

## Traditional Home service Sunday 24th April

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (*Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*)

READINGS - Psalm 150,  
Revelation 1:4-8,  
John 20:19-31

### TALK

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.*

### 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.

HYMN 2 (*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*)

### CONCLUSION

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

1 O soul are you weary and troubled  
No light in the darkness you see  
There's light for a look at the Savior  
And life more abundant and free

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow  
strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace*

2 His word shall not fail you he  
promised  
Believe him and all will be well  
Then go to a world that is dying  
His perfect salvation to tell

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow  
strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace*

3 O soul are you weary and troubled  
No light in the darkness you see  
There's light for a look at the Savior  
And life more abundant and free

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow  
strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace*

1 Lo! He comes with clouds  
descending,  
once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ reveals his endless reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him  
robed in glorious majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply  
wailing,  
shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture,  
with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Sermon - Louise Morton  
Psalm 150, Revelation 1 4-8, John 20 19-31.

Why Worship? Why is it important...

Psalm 150, the last psalm, ends Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Love that this includes animals! What about Sky larks! So enjoying recently the Morning and evening chorus, think birds have got this!

Want to think this morning about Why? Why Worship?

Psalm 150 has given some reasons: for his mighty deeds, for his surpassing greatness. Revelation passage gives us more: Jesus, faithful witness, first born of the dead ( resurrection!, )

Ruler of the kings of the earth.  
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving the Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever....

Maybe in short because he's worth it! He is worthy of our worship, word often used for worship in New Testament Proskuneo means to bow down..... idea of reverently giving him his due....

Scripture is clear it is unique to God to be worthy of worship.

Later on in revelation 19 v10 John writes of the angel who'd been guiding him: Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, you must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and others who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! Obviously part of Ten Commandments, no idols, worship only God.

Jesus in the gospels allows himself to be the centre of attention, to be worshipped! Gospel passage you could easily imagine as Thomas said 'My Lord and my God!' He assumed a posture of worship. Recently done the story, with the children, of one of the women who anointed Jesus feet with costly perfume, kissed them and wiped them with her hair! Some of the boys were disgusted!

At the time the act caused disapproval! Some thought what is Jesus doing letting a sinful woman do that! Some said it's a waste the money could of been used for the poor...

Jesus defends the action Mark 14v9 Truly, I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed...what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

What she was doing was an act of gratitude and worship....

Palm Sunday: crowds shouting praise, hosanna etc.. palm branches and clothes laid down..

Pharisees, Luke writes, tell Jesus to hush the crowd, he answers if these were silent even the stones would shout !

Part of the Jesus: Mad, Bad, or God ? Argument so well laid out by CS Lewis, stems from the idea a good man, a good teacher.. would not behave like this! they would point to God, Jesus pointed to the Father but through himself....

Worship because he's worth it!

Worship is one of the things that makes it into heaven, prophecy, knowledge, tongues cease..

Love never ends Love makes it! And so does worship, Revelation book in the Bible gives us most of our heavenly scenes ! Full of worship ( yes, it's really strange and weird too! But full of scenes of worship!). Imagine being part of this.. read Revelation 7 verses 9-11.

I may of come late to the party on this! But one of the things that struck me, and with great relief (!) relatively recently! revelation full of worship, but not Old Testament style, no burnt offerings, bloody sacrifices etc.. because of the Lamb, Jesus in heaven bearing the marks of crucifixion, has made the wholly sufficient sacrifice, love how Hebrews describes it: Hebrews 9... he entered once for all into the Holy place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood thus obtaining eternal redemption... and what does this enable....the author goes on, Freedom from dead works to worship the living God!

Worship because it's eternal!

Worship, because it's a blessing.

We bless Him, gladden his heart as we worship, so often over years had a sense the Lord enjoys our efforts to praise him, to give him his due.

Jesus defended those we see in the gospels offering their praise, the woman spilling her perfume ( one year wages worth! ) over his feet, the crowds as they welcomed him coming on a donkey.

He defends them!

Psalm 147: the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

We have a God who rejoices over us with gladness (Zephaniah), who exults over us with loud singing.

His heart warmed surely by our attempts to love Him back, to rejoice over him, to exult him with loud singing! Notice loud, not

necessarily in tune! 😊

Worship blesses us, also, it's weighty, important, personally offers healing and strengthening, I remember grieving my dad as I worshipped, and week by week the healing that came through it...

Psalm 147 starts

It's a good thing to sing praise to our God, praise is beautiful, praise his fitting.

Worship advances the kingdom, see it literally in 2 Chronicles where king Jehoshaphat leads Israel in worship to defeat the enemy.

The people sang: Give thanks to the lord, for his steadfast love endures forever...

See it in the book of Acts when Paul and Silas choose worship in prison ...

There is power in worship beyond our understanding...

We can banish the darkness by declaring the goodness of God!

Worship is a blessing!

How ...

Jesus advice on worship wasn't about styles etc.. it was this, worship in Spirit and truth?

John 4 Jesus says the Father is seeking those who will worship in spirit and truth.

Here is a great sentence from a John commentary, I hope I can unpack!

The Spirit brings us into truth, and the truth draws us into the Spirit.

In Jesus, we live in Spirit and truth, and he brings us to the Father whom we worship and adore.

My attempt at an unpack! In short, right worship is rooted in our relationship with whom we are worshipping, as simple, beautiful and yet as complex as that ! Being open to the Holy Spirit revealing the truth to us, enables us to worship.... In a way the Father desires.... And Jesus says he's seeking for those like that! It gives us favour with the father, Yes!

Our relationship grows our worship, our worship when in spirit and truth in turn grows our relationship, good news !

Some things my husband and I don't share... he is into cars, sport...

I prefer flowers, dogs....

After a day at Kew Gardens he admitted he'd rather of been at a motor museum!

Some things we carry the same heart for... We both love looking at the sea, rather than being on it!

Another of them is worship ! both of us love coming into the place of being open before him giving ourselves to him.

Worshipping in truth, for me includes being honest before him, and Being Those who want to do the equivalent of spilling the perfume over his feet, those who will lose themselves in Him? Yes!

Worship does include the whole of our lives, the idea Paul puts forward in Romans 12: present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

We please him when we do the ordinary the everyday well for him, wanting to honour him and bring him glory through it...

Whether that be the work we're paid to do, the home we run, the family we care for, the various ways we may serve, all can be done for his glory, and so offered as part of our worship.

There is also though, the place for focused adoration, when we can get lost in wonder, love and praise !

Have a look at marvellous worship scenes in revelation eg 5 v13,14.

Could call them, Perfume spilling moments...

Worship can give us the desire to be demonstrative, I would almost go so far as to say it should !

Raising hands, kneeling, dancing, clapping, Flags .....my experience.....

Worship can be costly, the perfume was expensive, she was a spectacle!  
David understood worship, look at the psalms!

Famous incident of the Ark coming in to Jerusalem, David dancing before the Lord with all his might, when scorned by his wife for his ridiculous behaviour, he defends his stance saying he is prepared to look contemptible! Because he's doing it for the Lord, and in the end it will bring him honour too.

What is worship costing you?  
If you're part of the worship team, it's costing time, thinking, energy, maybe resources for equipment etc...

For all of us it's a choice, to give priority to giving time to worship, whether that be not letting coming to church be crowded out, making time in our daily routines to focus on Him, thinking about it, to grow any relationship we need to give them time, to be intentional, it's the same with our walk with Jesus. There will be costs, choices to be made....

So to sum up, worship a few reasons why: he's worth it, it's eternal, it's a blessing to Him and us; there's significance to it beyond our understanding.

How: by growing our relationship with Him, letting our lives be open and laid down to Him, letting it cost us !