



Church Alive Worship

for Trinity 18 - Sunday 11TH October



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*

This week we look at the ending of Paul's letter to the Philippians as he calls and urges the community to work together in steadfastness and unity especially in supporting two women, Euodia and Syntyche, who are named as co-workers, and to be always rejoicing, praying, pursuing whatever is honourable, pure and praiseworthy, and – he says – the peace of God will be with them.

Opening Song: Light of the world <https://youtu.be/gOpsEzwSEX0>

1. Light of the world You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me!*

2. King of all days so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor

Chorus

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me!*

Bridge:

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Chorus

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me!*

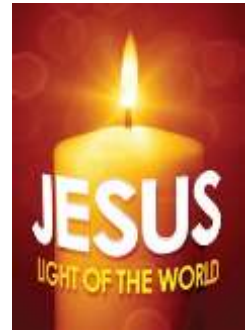


Thanksgiving

Our reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians speaks of the gift of that special feeling of peace that comes from God: have you an experience of peace that you wish to share? A time, a moment, a peaceful space within your busy life? 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.

When we have failed to recognise your love in the actions of friend or stranger,
Father, forgive.

When we have failed to recognise your presence in the world in which we live,
Father, forgive.

When we have failed to remember your gospel in our actions, thoughts and words,
Father, forgive. (pause)

Lord God, renew our hearts in worship, our minds in wisdom, and our hands in service as a sacrifice of love. Take our lives and use them, that we may work in unity with others, always praying and pursuing all that is honourable, pure and praiseworthy for Jesus sake, **Amen.**

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible Reading: Philippians 4:1-9 NRSV

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters,² whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 Linda. For young people you can use the Children's sheet that is being sent out separately.*

Paul has been encouraging the Christian in Philippi to live as citizens of heaven on earth, then when Jesus returns, he will transform their bodies for life in glory. However, he especially urges two women, Euodia and Syntyche, who have been squabbling, to end their quarrel. Although both have worked with Paul for the sake of the Gospel, they have fallen out badly with each other. Paul has already taught that unity is already vital to the health of the church, so now he asks these two to 'agree with each other in the Lord'. He also asks one of his trusted colleagues to help them.

Paul also urges the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord. This joy doesn't depend on good circumstances or happy feelings. It is the deep satisfaction that comes from belonging to Christ and being united in love and purpose. The Philippians are to be gentle, confident and prayerful, as is fitting for people who live together as the Lord's friends and await his coming. If they are anxious about anything, they must turn it to prayer, with thanksgiving. Then God will protect their hearts and minds with peace – the amazing peace when the love of Christ conquers and embraces all.

Finally, Paul encourages the Philippians to fill their minds with good and beautiful ideals. This will purify their imagination and inspire their actions. Paul tell them to live out the gospel in practical ways. He offer his own life as a model of Christian living. This is not pride as much as good discipling. Paul is a teacher who is willing for his own life to be scrutinised by his pupils to see how he practises what he preaches.

What might we need to do to ensure there is more harmony and unity in our lives and how will this help us become better Christians?

Handing over our worries and anxieties to God in prayer should also include thanksgiving. Do we always remember to do this?

Do we always practice what we preach? Who do we look to as an example?

All Age Creative – Activity idea:

In our Bible story for today we have heard of Paul's wish that the people will support each other in prayer and in sharing the good news about Jesus, that they will look after each other and help those who have worries will know Christ's peace and feel comforted.

Find a clean empty jar [or other suitable container], have pieces of paper and a pencil/pen/marker



Decorate the jar then write onto some of the pieces of paper your own worries, or worries that are bothering people you know, and drop into the jar/container.

Each day hold the jar and ask God to send His peace into the hearts and minds of those who are anxious. You can also add new worries as they come along.

If a worry is solved take out the paper, give thanks to God, and throw that prayer away!



Peace of Mind Philippians 4:1-9

- Looking at the picture...
what suggests to you that this is a scene from a letter- writer from long ago? What would be different for a letter-writer in the 21st century?
- Is writing letters and posting them an activity of the past?
When was the last time that you wrote or received a hand-written personal letter?
- What is special about receiving a hand-written letter?
- When the texts for inclusion to the New Testament were chosen, why were Paul's letters included as a valuable resource in our faith journey?
- We have reached the end of Paul's letter to the Philippians, and when he says goodbye, he gives them reassurance and peace of mind...
What kind of reassurance gives you peace of mind, particularly in our present times of uncertainty?

Song: "Spirit of God, unseen as the wind" <https://youtu.be/e8nEUPDd8SI>

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love!*

1. You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word;
We read it still, needing its truth through it God's voice is heard.

Chorus

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love!*

2. Without your help we fail our Lord, we cannot live His way;
We need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.

Chorus

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love!*

O Lord, Hear Our Prayers *Here are a few suggested prayers. 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 an increased care and mindfulness for the beauty of creation and offer our determination to make every effort to help protect the environment.
We ask for your wisdom and peace, Lord, for all places of danger, warfare or natural disaster - that divisions, damage and hurt will be repaired and harmony restored.

Our communities: We pray for this parish of West End, Townhill and Harefield.
For the communities where we live, play, and work.
As Paul urged the Philippians to be strong in care and support of each other, may we too strive to work together for Jesus' sake - always encircling all we do in prayer.

God's church: We pray for the global Church, for all who witness and worship in Jesus' name:
Bless this your church of St James', our ministry and pastoral teams, our PCC and all who dedicate time and talent towards enhancing our worship and mission.
Help us, Lord, to be loyal companions to each other in sharing your gospel message.

All who are sick: We pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit especially all affected by Covid-19
Grant peace to those in hospital, strength to those recuperating at home and skill and knowledge to all caring for those who are ill and the researchers developing a vaccine to help free us from the effects of the virus and other dreadful disorders.

For those who have died: may they rest in peace and rise in glory.
Lord, be with all who weep and mourn, the bereaved and the dying.
Gather the souls of the departed into the peace and safety of your eternal kingdom

For ourselves: Lord, knowing we are held in your love, may our faith remain steadfast even in the times of anxiety, difficulty and trouble. Help us to be loyal companions to our fellow Christian brothers and sisters, never forgetting to rejoice in your name, ever ready to serve prayerfully, ready and willing to share the good news of your kingdom.

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: God is Love <https://youtu.be/1G5VtYOROcw>

God is love: His the care, tending each ev'rywhere.
God is love, All is there!
Jesus came to show him, that humankind might know Him!

Chorus:
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty, Praise Him!

None can see God above; we can share life and love;
Thus may we Godward move;
Seek Him in creation, holding ev'ry nation!

Chorus:
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty, Praise Him!

Jesus lived on the earth, life and hope brought to birth;
And affirmed human worth,
For He came to save us, by the truth He gave us!

Chorus:
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty, Praise Him!

To our Lord, praise we sing, light and life, friend and King,
Coming down love to bring,
Pattern for our duty, showing God in beauty!

Chorus:
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty, Praise Him!

Sending Out Prayer:

**We go our separate ways Lord, perhaps with smiles or frowns;
With our hopes and fears; with answers but also questions;
Maybe crying and with heavy hearts, or relief.
We go our separate ways, Lord, but we never go alone.
With thankful hearts, we share the journey of life with each other and with you.
Be with us as we go. Amen.**

The Peace

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

