

SERVICE SHEET FOR SUNDAY 2ND MAY 2021.

CALL TO WORSHIP.

Brothers and sisters, come and worship!

For we are a chosen people,

royal priests,

a holy nation.

God's very own family!

Let us proclaim together the goodness of God,

who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light!

HYMN:- StF 410. Lord, your church on earth is seeking.

- 1 Lord, your Church on earth is seeking
your renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of your love.
We would heed your great commission:
sending us to every place --
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.

- 2 Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within:
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

- 3 In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races
let us serve, and seek to bring
all the world to render praises,
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

Hugh Sherlock (1905-1998)

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Words: (c) Successors to Hugh Sherlock, administered by The Trustees
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PRAYERS.

We praise you for creating this world in all beauty,

for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord,

and for sending us the gift of your Spirit

to encourage, instruct, and sustain us.

We long for your Spirit to work among us now,

to inspire our praise, to challenge us with your truth,

and to equip us for service in your world.

God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving.

Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces.

With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and sing your praise,

for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity & greatness.

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives.

Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your gifts.

We confess that our blindness to your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance. Have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name.

Mighty God,

we do not yet see the glory you plan for all humankind, but in faith we do see Jesus.

We thank you for the humility and holiness in which he lived and died.

We praise you that he freed us from our sin,

that he comforts and strengthens us through our struggles,

and that he gives us courage to follow him.

For this, we now join with all creation and shout for joy: Holy, holy, holy are you, Lord! Amen.

We give thanks to you, God our Father, for mercy that reaches out,

for patience that waits our returning, for your love that is ever ready to welcome sinners.

We praise you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with forgiveness,

and that, by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent and receive your love.

Though we are sinners, you are faithful and worthy of all praise.

We praise you, great God, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

1ST READING:- Isaiah 53.

2ND READING:- Acts 8:26-40.

MESSAGE.

HYMN:- StF 418. We have a gospel to proclaim.

- 1 We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.
- 2 Tell of his birth at Bethlehem --
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.
- 3 Tell of his death at Calvary:
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the cross,
for all he loved his life he gave.
- 4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.
- 5 Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.
- 6 Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns (b. 1938)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 418
Words: (c) Canon Edward J. Burns

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.

Lord, grant that your Church, constant in faith and love, may bring forth good fruit. Rooted in you, we know that such fruitfulness is not only possible but cannot be prevented with you as the dresser of the vine, pruning us into the form you would have us take. Help us to understand that, though there are many branches, we all stem from the one vine, the true vine, our Saviour. And then others, too, may taste and see that you are good.

Lord, where we see love we recognise your presence: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, help us to see that sometimes structures which seem part of our very existence are in reality so much dead wood, and that there can be no renewal without first clearing out all that is decayed. Only then, like a phoenix from the ashes, can we build the new Jerusalem. Help us to be bold in our spring cleaning, so that new life may burst into being, in your name.

Lord, where we see love we recognise your presence: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, you have set each one of us into a community, with needs and strengths and weaknesses. Help us to form a useful part of that community and teach us where you need us to be doing, and where

you ask us simply to be. Let us do all that we do in a spirit of love, reflecting the example of our Saviour, and where we fail, as we know we will, let us above all do no harm.

Lord, where we see love we recognise your presence: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for those who are in pain, whether of the mind, body or spirit. Be with them in their travail, and let them know that, whatever they are called upon to undergo, you will always be by their side. May they feel the reality of your everlasting arms, buoying them up on their journey through the vale of tears, whether it be long or short.

Lord, where we see love we recognise your presence: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for those who have departed this life and are now in your everlasting presence. May those who felt their lives to be marred by fruitlessness and aridity now find fullness and fulfilment beyond measure.

We ask all these prayers in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

HYMN:- StF 347. Crown him with many crowns.

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the Son of God,
before the worlds began;
and ye who tread where he has trod,
crown him the Son of Man,
who every grief has known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high;
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives, that death may die.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

5 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side --
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)

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BLESSING AND DISMISSAL.