



# Church Alive Worship

## for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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*

Today we give thanks for 130 years of our church. We think of all the people that have met God here over the years and who have faithfully served him in their lives. We give thanks for our beautiful building which has stood as a sign of God's faithful love in this area. We give thanks for our church community today.

**Opening Song:** Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
<https://youtu.be/6MbAfYol1rE>

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my  
power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5. High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

6. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

### Thanksgiving



We give thanks to God for our church today.  
What do you love best about St James?

**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 remember our mistakes and faults, and our need for God's forgiveness and healing.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

**Father, forgive us and fill us with you Spirit.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

**Father, forgive us and fill us with your Spirit.**

We confess to you our failure to be generous and to share what we have with others:

**Father, forgive us and fill us with your Spirit.**

## **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 – Jesus Goes to the Temple**

**Good News Bible - Matthew 21:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> Jesus went into the Temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons, <sup>13</sup> and said to them, "It is written in the Scriptures that God said, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer.' But you are making it a hideout for thieves!"

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the crippled came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the Law became angry when they saw the wonderful things he was doing and the children shouting in the Temple, "Praise to David's Son!" <sup>16</sup> So they asked Jesus, "Do you hear what they are saying?" "Indeed I do," answered Jesus. "Haven't you ever read this scripture? 'You have trained children and babies to offer perfect praise.'"

**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.*

Matthew tells us that after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem he makes straight for the temple. There he drives out the traders and money changers, whose tables and stalls clutter the court of the Gentiles. This is a purge! Over the years, the sale of animals and birds for sacrifice, and the exchange of street money for temple coins, has taken over the visitor's courtyard. Priests and traders have made the place a hub of commerce, with no hope of quiet prayer.

As Jesus arrives there is no mistaking the fulfilment of Malachi's prophecy: 'The Lord will suddenly come to his temple' – and vigorously reform it (Malachi 3:1-3). Jesus proclaims his authority by quoting scripture: 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer.' This comes from Isaiah's prophecy that foreigners will be welcomed to the temple (Isaiah 56:6-7), 'hideout for thieves' comes from Jeremiah's charge that the worshippers themselves are thieves and hypocrites (Jeremiah 7:9-11).

Jesus performs another of the Messiah's tasks by healing the blind and lame. Such people are no longer excluded from the temple, but tended and healed. Even the children add to the atmosphere of excitement by chanting their 'Hosannas'. This angers the priests, who now join the ranks of Jesus' enemies

It's good to think that St James over the years has also been an important house of prayer and many 'hosannas' have been said within and without its walls.



### **All Age Creative – Prayer Hands – 5 Prayers**

Draw the outline of your hand on a piece of paper. On each finger write a prayer using the following guide. For example:

- "Lord, you are...(praise and worship);
- "Lord, forgive me for...(confession of sin);
- "Lord, thank you for...(thanking God);
- "Lord please help...(praying for other's needs);
- "Lord, I need...(pray for your needs).

### **Picture Reflection – prepared by Brenda**



Spend a few minutes with the historic picture of the inside of St. James' Church....imagine sitting in a pew and looking around... How does it feel to sit in the church then? What looks familiar? What is different in this part of the church today?

When the church dedication stone was laid 130 years ago....what would the area have looked like then? Harefield, Chartwell Green and most of the housing in West End had not been built....

This area has been developed and the population has increased....name, in silence, people who you know and those who are part of our congregation from the different regions of our parish...

Today we are called to worship in our lovely church...take this opportunity to pray for our ministry team and for all who worship and serve in so many different ways following in the footsteps of the generations before us....

Reflect on Christ's call to spread the Good News ....how can each of us play a part in mission outreach in this parish to ensure that there will be a worshipping community in this building in a hundred years from now...

**Song: Be Still For The Presence of the Lord**

<https://youtu.be/HZP8vuok9KY>

1. Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here

2. Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around

3. Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal  
To minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place

**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:**

hallowed be your name,  
Our Father in heaven,  
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:** How Great is our God

<https://youtu.be/NB3do3Coz-o>

The splendour of the King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice  
He wraps himself in Light, and darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands and time is in His hands  
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end  
The Godhead Three in One, Father Spirit Son  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb

*Chorus*

Name above all names, worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing how great is our God

*Chorus*

**Sending Out Prayer**

We are God's people, built together as one,  
and Jesus himself is our cornerstone.  
For all that has been, we give thanks  
And for all that will be, yes!  
**Amen.**

**The Peace**

Go in the light and peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God**

