



# Church Alive Worship for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September



Welcome to our Church Alive service. Whilst we are not all together in church, we are together in spirit. We have tried to adapt our normal service from screen to paper and have provided links to music where possible if you would like to sing. *A big thank you to Debbie Thomson for recording the songs for us. These can be found on our YouTube channel with the links under the title – just hover and click on it*

Jesus says that those who live in a kingdom community should watch over one another in love, gently pointing out when a brother or sister fails to live by the values Jesus teaches.

**Opening Song:** I Come With Joy A Child Of God  
<https://youtu.be/JAMBsrKteTO>

1. I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

2. I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

4. The spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
alive among us here.

5. Together met, together bound,  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world,  
the love that makes us one.

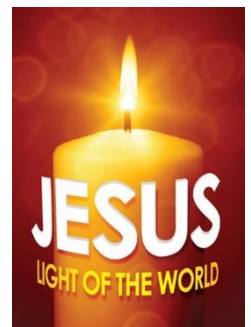


## Thanksgiving

What would you like to say thank you to God for today and this week?  
Take a moment to say thank you now.

**Opening Prayer:** *If you are able, and it is safe to do so, light a candle at this point*

Lord, we light this candle, to remind  
us that you are the light of the world.  
As we gather together in spirit,  
make our voices ready to sing your praise;  
our hearts open to receive your love  
and our minds alive to your Spirit.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **We seek God's healing and forgiveness**

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

For the times we do wrong and don't think how it affects others:

**Father forgive us**

For the times we don't work together with our friends and colleagues:

**Father forgive us**

For the times we don't listen to you:

**Father forgive us**

## **We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness**

May the God of love and power

forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Bible Reading** – Matthew 18:15-20, **When Someone Sins**, Good News Translation (GNT).

<sup>15</sup> "If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not listen to you, take one or two other persons with you, so that 'every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses,' as the scripture says. <sup>17</sup> And if he will not listen to them, then tell the whole thing to the church. Finally, if he will not listen to the church, treat him as though he were a pagan or a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup> "And so I tell all of you: what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

<sup>19</sup> "And I tell you more: whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."

**Introducing the Theme & Learning Spaces** *Not being able to break out into our learning spaces, here are a few thoughts about the theme for today prepared by Brenda. For young people you can use the Children's and Youth sheets that are being sent out separately.*

The church community is a family in which we are brothers and sisters and sometimes things happen that harm relationships within the church family. When Matthew wrote his gospel the Early Church already consisted of groups meeting together. Matthew is recording Jesus' teaching about what to do when things go wrong. Jesus is at the heart of the Kingdom of God. We are all equal and how we live matters.

Jewish tradition had already covered this difficult situation in the Old Testament book of Leviticus which says four things: the sinner should be reproved; anger is dangerous; guilt is contagious; the motivation should be love. Jesus develops the ideas into a more realistic three-fold pattern for resolution: person-to-person, before two or three witnesses and finally before the Church as a whole.

Something is missing from this passage which has been cut short by the lectionary reading....where is forgiveness in all of this? Jesus' teaching on the issue of forgiveness will have to wait until the gospel reading for next week!

## All Age Creative – Fitting Together



Cut out person shapes from the template on the final page (you could do two sheets to create more people). On each person shape write an action or quality that helps a community to get along well or builds them up. You can then decorate the people. Then join the people shapes into one cohesive pattern; you may want to stick them onto a separate sheet of paper (see image).

## Picture Reflection – prepared by Brenda



## Held Together Matthew 18: 15-20

Spend a few minutes with the image from inside a beehive...reflect on bees and our dependence on them...marvel at the work they do and the way that they communicate with each other within their community....

How well does this ordered pattern of life represent our church family and wider society?

What holds our community together?

Think about the roles of the drones, the workers and the queen in the hive...how do they need each other for the community to flourish?

What part does each of us fulfil to maintain our church family?

## Song: Bread Is Blessed And Broken

<https://youtu.be/9Ympv-mSySs>

1. Bread is blessed and broken,  
wine is blessed and poured  
Take this and remember -  
Christ the Lord

2. Share the food of heaven  
earth cannot afford.  
Here is grace in essence –  
Christ the Lord

3. Know yourself forgiven,  
find yourself restored,  
meet a friend for ever –  
Christ the Lord

4. God has kept his promise  
sealed by sign and word:  
Here, for those who want him –  
Christ the Lord

**O Lord, Hear Our Prayers** *Here are a few suggested pics for you to pray about. If you have specific prayers you would like included in future weeks then do send them to Linda and she will add them in*

We pray for...

*God's world:* We pray for places where uprising and violence have arisen from a lack of love for each other's needs, leading to increased incidences of injustice and inequality.

*Our communities:* We pray for this parish of West End, Townhill and Harefield. For all activities that promote care for neighbour and stranger and for the schools and their staff as they prepare to safely welcome their pupils for the new school year.

*God's church:* We pray for the global Church, for all who witness and worship in Jesus' name: Bless us and prepare us to be ready to take up our crosses and step out in service and mission in the places where we live, work and find recreation.

*All who are sick:* We offer prayers for all who are struggling with frailty and illness. Lord of life, bless with peace of body and mind everyone who calls on Your name, and send Your mercy on all whose earthly life is drawing to a close.

*For those who have died:* Comfort those who mourn and all unable to attend funerals to say their farewells because of the restrictions in place, not forgetting all whose world has changed immeasurably following the death of a loved one. Gather all who have died into Your eternal kingdom.

*Thanksgiving:* Lord, we give thanks that You are always there for us and help us to carry the crosses we have to bear. Strengthen our faith, teach us to love rather than hate, to strive to live in harmony with one another.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**We say 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.

**Song:** The Spirit Lives To Set Us Free  
<https://youtu.be/CA9jG8-dTHk>

The Spirit lives to set us free,  
walk, walk in the light.  
He binds us all in unity,  
walk, walk in the light.

Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light;  
the dead were wakened by his call,  
walk, walk in the light

*Chorus:*  
*Walk in the light,*  
*walk in the light,*  
*walk in the light,*  
*walk in the light*  
*of the Lord*

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,  
walk, walk in the light.  
The Father's kindness is revealed,  
walk, walk in the light.

The Spirit lives in you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.  
His light will shine for all to see,  
walk, walk in the light

### **Sending Out Prayer**

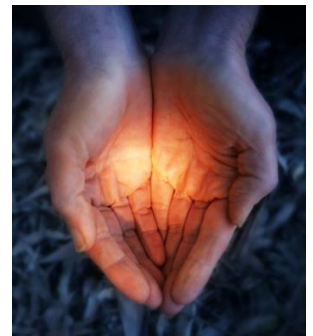
Lord, as we go back to our communities;  
the places where we live,  
where we learn to listen to you  
and to each other  
and act on what we hear,  
be with us and may God bless  
each and everyone of us.

**Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Go in the light and peace of Christ

**Thanks be to God**



**This illustrates how the person shapes fit inside one another to achieve one cohesive pattern.**

