

SONGS OF PRAISE - 2nd June 2019

(Leader)

In these 10 days between the Ascension and Pentecost we have chosen to come together to sing our songs of praise to God. The disciples were in Jerusalem on that first Pentecost, full of joy after the Ascension of Jesus Christ. He had told them to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit which they were doing, 'continually in the temple blessing God', Luke tells us.

You have chosen our hymns.
We will sing your 9 favourites, working from 9 to 1, your favourite, as our last hymn.
Then we shall be more than ready for a cup of tea and refreshment I think.

Lord, the light of your love is shining. (*sheet no. 1*)

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, 3 in 1 God, watches over us all, whether we are in peril or not.
Always with us through thick and thin.
Quite a thought.

Eternal Father, strong to save (*sheet no. 2*)

Through the tensions of knowing when we go wrong, to the peace and calm of knowing that we are forgiven, let us now say sorry to God for those times when we have been less than we can be, in all sorts of ways. The response to 'Father, forgive us' is '**save us and help us**'.

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives:
Father, forgive us;
save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you:
Father forgive us;
save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

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.**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind (*sheet no. 3*)

So now we can really begin to praise God with clean hearts and renewed energy.
From the beginning of time and awareness of God, people have sought to find words to praise Him for his presence, His creation, His being there for us.
Let us hear one of those hymns of praise now, words from Psalm 104.

Praise my soul, the king of heaven (*sheet no. 4*)

Every morning is a fresh start.
Each morning is a time of fresh discovery, a symbol of new beginning, new hope and a fresh chance of renewal.
God has created each day.
Our prayer must be that we are attentive to the sounds of each new day, the birdsong, the smell of the ground and vegetation after rain.
No wonder we love this hymn.

Morning has broken (*sheet no. 5*)

God is love.
George Herbert wrote the most beautiful poem about love. Here it is.

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust
and sin.

But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack from my first
entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, If I lack'd
any thing.

'A guest', I answer'd, 'worthy to be here.'

Love said, 'you shall be he'.

I the unkind, ungrateful?

'Ah my dear, I cannot look on thee'.

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'

‘Truth Lord, but I have marr’d them:
let my shame go where it doth deserve’.

‘And know you not’, says Love, ‘who bore the blame?’
‘My dear, then I will serve’.
‘You must sit down’, says Love, ‘and taste my meat’.
So I did sit and eat.

Love divine, all loves excelling. (*sheet no. 6*)

Let us pray.

The words we have sung are our prayers today.

Take your hymn sheets which contain all the words you wanted to sing to praise God, to ask for his forgiveness, and to hold in your hearts other people and situations.

We ask for stillness, joy, healing, and we thank God for his unfailing love for us.

Use these hymns as your prayers when the time is right.

We will now just say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father (*sheet no. 7*)

We can’t get away from the idea of God being in the elements – the wind, the fresh morning, the sea, fire.

And here they all are again.

And like the story of Elijah in his cave on Mount Horeb, when God was not in the earthquake and storms but in the sound of sheer silence, it is only in that silence that we can hear the voice of God, and we can answer his call to each one of us.

I, the Lord of sea and sky. (*sheet no. 8*)

And now our last hymn.

The most popular hymn chosen by you, is one which again is full of prayer for quiet and silence.

Our world is so noisy, so busy, so fast, that perhaps we really need to give ourselves space to focus in the quiet on God, life, each other.

Let us sing this and feel the power of our need for stillness, the glory of God’s willingness to answer our request, and the reverence that the stillness can offer us.

Be still, for the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy One is here.
(*sheet no. 9*)

Blessing.

May Christ's holy, healing, enabling Spirit

be with you

and guide you on your way

at every change and turn.

And the blessing of God almighty