

Worship at Home – 7th March 2021

3rd Sunday in Lent

**Excerpts from The Methodist Worship Book*

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn – Nobody loves me like you

[Chris Tomlin ~ Nobody Loves Me Like You \(Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

Morning, I see You in the sunrise every morning
It's like a picture that You've painted for me
A love letter in the sky

Story, I could've had a really different story
But You came down from Heaven to restore me
Forever saved my life

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus
I stand in awe of Your amazing ways
I worship You as long as I am breathing
God, You are faithful and true
Nobody loves me like You

Mountains, You're breaking down the weight of all
my mountains

Even when it feels like I'm surrounded
You never leave my side,

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus
I stand in awe of Your amazing ways
I worship You as long as I am breathing
God, You are faithful and true
Nobody loves me like You

Oh, what a song to sing x3
Oh, what a song, my heart keeps singing
Oh, what a song to sing (what a song)
Oh, what a song to sing (I'll never stop)
Oh, what a song to sing
Jesus, You love me
And I love You, God

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus
I stand in awe of Your amazing ways
I worship You as long as I am breathing
God, I will worship You, forever worship You

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus
I stand in awe of Your amazing ways
I worship You as long as I am breathing
God, You are faithful and true
Nobody loves me like You

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus (I'm a
child of God)
I stand in awe of Your amazing ways (yes, I am)
Nobody loves me like You x2

Songwriters: Ed Cash, Scott Cash

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 'The first commandment is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

***Lord, you are steadfast in your love and infinite in your mercy; you welcome sinners and invite them to be your guests. We confess our sins, trusting in you to forgive us.**

In a moments silence, let us confess our sins.

We have yielded to temptation and sinned:
Lord, have mercy.

We have turned from our neighbours in their need:

Christ, have mercy.

We have resisted your word in our hearts:
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in life eternal.

Amen.

**The collect*

Almighty God,

whose son Jesus Christ

fasted forty days in the wilderness

and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading John 2:13-22

Reflection

In the Gospel according to John we find this account of Jesus turning over the tables in the Temple placed early in Jesus within his ministry following on from the miracle of Jesus turning water in wine at the wedding in Cana. This does differ in the other gospel accounts placing later.

Often people refer to this scripture to challenge the perception of Jesus being meek and mild. I recall a poster which read Jesus meek and mild, as if! And certainly, Jesus' actions here would have caused great disruption and wouldn't have gone unnoticed.

We are given Jesus location of where he is attending the Temple for the Passover feast, Jerusalem. This isn't surprising because this annual feast was attended by Jewish men in Jerusalem. Neither is it surprising that animal sacrifices were made, so the sale of animals to be bought nearby to the Temple by those who had travelled a distance was common practice and made sense. Yet these animals were being sold within the temple court. In fact, they were in the only place that Gentiles were permitted within the temple. So, this meant that Gentiles didn't have anywhere to go.

It was also common practice for money to be exchanged for acceptable coinage for one's temple offering. Some commentaries suggest that those providing exchange were taken advantage and with extortionate costs. We do have a wealth of information around such practices and too we have information about when the temple was completed A.D. 64 and we are told that the Temple had been 46 years in the making, so was not completely built at the time of this event.

I would like to focus our attention on the turning of the tables and ultimately what worship means for us today. We have certainly been disrupted in this last year with our own worship life and practices. I know that for many, include myself, have found this hard.

Some years ago, I attended the Youth Workers Conference in Stockport. One of the key speakers was a Youth Officer from the Salvation Army and wanted to speak to the

conference about worship. He invited everyone to warm up for worship, getting everyone to say me me me Me me meeeee. We all gave the vocal warm up a try and then in response he said, and that is exactly what worship can become, it can become about me.

So, what is worship about? For me worship goes beyond the walls of the church, indeed it is about our lifestyle. That everything we do should be about bringing worship to God. That God is worthy of all our praise and all that we can give. In our opening words today, we read the greatest commandments, to love God with our all.

So, what might God being seeking speak into our lives and the life of the church today about worship? Ought we turn to God and ask, Lord, what are the things I've made about me when my worship should be about and for you? And what is it you require of me? To love mercy, to act justly and to walk humbly with you God. And how are we seeing this coming into the reality of our daily lives.

We can look collectively too. What is God saying to us, the church. I think recently we have had a stark reminder of how in recent years the church has neglected those who are unable to 'come' to church due to various reasons. Personally, I am sorry and pray we will all learn from this time and as we worship at home now, that will continue to resource everyone to worship in the future too.

I hope going forward we won't be seeking to get back to normal but seeking to be shaped by God in a new way. A way which shows, lives, and demonstrates the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. I pray we will discover ways which are creative and given in devotion to God. Ways which perhaps will cost us in terms of our priorities.

Jesus was asked for what reason have you come and turned the tables, why have you brought such disruption. They asked, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus replied by telling them to destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' People took this in a literal sense and got confused, seeing how long it had taken to build thus far. But

Jesus was speaking of his death and resurrection.

We are to be people who share in the resurrection with Christ, but we hold a theology of death and resurrection. So, I wonder, what are we being required to put to death in both our personal and corporate church life. The imagery we have in baptism is of dying to self and rising with Christ, is a powerful image and reminds us of our constant need to come to God and say sorry. That we need to continually seek God in our Christian discipleship. Will we ask how God is wanting to shape who we are and how we live? Will we ask God what we can bring and offer in our worship?

There is much for us all to consider going forward with God. I recognised how it can feel particularly hard right now but let us remember and hold on to God who is with us.

God who says love me, serve me and be my precious child who I love. God who says be in my presence and allow me to minister to you where you are at right now. When we turn to the Scriptures, we read of people who have faced trials. We often preach about those trusted God and God saw them through great feats. Let us too be that type of people. Let us too be the kind of people who trust and depend on God. Amen.

StF N°713 – Show me how to stand for justice

[Show me how to stand for justice. Lyric Video \(StF 713\) - YouTube](#)

¹ Show me how to stand for justice:
how to work for what is right,
how to challenge false assumptions,
how to walk within the light.
May I learn to share more freely
in a world so full of greed,
showing your immense compassion
by the life I choose to lead.

² Teach my heart to treasure mercy,
whether given or received –
for my need has not diminished
since the day I first believed:
let me seek no satisfaction
boasting of what I have done,
but rejoice that I am pardoned
and accepted in your Son.

³ Gladly I embrace a lifestyle
modelled on your living word,
in humility submitting
to the truth which I have heard.
Make me conscious of your presence
every day in all I do:
by your Spirit's gracious prompting
may I learn to walk with you.

Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)
Words: © 1999, Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Prayers for others

Loving God,
We pray for the Church throughout the world.
May we continually be transformed by your
love and Grace in all we do as we trust and
depend upon you.

Lord Graciously hear us

We pray for the response to Corvid in the
world. We thank you for the scientist who
have developed a vaccination and we pray
for all those administrating the vaccines.

Lord Graciously hear us.

As schools return tomorrow, we pray for all
school staff and pupils.

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all as
they get back to school life.

Be with those who might be feeling anxious.
Lord Graciously hear us.

We pray for all those in need, the hungry; the
poor; the homeless; the unemployed; the
sick; the bereaved.

Offer your own prayers to God.
Lord Graciously hear us.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We say 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°409 – Let us build a house

[Let Us Build a House \(All Are Welcome\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

¹ Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

² Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.

Chorus

³ Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.

Chorus

⁴ Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.

Chorus

⁵ Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.

Chorus

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)
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Sending Blessing

*The God of all grace who has called us to
eternal glory in Christ, make us perfect,
confirming and strengthening us; and to him
be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us,
now and always. Amen.

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.