

February 27th 2022

A service of worship for use at home

Prepared by Susan Johnson

## Hymn Jesus is King and I will extol him

Jesus is King  
And I will extol Him  
Give Him the glory  
And honour His name

He reigns on high  
Enthroned in the heavens  
Were thou the Father  
Exalted for us

We have a hope  
That is steadfast and certain  
Gone through the curtain  
And touching the throne

We have a Priest  
Who is there interceding  
Pouring His grace  
On our lives day by day

We come to Him  
Our Priest and Apostle  
Clothed in His glory  
And bearing His name

Laying our lives with  
Gladness before Him  
Filled with His Spirit  
We worship the King

Oh, Holy One  
Our hearts do adore You  
Thrilled with Your goodness  
We give You our praise

Angels in light with  
Worship surround Him  
Jesus our Saviour  
Forever the same

Source: Musixmatch  
Songwriters: Wendy Churchill

## Prayers of adoration and confession

God, our heavenly Father  
and the Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ:

We praise and thank you today and  
always!

You are worthy of our praise simply for  
who You are:

You are good and You are strong,  
You are gracious, just and loving.

As we confront this world that lacks  
hope,

a world caught up in war, the Covid  
pandemic, hunger, and poverty,

You freely give us a new birth into the  
living hope through Jesus' resurrection  
from the dead.

There is no darkness so great that  
your light is not greater still. There is  
not conflict so disruptive

that your peace cannot quell it.

There is no death so final,  
that your resurrection life  
cannot break its icy grip.

And, ...

There is no thief so sneaky or strong  
that he can steal the inheritance you  
give

Prayers that can never perish, spoil or  
fade—

kept in heaven for us.

Therefore, we rightly worship You!

However, we are quick to trust  
our strength more than yours,  
our wisdom more than yours,  
our abilities more than yours,  
our resources more than yours.  
our love more than yours.

Forgive us when we have blocked you  
out. When you are kept in the  
background. Silence Turn us around,

Lord, to see you face to face as we ask for your forgiveness and receive your grace.

### 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 us our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
Now and forever.  
Amen

### H Holy

1 Peter 1; 13 – 16. You shall be holy for I am holy.

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore prepare your minds for action;<sup>[c]</sup> discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. <sup>14</sup> Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; <sup>16</sup> for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

What does holy mean to you?

One of the main words used to express 'holy' in NT Greek is 'hagios'. In its **origins that word meant having a quality that flows from being able to approach God, and being committed or dedicated to God. It is hard to see that as involving separation from the people and things that God has created and loves. It might just mean turning away from things that are anti-God.**

Holy – exhortation to a holy life setting your hope on the grace of Jesus Christ experienced now. Be holy and live a holy life. A life of sacrificial loving kindness.

To be in connection with God. To be a people working together for God's purposes. To be living in a relationship with God and Jesus Christ. To be holy to live being reminded that we are constantly living in **connection** with God.

If we were discussing this I would ask you about your experiences of realising these moments of connectedness – these holy moments – standing on holy ground, awareness of beauty in creation, when events seem to work out, when light comes in to dark places, a consciousness of the spirit of God working.

We need to work on a spirituality of holiness – where we are Aware of God present in the world in deeds and actions of ourselves and others and in creation. There is a purpose in this as we remember and renew that which is God in us.

### O Opportunity

John 21: 1-8

***21** After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin,<sup>[a]</sup> Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

*<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have*

you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards<sup>[b]</sup> off.

The disciples, at the end of their strength, took the opportunity to do something different  
What is opportunity? Taking a chance.  
Is it because we don't want to be the one who leads something?  
We can think of Captain Tom and young man, Max Woosey, who slept in a tent since March 2020 to raise money for the North Devon Hospice. £575,000 so far.  
They and thousands of others have made a difference to many people's lives when they had the courage to break through their limitations and do something different.  
What about us? Where do we have opportunities to make life better for others – engage in acts of loving kindness.. don't have to be big – even a smile or a phone call is an opportunity to serve.  
Why don't we always take or look for opportunities?  
He turns our weaknesses into his opportunities.

So we have HO in our word.

## **P Prayer**

In reading the Bible, we see that prayer is saturated within God's Word. It

impacts important events, interweaving with God's sovereign plan in history. The Bible refers to the word prayer or expresses a prayer in 61 of its 66 books, making close to 1,100 distinct references to and about prayer.

Colossians 4 v 2-6

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup> At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, <sup>4</sup> so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should.

How should we prayer? Pray as we can, not as we can't. What works for you is ok.

When where How? Whenever you want to. In a car with eyes open, while walking, gardening, at shops, at home in church, speaking and listening, lying down kneeling sitting,

So we now have HOP

## **Hymn What a friend we have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit  
Oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

### **Prayers of intercession**

Today as we sit in quietness, we acknowledge God's presence and our own longing to be close to him. We bring to God, our love and the desires of our hearts.

So we talk and listen for God response as we hold those we love, our church and the world to God asking his blessing and strength.

Accept the prayers of us all, holy God as we thank you for helping us to be holy as you are holy. Amen

### **E Energy**

It's hard isn't it to keep our focus on the holiness and goodness of God when around us we see people in pain through illness or sadness. General depressing times of year for many – where do we get our energy from? Read two versions of the same passage to see if we can find the answer.

Matthew 11: 28 – 30 From NRSV and The Message <sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

<sup>28-30</sup>“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me

and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

H Holy O Opportunity P Prayer  
E Energy

**Focus is on Jesus and in being in him and following him. Resting in that security of being connected to God.**

Find places to pray, find places to be with others who support and encourage you, do the sort of things God wants.

So we have our word. HOPE  
We are holy – connected to God. Look out for those moments of opportunity and holiness, during the next few days, pray and seek God, in Christ, for your energy.

**Hymn** Be thou my vision

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;

I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.

Born of thy love, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my buckler, my sword for the  
fight.

Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high  
tow'r.

Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of  
my pow'r.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty  
praise;  
thou mine inheritance, now and  
always.

Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, when vict'ry is  
won

may I reach heaven's joys, O bright  
heav'n's Sun!

Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**Together we bless one another as  
we share God's Grace.**

**Amen**