

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Call to worship: Almighty God, fill the church with your power -- the power of truth, the power of mercy, the power of love -- that your glory might be known in every land, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Come all!" Let us worship God who welcomes us all, and may we find unity in our diversity.

MP 624:

1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in endless praise.

2. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee.

3. Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it Thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
it shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love, my Lord,
I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for Thee.

Prayer and Lord's prayer - Father, we thank you for the opportunity to gather today. May everything we do, begin with your inspiration and continue with your help. We ask your guidance throughout this week, that all of our thoughts and actions would reflect your Holy will, and that You would grant us the grace to love You and our neighbours as You would want us too. Faithful God, forgive us when we only turn to You when things trouble us and when we forget to thank You for Your **blessings** and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week, ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say. Lord thank you for walking with us throughout our lives. You are always with us. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

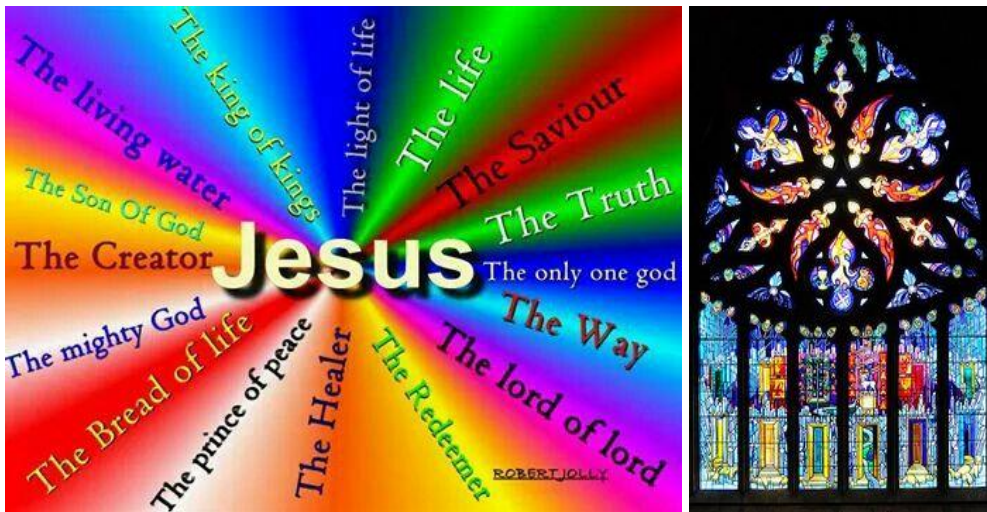
Lord's Prayer

CH4 232 Pears and apples

*Pear and apples, wheat and grapes
Many textures, many shapes
sailing leaves in golden drifts*

Thank You God, for harvest gifts
 Flashing shoals of silver fish,
 every colour you could wish;
 Fishing boats, for you and me
 Reap the harvest of the sea.
 Earth and ocean, plant and beast,
 altogether make the feast;
 All who long to share your grace
 at your table have their place.
 Loving Lord, we know you care;
 May we all your goodness share;
 Save us from all selfish greed, finding you in those who need.

All age Good morning. Today I would like you to think about what colour of the rainbow you would like to be. I, myself, would like to be blue as that is my favourite colour. I have a an image here of the colours of the rainbow, but it has the names of Jesus on it that he has been called in the Bible. I will just say one or two of them



I chose this image because it was the nearest I could get for the meanings of the colours of the rainbow as it was God who first made a rainbow. As a promise between himself and all living creatures to never destroy all that he had made ever again. - Next to this is a picture of the stained-glass window in St. Michael's Church in Linlithgow. The colours are beautiful. Can you just imagine how this window will reflect the colours when the sun shines through it? The colours are all equal; not one any more special than another. They are all required to make this amazing artwork. There are so many different shapes and sizes of glass, all put into the different parts of the window to complete the picture the artist wanted to portray. I want you to think about what colour you would like to be and place yourself as part of a stained glass window. We are all different, but we are all special to God. When we all come together, we help to make up a very special window. Within this window we are showing just how important it is to be joined together as one walking with God. The Bible tells us that "...even as we have many members in one body, and all the members don't have the same function" (12:4) "so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually, members one of another" (12:4). Each of us has gifts. We might be able to teach or lead. or have the gift of caring and be cheery and be able to give encouragement. When our own gifts, that we have been given by God, are combined with everyone who we share the love of God with, then we will have the ability to make something full of colour to praise God. God's light transforms us, just like sunlight streams through our stained-glass windows and helps us to see the beauty of all the colours not just in the rainbow, but all around us. Could Paul see us as the congregation who knows who we are? Would he see the Holy Spirit shining in us and throughout the church? I do think that he would see us as a living church of our Lord Jesus Christ and thank us for all our different gifts that we use through our faith to the community in around us. We can thank Him and praise God for all his good gifts to us.

Let's pray: Loving God we come together to say thank you for all the gifts you shower upon us and give you all the praise and honour in your name now and forever. Amen

CH4 143: Who put the colours in the rainbow?

Who put the colours in the rainbow?
 Who put the salt into the sea?
 Who put the cold into the snowflake?
 Who made you and me?
 Who put the hump upon the camel?
 Who put the neck upon the Giraffe?
 Who put the tail upon the monkey?
 Who made hyenas laugh?
 Who made wails and snail quails?
 Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?
 Who made mats and rats and cats?
 Who made everything?
 Who put the gold into the sunshine?
 Who put the sparkle in the stars?
 Who put the silver in the moonlight?
 Who made Earth and Mars?
 Who put the scent into the roses?
 Who taught the honey bee to dance?
 Who put the tree inside the acorn?
 It surely can't be chance?
 Who made seas and leaves and trees?
 Who made snow and winds that blow?
 Who made streams and rivers flow?
 God made all of these!

Psalm 138:

1 I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
 before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
 and will praise your name
 for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
 for you have so exalted your solemn decree
 that it surpasses your fame.

3 When I called, you answered me;
 you greatly emboldened me.

4 May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,
 when they hear what you have decreed.

5 May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
 for the glory of the LORD is great.

6 Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
 though lofty, he sees them from afar.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.
 You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;

with your right hand you save me.

8 The LORD will vindicate me; your love,

LORD, endures forever—

do not abandon the works of your hands.

Intercession Prayers - Almighty, Creator God – We come humbly before your throne of grace to make known those issues and concerns which burden our hearts and those of your people this world over. So help us, Lord, as we try and focus on the big issues of the day, about which we often feel so powerless, and the myriad of small, daily, concerns that can sometimes threaten to overwhelm us. We pray for the World-wide Christian church praising Your name in thousands of different languages and styles. We pray for churches in regions where any religious faith is suppressed or where Christianity is seen as an unwelcome intrusion. Give courage and faith to all who hold the name of Jesus central to their lives. We pray for a world seemingly forever caught up in violence and conflict and pray that a 'longing for peace' abides in the hearts of all those who have the influence to change things for the better. Especially, we pray for the innocent victims caught up in conflicts not of their making. Give us the wisdom to understand more about the root causes of conflicts and how they might best be resolved without further mistrust. We pray for those forging stronger links between faith communities and for the world's leaders that they may be given insight and strength to continually strive for just societies in all regions of the world. We pray for and remember peoples who are the victims of natural disasters or who suffer hunger and deprivation because of corrupt or power - crazed leaders. We pray that, through the generosity of the world-wide community, aid may be allowed to reach those in desperate need. Warm the hearts of those who would deprive their own people of help and show them that true leadership comes from humility and service. As schools and colleges go back for the new term, we pray for our children and young people at the beginning of another academic year. And for the new leavers, starting new lives in the world of work. Let it be a place where both young and old, gifted and less able feel valued and proud to be a part of the workforce. We pray for those in our health services as they get to grips with the pandemic. Support those working in laboratories to produce vaccines, giving advice on the help-lines or on the front line in surgeries and hospitals. At times of great national anxiety help us to know that all our concerns are already known to you and that from you we may draw strength to do your will in the service of others. And so, we think now of those in need in our own community: the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes, hospital and hospice. e pray for the lonely, the marginalised and those who face a future with little hope or love. We also pray for all who tend to their needs. So let us share a moment of silence together as we bring before you those known only to ourselves as we name them in our hearts and commit them to your loving care. We also pray for those who face the pain of grief at the loss of a loved one. Help us to support all those who mourn, both with our prayers and with practical help both this day and in the days and weeks to come. Today Lord, open our eyes that we may see your image in everyone we meet; open our ears that we may hear your word in the words that other speak and open our mouths that we may speak your gracious word of love to those whose paths we cross; "Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen".

MP 640 the church is one foundation

1. The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
by water and the Word;
From heaven He came and sought her
to be His holy Bride;
with His own blood He bought her
and for her life He died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,

partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
Till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
in love may dwell with Thee

Romans 12:1-8 ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Amen

Sermon: Put your left foot in, your left foot out, your left foot in, and shake it all about. You do the hokey kokey and turn yourself around, that's what it's all about. O hokey kokey.

You all know the words. The song goes through all your limbs and your head, then it asks you to put your whole self in. How many times have we all done this at parties etc., but have you ever thought that it could be biblical? In the New Testament reading from Romans today, Paul tells us to do exactly that. "Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship" (Rom. 12:1). "To present your bodies" is Paul's way of saying, "Put your whole self in."

We all know that too by giving our offerings each week is our way of saying, "Thank you" to God for the blessings He bestows on us. We see the baskets going round the church and envelopes and money put into the baskets. We also know that there are bank direct debits going into the church account. It is a commitment given as a form of worship, an outreach to God in grateful thanks for the gifts given to us.

The forgiveness for our wrong doings over the past week, the burdens we have worried over made lighter, but we still have to give ourselves in total commitment to God. He does not accept anything less, so we must turn towards Him and give Him the honour and praise. It is not an easy task. There are many outside distractions which turn us every other way, but we must turn from the outside worldly distractions and focus totally on God. If only we could stand up in the basket and say, "I give you my all." That would be true worship. If you could see and feel the presence of God how could you not put your whole self in? We should never forget that through Jesus dying on the cross and taking

all our sins away. we are saved by God's grace and His mercy. He gave His son to die for us. That is some gift and, with that in mind, we should give ourselves fully to Him.

How would we be feeling today if we let ourselves be turned away to the world as it and not have the gifts of forgiveness and love from God? Personally, I would be feeling very uncomfortable. I know that I need God in my life. Paul said "... to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God" (Rom. 12:1). meaning we must give our whole self. The term "living sacrifice" was the way in the Old Testament in the giving of an animal to be sacrificed. Today or by way of the New Testament, we give of ourselves - body and soul to God in thanks for what Jesus did for us through God. Life is for living. Yes, and our worship is a living thing. It is not just for Sunday morning. It should be practised every day and everywhere. Our offering to help and pray for others is worship, but not to be seen to make us look better than anyone else. We are all parts of one body working together to give God the glory and praise he deserves Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2) When we do this, we are mirror imaging how we should live. As Christians we live in the everyday world with all its distractions, but we turn away from the bad ways. We are not turned by the ways of the world. We turn, instead, to the one who loves and gave us life. We live with Christ in our hearts and he gives us the gifts of truth and an inner wellbeing, which we can as we go about our daily lives pass to others an inner calm in hectic lives. As children of God we are like the kids' transformer toys. We can turn into what God wants us to be - a reflection of Himself. God moulds us daily to live our lives for Him and through the Holy Spirit is given to us the power of the living God which will aid us to be given the way to lead a Christ-like life. We have the free will to do what we like, but we must remember that total commitment is the only way that is pleasing to God. You must put your whole self in and do the whole of the hokey kokey to offer up yourself to God

MP 428:

Lord, for the years your love
has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today

Lord, for that word,
the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts
and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains,
rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word,
receive your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure,
wealth and care:
for young and old,
for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world where men
disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength,

and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless,
lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world,
we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves;
in living power remake us
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us,
for the future take us:
Lord of our lives,
to live for Christ alone.

Benediction Go from here knowing you are God's beloved children. Be transformed by your time here today and by the people you met here and when you leave this place e humble, knowing you are blessed by God with talents and gifts just as every other person in the whole wide world is blessed by God with gifts and talents too.