



Church Alive Worship

for Sunday 18th 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*

Paul and his companions gratefully greet those who responded joyfully to their gospel message. The Holy Spirit empowered the proclaiming and receiving of the word, and the faith, hope and love at work in the community are already inspiring others who hear of them.

Opening Song: How Great Thou Art
<https://youtu.be/fdGxBbwEJkM>

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works Thy hand has made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

2. When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

3. And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
and there proclaim; 'my God, how great Thou art!'

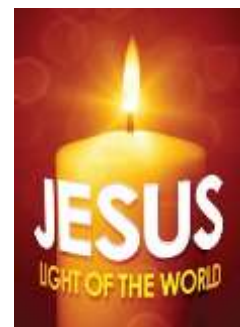
Thanksgiving



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 confess before you, O God, that we are not always a good example of what it is to be a Christian. We do not feel worthy that others should follow us. And yet, Lord, you encourage us to share your love and reveal your truth and lead others to you. We confess that we fail, and we are sorry. We confess our inadequacies and carelessness in standing up for what is right against what is wrong. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us in the ways of truth and justice. We want to be a good example, a shining example of what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus. Amen.

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Greetings from Paul & The Faith of the Thessalonian Believers, New Living Translation (NLT).

¹ This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace.

² We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. ³ As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. ⁵ For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you. ⁶ So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. ⁷ As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

⁸ And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it, ⁹ for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. ¹⁰ And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

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 and Youth sheets that are being sent out separately.*

Paul is delighted that the new Christians in Thessalonica are surviving and flourishing. He sees this as a powerful work of God, motivated by faith, love and hope in Jesus. He believes that only the Holy Spirit can have enabled and sustained such a dramatic and lasting change in their lives.

Paul and his friends have shown the Thessalonians how to be like Christ. there are no Gospels to read at this time; all teaching is done by word of mouth and personal example. Now the Thessalonians are themselves models of Christian faith and life in the Roman provinces of Macedonia and Achaia – which is almost the whole of modern Greece.

However, a major aspect of the gospel is that Gentiles must stop worshipping their pagan idols. Instead they must serve the living God who is know through his son Jesus; especially bearing in mind that one day he will return to save his people from the wrath of God’s judgement on the sins of the world.

Can we feel the Holy Spirit alive and working in our lives? Are we models of Christian living? Do we sometimes worship our material goods rather more than God?



All Age Creative – Wristbands - A symbol of influence to wear

You will need: paper and pens, strips of plain fabric or wide binding ribbon, fabric pens or permanent markers, scissors.

Think about how you could be an influencer in a positive way. Write down three things you would want people to notice about you – three things that are worth imitating. Chat with your family about this to see what things they might also notice.

Cut a length of your strip of plain fabric or binding ribbon that will fit and tie safely around your wrist. On this write the three words they have identified to make your personal wristband.

Picture Reflection – prepared by Brenda



Imitators and influencers - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Looking at the image, what do you notice in the picture? How does this image reflect the idea of imitators and influencers?

How are we aware of people who influence our behaviour and our lives? Where do these influencers interact with us?

Are we seen to be influencers of others? How does that make us feel? What responsibilities do influencers possess?
How do we respond to the idea of imitating other Christians we encounter in our church community?
Reflect on Christian witnesses through the ages who have influenced your journey of faith....

Song: God is Love, His The Care
<https://youtu.be/1G5VtYOR0cw>.

1. 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!

Sing aloud, loud, loud!
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty! Praise him!

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

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. We pray for leaders of the world that they may work together to fight the Coronavirus and set all divisions aside

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 as they continue to find the best way to help their children learn safely and compassionately.

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 as examples of Christian faith and living.

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 that the Holy Spirit enables us to do so much in your name. 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: Shine Jesus Shine

<https://youtu.be/UCqhgEMixlk>

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Sending Out Prayer

Into a world of confusion and disbelief,
into a world of welcome and rejection,
we take the grace of God that has been among us,
and the peace of God that has been on our hearts.

Amen.

The Peace

Go in the light and peace of Christ

Thanks be to God

