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EASTER 6

17th May 2020

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes
while churches are closed.

A free resource funded by **twelvebaskets**.

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

Call to worship

Psalm 96:1-3 - [Click for reading](#)

Reflection - [YouTube](#)

The sun comes up,
It's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing,
When the evening comes.

Bless the Lord oh my soul. Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, oh my soul, for I will worship your holy name dear Lord.

Wayne Grewcock shares his reflection, which was a part of The Big Church Sing online last Sunday (it works best if you read it aloud, even if you are on your own):

I am really fortunate that I live just a short walk from the mouth of The River Otter. A place of peace and tranquillity, a place of utter beauty. A place to worship God's holy name. You can feel God's love just washing over you, cleansing you and freeing you of all your burdens.

I am truly blessed to come and sit, and contemplate our creator God. To give thanks to our loving God, for life is good!

But sometimes this is a vulnerable place – when the storms come, when the waves are pounding against the shore and the waters rise. We all know that life is not always easy, especially at the moment, but if we look deep, if we search hard, God's goodness is there, even if we only catch a glimpse of it.

Keep coming back, for God hears even when we can only whisper his name for a short time. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing to you dear Lord.

So find your special place, your holy place, the place where you can sing to the Lord, even when the storm is raging.

Still my soul dear Lord, so that I can worship you. For we have been redeemed in Jesu's name.

A day, new day is dawning, it's time to sing again – no matter what has gone before, we start again: loved, blessed and forgiven. For in God we always have hope.

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations. O worship his holy name – sing like never before.¹

¹ Reflection written by Wayne Grewcock

Hymn: 10,000 Reasons – Matt Redman - [YouTube](#)

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

Prayers

We sing our praise to you, O God, whether we can sing in tune or whether we are pleased no one from church can hear us right now.

We sing our praise to you, O God, whether we sing alone or as a large household.

We sing our praise to you, O God, whether we pronounce the words out loud or hum the tune in our heads.

We come to you, singing our praises, despite all the challenges and uncertainties we face.

We come to you, singing our praises, and holding our emotions, our anger, our fear and our tiredness before you.

We come to you, sharing moments of joy and happiness from the week just gone, grateful for the blessings we have received.

We sing our praise, O God, wherever and however we find ourselves this day.
We sing, like never before.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.
We worship your holy name.

Amen.²

² Prayers written by Tim Baker

We say together the Lord's Prayer

Reading: John 14:15-21 - [Click for reading](#)

Reflection

Tim Baker offers a short reflection on today's gospel reading:

In my Bible, this short passage in John's gospel is headed 'Jesus promises the Holy Spirit'. In these strange times, I've been thinking about, praying about, and taking time to seek a connection with the Holy Spirit more than ever. As we are not physically able to gather for worship, I've been thinking more about my own personal, private relationship with the living God, and what that looks like. I've been invited further into reflections on the Trinity, and the three-in-one and one-in-three relationship that is our God's very nature.

Even as we feel the effects of loneliness, self-isolation, social distancing and physical separation, God is inviting us into relationship.

I felt that sense of relationship very powerfully last weekend, as we joined together online as part of The Big Church Sing. Over 1,000 of us were connected online live, and thousands more have watched the service since. That sense of sharing in worship, even during these isolating times, felt like an (albeit imperfect) glimpse of the perfect relationship we will be a part of heaven, and which the Triune God is inviting us into today.

The Spirit of God is at work today, connecting us, bringing us together, inviting us into relationship, with each other, with our brothers and sisters around the world, and with our God. Can we listen to those promptings, and hold together?

Intercessions

Father of All – as used in The Big Church Sing - [YouTube](#)

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Let us pray for:

Those for whom lock-down is particularly challenging.

[Pause]

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Let us pray for:

Wisdom for world leaders.

[Pause]

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.
Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Let us pray for:

Countries where the effects of Covid-19 could be even more devastating.

[Pause]

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.
Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Let us pray for:

Key workers.

[Pause]

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.
Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.
Father, Father, Father hear our prayer.

Amen.

Hymn: 548 STF – Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Blessing

God of grace, Spirit of hope, Christ who transforms us – send us out with your
courage, your love, your peace to bring into a community and a world in need.
Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

Amen.