

**FORTH VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT WEEKLY SERVICE
SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2020**



Call to worship

We come to offer praise.
We come to offer worship.

Psalm 96:1-9:

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendour and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

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Hymn

Be still, for the presence of the Lord (StF 20)

Tune: Be Still

Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:

in him no sin is found –
we stand on holy ground.
Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight –
our radiant King of light!
Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him –
In faith receive from him.
Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

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Prayers of Adoration

To the one who created all
the source of all life
of all love
of all being.
We offer praise.

To the one who saved all
redeemer of all
offered in love
to give true being.
We offer praise.

To the one who sustains all
enricher of all life
granter of love
enabler of being.
We offer praise.

To the one God,
who we encounter
in the mystic Trinity,
we offer praise. Amen.

Prayers of Confession

We acknowledge before God
those times when we have
looked to hold back from God
 from God's grace
 from God's love
 from God's mercy.

We acknowledge before God
those times when we have
held back others
 in scheming against them
 in hoarding to ourselves
 in not sharing the Gospel.

We seek forgiveness
we seek your grace and mercy
knowing that if we truly repent
we may live in Jesus' comforting words:
"Your sin is forgiven", Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

We give thanks that we
are made in the image of God
That through time God has ever held us in love,
even when this image has been marred.
That God came among us,
came so this image could be fully restored.
That God continues to support us,
as we try to live in the image we are called to be.
We give our thanks to God. Amen.

Hymn

Give to our God immortal praise (H&P22)

Tune: Truro or Warrington

Give to our God immortal praise
mercy and truth are all his ways,
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown;
the King of kings with glory crown:
his mercies ever shall endure,
when lords and kings are known no more.

He built the earth, he spread the sky,
and fixed the starry lights on high:
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.

He fills the sun with morning light,
he bids the moon direct the night:
his mercies ever shall endure,
when suns and moons shall shine no more.

He sent his Son with power to save
from guilt and darkness and the grave:
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.

Through this vain world he guides our feet,
and leads us to his heavenly seat:
his mercies ever shall endure,
when this vain world shall be no more.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
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Readings

Use your own bible or click on the links to read from the New Revised Standard (Anglicised) edition via the Bible Gateway website.

[1 Thessalonians 1.1-10](#)

[Matthew 22.15-22](#)

Hymn

Teach me, my God and King (StF 668)

Tune: Sandys

Teach me, my God and King,
in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything,
to do it as for thee.

For those who look on glass
on it may stay the eye;
or if it pleases, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.

All may of thee partake:
nothing can be so mean,
which with this tincture, 'For thy sake',
will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.

*George Herbert (1593-1633)
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Reflection

In the last few weeks there have been trailers for the return of Spitting Image, that television programme where the great and the good are portrayed as grotesque caricature of reality. This is done to make fun of the character, to poke fun at what they are well known for. This technique of satirising those in power has a long history. Jesus in part of his teaching engages in this tradition of satire. We have an example of this in the Gospel passage today.

Here Jesus is in the temple precinct, this is in the days between the triumphant entry of Palm Sunday, and his arrest on Mandy Thursday. Here Jesus is challenged about who should pay tax. Some one first asks about this to try and catch Jesus out. The question seems to have no good answer, say no to paying taxes and the Romans arrest you as a rabble rouser. Say yes to paying taxes and you are not as devout as others, and clearly not a good example for others.

Yet Jesus turns things on their head and asks if anyone has got a coin. A coin with the image of Caesar on it, and likely the inscription "*Ti[berivs] Caesar Divi Avg[vsti] F[ilivs] Avgvstvs*" ("Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus"). So claiming another as God. So he asks if anyone has one of these coins that claim another as God. So after some glances round, digging into to pockets and trying not to rush things, someone finally comes up with a coin. So Jesus asks, who's on the coin?

My guess is that for those watching, this was an amazing bit of street theatre. The confident disciple of the Pharisees who had come with the remarkable question that was sure to trap him, and yet the question fell flat. I see the unnamed disciple shrinking back, wishing the ground would swallow him up. The crowd enjoying the spectacle of this happening and dexterity of the answer.

Yet for me the answer isn't about coins alone, rather it is about the image cast on them. The image is there to show who backs the coin, who supports it's value. We - and all people - are made in the image of God, it is to God that we should give our selves.

However we know that we are in a broken and disrupted world. One where the image of God in us had been marred. In order to restore us to this true image, to whom we should really be, God came into the world. Taking on flesh and becoming one of us, as the divine took on human form, becoming fully human, and also fully divine, and through his death and resurrection, the true image of God in us can be restored.

We are welcomed and invited to inhabit this true image, in and through the grace of God - as are all people. In this we are ones who become more like Jesus day by day. Yet we don't face this great challenge alone, rather we do it all strengthened by the Holy Spirit. So let us face this great challenge before us, this "work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Though also remember we are told that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, to coin a phrase.

Hymn

Father I place into your hands (StF 519)

Father, I place into your hands
the things I cannot do.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that trouble me.

Father, I place into your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
we love to hear your voice,
Father, we love to sing your praise
and in your name rejoice,
Father, we love to walk with you
and in your presence rest,
for we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
and do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
that you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
that you will draw to you,
for I know that I am one with you.

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Prayers of Intercession

We offer our prayers to the God
in whose image we are made.

For the community of the faithful
that we may be inspired by the Holy Spirit,
becoming examples to all the faithful.

For the communities in which we live
for those who are in positions of authority
those whose work includes the distribution of resources
that they may do so justly.

May we become true imitators of Christ,
to truly live out works of faith; labours of love
and have steadfast hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We remember before God all
who are on our hearts,
we pray that your healing will be made known to all who seek it.

We give thanks for those whose faith in God has become known to us from years past, and the example they have given us.

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus, the one who came to save us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

At the name of Jesus (StF 317)

Tune: Camberwell (Brierley) or Evelyns

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;

filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

*Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)
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Dismissal

May we receive the word of joy inspired by the Holy Spirit
May we know Jesus who rescues us from the wrath that is coming
May we serve the living and true God.
Amen.

With thanks to Rev'd James Patron Bell for preparing this week's order of service.