This will be paramount in their work in the future and in ours today.*

### **Hymn Do not be afraid.**

**Chorus** Do not be afraid, For I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; You are mine.

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you, You will never sink beneath the waves. *Chorus*

When the fire is burning all around you,  
You will never be consumed by the flames. *Chorus*

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
Then remember I am at your side. *Chorus*

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,  
Remember you are precious in my eyes. *Chorus*

You are mine, O my child; I am your father,  
And I love you with a perfect love. Do not be afraid, For I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; You are mine.

**Reflection** Fear is a terrible emotion and I'm sure that most of us have experienced some feelings of alarm and dread during the past year. Who would have thought that such a thing as a pandemic could happen in this day and age. Who could have imagined that we would have been so helpless; confined to our homes, separated from our loved ones. How many of us, I wonder, have lain awake, night after night, worrying? And we are the lucky ones, we always have someone to share our fears, we can always pray, God is 'open all hours' and He listens. So very many people do not have that help and cannot believe in a loving God. So many are crying out for support and do not know where to turn. What can WE do about that? Here are the disciples in

lockdown, hiding and terrified. The door is locked and bolted and they are probably too scared to venture out even for food supplies. They are traumatised. They have watched their best friend, whom, let's face it, had been able *to do anything*; heal the sick, feed five thousand people from only a handful of food, calm a ferocious storm on the sea of Galilee, speak with authority to thousands of people and change their lives - completely. And yet, they, his friends, had watched him succumb to death on a cross! They had been completely helpless, they could only watch him bleed and writhe in agony and He, who had actually, raised people from the dead, had been helpless too. What a shock that must have been. Who would be next, they must have wondered. We can imagine them, listening for marching feet, expecting, at any moment, a loud knocking at the door, angry shouts, the rattling of weapons. Did they communicate in whispers, petrified that they might be heard? It must have seemed like the end of the world.

Then, suddenly, there is Jesus, just standing in this room. We can imagine eyes flickering to the door. How did he get in? Was He real or was He a ghost? Then He said those words that they so needed to hear; *'Peace be with you.'* And I expect he smiled, even laughed, this was no ghost! This was their dear, beloved friend. They crowded around him. He showed them his wounded hands hideously deformed. They put their fingers where there had been nails, they could see for themselves the gruesome wound in his side and marvelled that He was even alive, let alone walking around. Surely, he must need some sort of intensive care! Then he amazed them even further by asking for food and they ate together. How we long to share a meal with our loved ones, it has been a long time. They were beside themselves with joy, this was more than they had ever dreamed of. They hadn't imagined the empty tomb, Mary hadn't just been a hysterical woman unbalanced by all that had happened, He *was* alive! Then he said those four beautiful words again...

*'Peace be with you.'* and oh how they needed that peace, how we all need that sense of peace right now for Easter 2021. That is what He is saying now to us. He understands, perfectly all that we are going through, He has been here, He has experienced all that pain. These words echo over and over through the centuries, *'Peace be with you.'* We need to cling onto that. More than any other being **God knows what He is talking about**. He has seen the same tragedies reverberating through the centuries, the same evils reiterated time and again. He sees the results of murder, the anguish and the heartbreak and He weeps with and for all those who are affected. He is all too familiar with greed, pride, power-seeking and injustice. He knows the sorrow of people bombed out of their homes, harassed, injured and hungry. God *feels* our pain.

So, 'Why does he allow it to happen?' this phrase echoes through the years. 'Why doesn't He do something?' He does and the answer lies in what Jesus says next, '*As the father sent me so I send you.*' Oh no, not me/ I'm not qualified.'/ 'I've got enough problems'/ 'I wouldn't know how to go about it.'/ 'I've got a sick mother.' The same excuses echo on and on and on. I've used them all, so did Jonah, Moses, Elijah, Peter, and many millions of others throughout the ages. But, when we do try to do something to show love and concern we are never alone. We are working together *with Him*. We are partners with God. He uses our hands and feet, our minds and hearts. We are told that Jesus breathed on them. At this time the thought of someone breathing on me is not a good one. We are getting used to wearing masks, though not exactly enamoured. Just the thought of someone, unmasked, coming closer and breathing on us is not to be desired. But the Bible speaks a lot about the breath of God. He does breathe life into people, He motivates, He empowers. We cannot always do things in our own strength but 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'. ( Phillipians 4:13 )

Jesus spoke to the disciples again and His words had an urgency about them; '*As the father has sent me, I am sending you.*' I feel great trepidation when I hear words like this. Is he really sending **me**? But I'm not good at speaking/ formulating arguments/ even remembering words / I'm not good at answering questions/ I'm timid and scared/ I don't like crowds. We can all come up with a thousand reasons as to why we should not *be sent*. But we are not alone. It is my experience that He does strengthen, He opens doors, He presents us with opportunities, He makes what is formidable and hopeless, possible. Let's worship again...

### **Hymn 85. Come and see**

Come and see, come and see    Come and see the King of love  
See the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears  
Soldiers mock, rulers sneer As he lifts the cruel cross  
Lone and friendless now he climbs towards the hill

We worship at your feet    Where wrath and mercy meet  
And a guilty world is washed    By love's pure stream  
For us he was made sin Oh, help me take it in  
Deep wounds of love cry out 'Father, forgive'  
I worship, I worship The Lamb who was slain.

Come and weep, come and mourn For your sin that pierced him there  
So much deeper than the wounds of thorn and nail  
All our pride, all our greed All our fallenness and shame;

And the Lord has laid the punishment on Him

*We worship at your feet...*

**Reflection** *'If you forgive anyone His sins, they are forgiven; If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven'.* I once heard it said that forgiveness is one of the hardest things we ever have to do. It is not easy is it? If we have been deeply hurt we are hideously scarred, we remain vulnerable, we don't want to be hurt again. Forgiveness requires tremendous courage. It is yet another thing that we cannot do on our own. That is why we are helped when we pray for the person or people we are seeking to forgive. Somehow that assists us to understand them better, to see into their heart and that helps to make forgiveness possible. We also need to forgive for our own mental health, otherwise we are carrying a great weight around which blocks the way to future peace of mind that puts a barrier between us and God. One of my great heroes is Desmond Tutu and in the 1980's I became involved in the anti-apartheid movement and met many black south Africans and was appalled by the suffering that they endured. Desmond Tutu worked hard to ensure that the bitterness and anguish experienced in those times did not fester and spill over destroying all hope of peace, Many of you will remember the truth and reconciliation trials and how they enabled many people to forgive and in turn experience forgiveness. In his book 'God has a Dream' he says: *'Forgiveness gives us the capacity to make a new start. That is the power, the rationale, of confession and forgiveness. It is to say, 'I have fallen but I am not going to stay there. Please forgive me. Forgiveness is the grace by which you enable the person to get up, and get up with dignity, to begin anew. Not to forgive leads to bitterness and hatred'*

***Hatred is always corrosive of the human spirit***. Forgiveness was of primary importance to Jesus. So much so that it was urgent that one of His last appearances to his chosen helpers was characterised by a command to forgive. Without forgiveness We cannot be of one heart and mind. Without forgiveness the kingdom cannot grow.

Hymn 52 Because He lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus He came to love, heal and forgive;

He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there because my saviour lives.

*And because he lives I can face tomorrow*

*Because he lives all fear is gone Because I know he holds the future*

*And life is worth the living just because he lives*

How sweet to hold A new born baby And feel the pride  
And the joy that he gives  
But greater still that calm assurance  
We can face uncertain days Because he lives Chorus

And then one day We'll all cross that river  
And fight life's final war with pain  
And then, as death gives way to victory  
I'll see the lights of Glory and I'll know he lives.

### **Prayers of Intercession.**

Father we come to you filled with an awareness that there is so much pain and suffering in our world. We think of the people of Myanmar of the oppression and unfairness there, of the parents who have lost children in violent attacks and of the waste of lives. In your mercy Lord, **HEAR OUR PRAYER**

We think of violent situations in other parts of the world where education is disrupted and people lose their homes and possessions, where there is starvation, lack of water and sanitation and where people live in constant fear. Lord we ask that they will be comforted and strengthened and that we will all be enabled and motivated to play our parts in working with You for others. *In your mercy Lord* **Hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for people everywhere who are suffering because of this pandemic. We pray for all who have died and for the people who loved them who are bereaved and hurting and cannot see a way forward. We pray for those that we know.....

We pray for those who have lost jobs, who are unable to afford the necessities of life and those whose mental or physical health have suffered. We thank you for all the key workers who have gone above and beyond to supply all our needs at this challenging time, Lord help us to be aware of all that they have done and to be sensitive to the challenges they face every day. Please help us to be appreciative and helpful and to go out of our way to put a smile on people's faces.

Help us Lord, to work together, to be one in heart and mind, to be prepared to say sorry when we hurt and to forgive freely with love, understanding and generosity. *In your Mercy, Lord.* **Hear our prayers**

*I know that so many of us are longing to sing out our prayers and to join together as one voice. It is a real hardship not to be able to do that. But we can rejoice in the wonderful words of this Charles Wesley favourite and we can imagine the glory of singing in a choir of thousands!*

**Hymn. 496.** *Oh for a thousand tongues to sing*

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and king, The triumphs of His grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows  
cease—  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the pow'r of cancelled sin, He sets the pris'ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and, list'ning to His voice, New life the dead receive,  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, The humble poor believe.
6. Glory to God, and praise and love Be ever, ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above,  
The church in earth and heav'n.

### **The Blessing**

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and always. Amen.*

*Youtube links*

*At your feet we fall*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgN3qS7TeQo>

*Do not be afraid*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IqJPW6pXPw>

*Because he lives*

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

*Oh for a thousand tongues to sing*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-dEfyz6Vms>