

21 April Written Worship NNE Circuit

Prayer of approach.

Eternal God, source of all blessing,
help us to worship you with all our
heart mind and strength, for you alone
are God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

We are still in Easter time. I would like
to use the first hymn as a reminder of
that Easter morning

309 StheF See what a morning

See, what a morning,
Gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled
with light
As the angels announce, "
Christ is risen"
See God's salvation plan
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in
sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ, the man
For He lives, Christ is risen from the
dead
See Mary weeping, "
Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty
tomb
Hears a voice speaking, calling her
name
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life
again
The voice that spans the years
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing
peace to us
Will sound till He appears
For He lives, Christ is risen from the
dead
One with the Father, Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith
with certainty
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and
authority
And we are raised with Him

Death is dead, love has won, Christ
has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives: Christ is risen from the
dead

Prayer of adoration

Praise be o you, O God, the maker of
the universe by whose wisdom we are
created and sustained.

Praise be to you O God the Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose love
we are redeemed and forgiven.

Praise be to you, O God the source of
all holiness by whose Spirit we are
made whole and brought to perfection.

Praise be to you O God, source of all
being. Eternal word and Holy spirit, as
it was in the beginning, is now and
shall be forever. Amen

Let us confess our sins to God.

For our foolishness and our
thoughtless use of the gifts of your
creation, Lord Forgive.

For our neglect of you and our failure
to care for others, Lord, forgive

For our selfishness in prayer and our
carelessness in worship, Lord forgive.

Silence.

Here is the good news. Our sins are
forgiven in Jesus name. Thanks be to
God. Amen

471 StheF Lord I come to you

Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I found in You
Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me

Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love
Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love
Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day
By the power of Your love
Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love
Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near (bring me near)
Draw me to Your side (draw me to
Your side)
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love (and I will
soar)
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love

Power of Your love
Set me free yeah
Power of Your love
Set me free yeah
Power of Your love

Today I have decided to only use the Bible reading from suggested Acts as I wanted to reflect on what Peter had said to the rulers and scribes in Jerusalem after Jesus death and resurrection.

Acts 4:5-22

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. ¹⁴ When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. ¹⁶ They said, 'What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.' ¹⁸ So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰ for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.' ²¹ After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing had been

performed was more than forty years old.

"Are you sitting comfortably, then we will begin". From "Listen with mother" My sister and I would settle down on the sofa and listen to the story.

Can you remember doing that?

We all like a good story and the writer of Acts, Probably Luke from the Gospel of Luke knew that. He was writing about 80 years after the event of Jesus' and must have heard so many stories from people who were alive at the time that he wrote in a narrative prose the stories of the early church. Basically, he told stories, which is great because it is often easier to remember stories that actual facts.

In Chapter 3, the previous chapter he have the story of the man who was healed – as a child I used to sing the song,

1 Peter and John went to pray;
they met a lame man on the way.
He asked for alms and held out his palms,
and this is what Peter did say:

2 "Silver and gold have I none,
but what I have I give to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ
of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

3 He went walking and jumping and
praising God,
walking and jumping and praising God.
"In the name of Jesus Christ
of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Peter and John had been imprisoned for causing a disturbance and were

now before the rulers and religious leaders.

Peter evokes the power of the Holy Spirit and wonders how these rulers can have arrested them for healing someone, for bringing wholeness and bringing new life to a sick man.

He is determined to say that this act was done in the name of Jesus Christ, who they rejected and killed but has now become the cornerstone of new life and way of living. One that would bring hope and healing to those who believed in him. The Cornerstone was essential in building being the stone that form the base of the corner of a building, joining two walls. They were worried about the reaction of the crowds.

Jesus was the centre and the focus – his life, death and resurrection needs some explaining! In this narrative we then have a change of direction. I don't think anyone was expecting the two disciples to be released but they were. Mainly, I think, due to the fact that the rulers were worried about the reaction of the crowds. However, Peter was still determined to keep on speaking about his beliefs.

So that's the story. But what does this have to say to us today.

The world is very different to 2 thousand years ago, We have so much access to information at our fingertips through the internet – but some of that information is untrue – conspiracy theories, rip off merchants, where do we go to find the truth about Jesus.

I believe that like Peter and John sharing our experience and knowledge is crucial in helping people understand our faith. Peter relied on the Holy Spirit

to help him. He did not know everything but he knew what he had experienced. In his life time with Jesus he often made mistakes, and misunderstood the sort of life that Jesus was offering, even right at the end.

During Jesus' ministry, Peter was a man who wanted a mighty faith but faltered often. He stepped onto the rough sea to meet Jesus walking on water, yet even after safely taking a few steps, he begins to doubt and plunges into the waves. In this passage, Jesus saves him of "little faith" ([Matthew 14:31](#)). Later, Peter even rebuked the Lord after He foretold of His death, saying, "Never, Lord... This shall never happen to you!" ([Matthew 16:22](#) NIV). And after Jesus was arrested, before the rooster crowed the next morning, Peter disowned Him three times ([Matthew 26:69-75](#)).

But he kept going. He became part of the inner circle in Jesus' ministry. He was given several second chances and became a changed person – in this way he would have known for himself the salvation Jesus offered. New life, wholeness, peace.

To conclude – what would be your defence of the Christian faith? What could you share of your experience as a follower of Jesus would enable other people; to know about the wholeness of the life that you have lived over the years.

404StheF God's spirit is in my heart

God's Spirit Is In My Heart
He Has Called Me And Set Me Apart.
This Is What I Have To Do,
What I Have To Do

He Sent Me To Give The Good News
To The Poor
Tell Prisoners That They Are Prisoners
No More
Tell Blind People That They Can See
And Set The Down Trodden Free
And Go Tell Everyone The News That
The
Kingdom Of God Has Come
And Go Tell Everyone
The News That God's Kingdom Has
Come.

Just As The Father Sent Me So
I'm Sending You Out To Be,
My Witnesses Throughout The World,
The Whole Of The World

He Sent Me To Give The Good News
To The Poor
Tell Prisoners That They Are Prisoners
No More
Tell Blind People That They Can See
And Set The Down Trodden Free
And Go Tell Everyone The News That
The
Kingdom Of God Has Come
And Go Tell Everyone
The News That God's Kingdom Has
Come.

Prayers of intercession

God our Father, grant us the help
of your Spirit as we pray for your
hurting world.

We pray for the nations of the
world, for world leaders and those
in positions of power. May they
seek justice, freedom and peace
with all their hearts and minds.

Lord in your mercy. Receive our
prayer.

We pray for our country. We ask
that you would bless those who

are working in communities
bringing hope and compassion
into people lives by the
opportunities that they for local
people to live more fulfilled life.
For those supporting Food Bank,
Financial advice, training of
various sorts, opening safe space
for young and old. We thank you.

Lord in your mercy, Receive our
prayer.

We Pray for all in need, sorrow or
anxiety or sickness . We name
those known to us in our hearts. In
their weakness may they know
your strength and in despair find
hope.

Lord in your mercy. Receive our
prayers.

In you, father, we are one family
on earth and in heaven. We
remember in your presence those
who have died, giving thanks
especially for those who have
revealed to us the grace of Christ.

Help us to follow the example of
your saints in light and bring us
with them to the fullness of eternal
joy: through Jesus Christ uor Lord
Amen.

Offering

313stheF Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory, risen,
conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er
death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the
stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes

where thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen
conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er
death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the
tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters
fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness,
hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath
lost its sting.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen
conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er
death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious
Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us
in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to
thy home above.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen
conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er
death hast won.*

Blessing

The love of the Father enfold us,
the wisdom of the son enlighten
us , the fire of the spirit enflame us
and the blessing of God, the three
in one be upon us and abide with
us forever. Amen

Prayers adapted from the
Methodist Worship Book.