



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit  
With God in the City, Towns, Villages and rural areas

29/24 Charity Comm'n No 1133792

## Worship at home service

week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### StF n°779 Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy.  
With joy my heart adores you!  
My heart cries out to worship you;  
holy are you, Lord!

Argentinian liturgical text *translated* by Maggie Hamilton

#### **Let us pray.**

Loving God, we praise your holy name  
and thank you for the gift of worship.  
We love and adore you, for you alone  
are worthy of all glory and honour.  
Our words cannot fully express how  
much we love and adore you, look into  
our hearts, we long after you, Lord.  
We seek you to lead us in this time of  
worship, as we seek you to lead us  
always. Amen.

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of  
the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and  
evermore. Amen.*

### StF n°15 The splendour of the King

The splendour of the King,  
clothed in majesty;  
let all the earth rejoice,  
let all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps himself in light  
and darkness tries to hide,  
and trembles at his voice,  
and trembles at his voice.

How great is our God, sing with me,  
how great is our God, and all will see  
how great, how great is our God.

And age to age he stands,  
and time is in his hands;  
beginning and the end,  
beginning and the end.  
The Godhead, Three in One,  
Father, Spirit, Son,  
the Lion and the Lamb,  
the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God, sing with me,  
how great is our God, and all will see  
how great, how great is our God.

Name above all names,  
worthy of all praise;  
my heart will sing:  
how great is our God.  
Name above all names,  
worthy of all praise;  
my heart will sing:  
how great is our God.

How great is our God, sing with me,  
how great is our God, and all will see  
how great, how great is our God.

Chris Tomlin (b. 1972), Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves  
Words and Music: © 2004 worshiptogether.com

#### **Let us pray.**

Lord your light, your love shines within  
the darkness our life and we cannot hide  
from your greatness, majesty and  
splendour.

You meet our sinfulness, our shame and  
brokenness with mercy, compassion and  
love. You offer forgiveness and salvation  
to those who repent and place their trust  
in following you, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this moment we confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, hear our  
prayers of confession and, may we hear  
you speak forgiveness into our hearts,  
and transformation into our lives. Amen.

## **Revelation 4**

### **The Heavenly Worship**

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

'Holy, holy, holy,  
the Lord God the Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come.'

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, 'You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour  
and power,

for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and  
were created.'

### **A reflection**

I wonder how you are finding the journey so far through Bible month and the book of Revelation. I feel like I've been slow off the starting blocks with the distractions of annual leave and Superintendents Conference taking place as we begun the journey. However, if like me you missed the start, fear not and start anyway. It's never too late to begin and with such an excellent start with last week's worship at home, it's hard to be anything but encouraged.

This week I am focusing on chapter four, but you might want to read on to chapter five for your own reflections.

We could entitle chapter four 'Worship at home', for it provides us with such an awe-inspiring picture of worship in our ultimate home, which Jesus 'the Lamb of God' made our home through His death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus victorious means John's vision of heaven, is a vision of the prize Christ won for all God's people, here represented by the twenty-four elders.

I wonder if this vision described in chapter four creates in you a pull towards longing to join your voice with the voices that day and night without ceasing sing of God, giving glory and honour and thanks to God.

Perhaps these verses inspire you as they inspired the late Queen Elizabeth who talking about Jesus is quoted to have said 'I should so love to lay my crown at His feet'. The crowns of the twenty-four elders, which they cast before the throne were theirs not by human coronation but through inheritance given by Christ outstretched arms. We too share with

Christ through his gift of salvation life because Jesus is victorious.

Being a Minister I have heard many people express their thoughts of what heaven will be like. "I believe heaven is..., I think heaven will be like..., I want heaven to be this..." various prefaces to their beliefs, wants and likes projecting what heaven would be for them. Oppositely are those who have asked me what heaven is like, almost expecting me to produce my phone with photos as if I have been. Questions of heaven, beliefs and desires about heaven seem to be innate to the human being. Yet the wondering need not be about what heaven will be like, but what heaven is like. Here we are provided a picture of heavenly worship and a cue to how we can know something of heaven on earth.

Whenever we respond to the invitation given by Our Lord to receive at Our Lord's table, we receive a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Whenever, we worship it is never alone, for we join with the glory, honour and praise giving voices that resound in heaven. Worship is when we discover something of heaven.

Jesus opened the door of salvation and invites all to come to Him. We are called to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth, we are called to worship with, in and through God. We don't worship separate from God, rather we worship in our relationship with God. John's account tells us how 'at once I was in the spirit'. The heavenly worship isn't aloof from reality of God's Kingdom come on earth known in and through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The only one worthy of all our praise, of all our worship is our Lord and God. How might, or perhaps better put, how is our worship with God giving glory and honour and power to God? How do we

let God shape our worship? After all, what a transformation and how heavenly would it be, if we cast our crowns before the throne of the Lord God the Almighty.

I believe that there are times when the crowns we need to lay down are those we place upon ourselves. Crowns of pride, of self-serving, and of self-righteousness. Crowns which neglect to attend to the reality of our need of salvation and fail to recognise that we have a saviour, Jesus Christ, who bore a crown of thorns for our sins, who by his blood purchased forgiveness for all.

Our future hope is an also a present reality. Jesus is judge and judgement remains with Jesus. Chapter five focus upon this with the resounding praise for the triumph of the Lamb who was slain. We are all invited to join with the angels, with the living creatures and all the saints in light in worship that expresses our love and salvation song in word and deed from our very heart and soul. Amen.

### **StF n°503 Love divine**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;

let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

**A prayer guide from the Bible Month resource magazine.**

**You may want to use the Taizé song below to intercede your prayers.**

*Pray for people from your community and across the world, that they would experience God's love and know the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection.*

*Pray for people who might feel excluded from the kingdom of God, that they would know they are included in this vision.*

*Thank God for God's love for us.*

**Let us pray.**

**StF n°780**

Stay with me,  
remain hear with me,  
watch and pray,  
watch and pray.

Taizé Community

**The Lord's Prayer.**

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today 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 for ever. Amen.

**StF n°397 The Spirit lives to set us free.**

The Spirit lives to set us free,  
walk, walk in the light;  
he binds us all in unity,  
walk, walk in the light.

*Walk in the light, walk in the light,  
walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord.*

Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light;  
the dead were wakened by his call,  
walk, walk in the light.

He died in pain on Calvary,  
walk, walk in the light;  
to save the lost like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.

We know his death was not the end,  
walk, walk in the light;  
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,  
walk, walk in the light.

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,  
walk, walk in the light;  
the Father's kindness is revealed,  
walk, walk in the light.

The Spirit lives in you and me,  
walk, walk in the light;  
his light will shine for all to see,  
walk, walk in the light.

Damian Lundy (1944-1996)

The blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with us always. **Amen.**

May we go in peace in the power of the Spirit to live and work to God's praise and glory.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**