

**North Kent Methodist Circuit Worship Service
10.30am Sunday 19th April 2020
SERVICE SHEET**

The Broadcast will commence at 10.15am on Sunday morning with three preservice worship songs. Throughout the service, technology allowing, music and words will be broadcast, and the words will appear on the screen. If the quality of sound is poor, then please turn your volume onto mute and just read the words with me.

The music is from "I sing worship" who kindly give permission for their music video to be used in our streamed church services and we hold a current CCLI Streaming Licence size B.

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Eddie Vincent will be leading us in our prayers. I will be leading worship and preaching the word.

Thank you for inviting me into your home to share this act of worship with you. You may not wish to print out all of the pages so here is an index to choose from.

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**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
PRE-WORSHIP PREPARATION COMMENCES 10.15AM
SUNDAY 19TH APRIL2020**

SONG 1

"Lord, I Come To You"

1. Lord, I come to You,
Let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace
That I found in You.
And Lord, I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love.

Chorus:

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.

2. 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.

(Repeat Chorus)

Geoff Bullock

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SONG 2

"Jesus Christ (Once again)"

1. Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice,
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life,
And I'm in that place once again.
And I'm in that place once again.

2. Now You are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.
But for now, I marvel at this saving grace,
And I'm full of praise once again.
I'm full of praise once again.

3. Thank You for the cross,
Thank You for the cross,
Thank You for the cross, my Friend.

(Repeat 3)

Chorus:

And once again I look upon
The cross where You died,
I'm humbled by Your mercy
And I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank You,
Once again I pour out my life.

Matt Redman.

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SONG 3

"Before The Throne Of God Above"

1. Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

3. Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased with His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God,
With Christ my Saviour and my God.

Charitie L. Bancroft (1841-92)

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SERVICE SHEET**

INTRODUCTION – RICHARD VINCENT

Good morning, thank you for inviting me into your home this morning to worship with you. It's a great act of your hospitality and as we share together in our love of our Lord Jesus Christ, I pray that we feel united by the Holy Spirit of truth, love and kindness which we share with everyone who is joining with us in this broadcast.

You know of course the reason we are sharing in this broadcast is we are being confined to our houses, so we avoid contact with other people. In this way we will stop the virus from spreading and so save lives.

As individuals and as nations it is a time when we can and maybe should reflect on our life journey. How is our Spiritual Health? How are we Spiritually. How are we feeling/ How are we thinking? Are we the sort of people we want to be? Are we the sort of country we want to be? Where are we heading? Is it time to change our way of thinking, and of acting so that we are the people and the country that we want to be or more importantly that God our Father wants us to be?

It will be tragic if we allow this Easter time to pass without participating in the resurrection which began again last Sunday, and which is surely to follow in eternal life. Thomas experienced the darkness of doubt and despair in the week following the Crucifixion. Today we are going to follow his journey from doubt into Hope and perhaps we too can share in that experience together.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 116 verse 5 - 7 (NIV)

- 5: The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
6: The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me.
7: Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.
-

HYMN

"O Lord My God! (How Great Thou Art) STF 82"

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
how great Thou art! how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great Thou art! how great Thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

(Repeat Chorus)

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!
then shall I bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

(Repeat Chorus)

Stuart K. Hine

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – EDDIE VINCENT

HYMN

"In Christ Alone"

1. In Christ Alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE – RICHARD VINCENT

John 20 verse 19 - 31 (NIV)

19: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'

20: After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21: Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'

22: And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

23: If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

24: Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

25: So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

26: A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'

27: Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

28: Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'

29: Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

30: Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

31: But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

HYMN

"I serve a risen Saviour"

1. I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today;
I know that he is living, Whatever men may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer;
and just the time I need him, He's always near.

Chorus:

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow
way.

He lives, he lives, Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my
heart.

2. In all the world around me I see his loving care,
and though my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that he is leading, through all the stormy blast,
the day of his appearing will come at last.

(Repeat Chorus)

3. Rejoice, rejoice O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
eternal hallelujas to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,
none other is so loving, so good and kind.

(Repeat Chorus)

SERMON – RICHARD VINCENT

O Lord my God, How great thou art

How does a week in the life of a disciple play out?

For me this passage we have read from John 20 is heart stopping> In fact it once did stop heart for what seemed an age. Luke24 the road to Emmaus story has played a huge part in the defining change of my priorities, my ways of thinking and hopefully the person I have become.

My Father, who was a Methodist Missionary from 1939 to 1964 in Myanmar or Burma as it was then, spent much of the limited time we spent together during his retirement, trying to open the door of my heart and mind to accept the truth about Jesus.

I was born in 1945 and grew up being taught to doubt anything that was not based on facts that could be proven. Although from early childhood I had learned that Jesus Christ was alive, and that God was good and, in his company, I would find peace, justice, joy and freedom.

But no one not even my Father had had been able prove it to me and so I went my own way.

One day in one of our discussions which we shared together and which I enjoyed very much even though we could not find common ground, My Father got angry and said in a loud voice, his eyes piercing mine - RICHARD, STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE.

I Immediately realised I had perhaps overstepped the mark and we calmed down and parted the true friends we really were.

Not long after that discussion My Father died. It was three years later that at Easter in 2001 I was reading this same passage quietly to myself when I came to the experience of Thomas, suddenly I remembered my Fathers words, and then I saw Jesus, holding out his hands to me and showing me his side, saying come Richard, put your hands here, stop doubting and believe. The picture of Jesus in my mind's eye disappeared in a flash as I remembered my Father and understood what he was trying to say to me.

Richard banish your doubts and trust in the teaching of Jesus. And that was exactly what I did. I banished all doubt and put my trust in Jesus. In that moment I cried out "My Lord and my God.

Suddenly everything is changed, what now I wondered. I found myself thinking - How do I serve my Lord, My God and how do I serve my family, my friends and the wider community.

No long after this I was asked by Eddie my wife to attend a weekend called "Walk to Emmaus" which is based on Luke 24. This weekend is part of Methodist tradition in the UK and for three days and nights I walked with Jesus and 25 companions until Jesus himself broke bread with us too. What an experience I have had.

So, you can see these words My Lord My God have tremendous meaning for me.

They have a tremendous importance to me too because they caused me to revise my Priorities and to reset them in an upside-down sort of way.

You know being in Lockdown is very reminiscent of the Disciples being locked in that room. I pray you too will have a new resurrection experience in your House. It caused Thomas to completely review his priorities and as a consequence his life took on a completely new direction.

During this time, I hope you will be able to relive your relationship with Jesus Christ and I hope you will reconsider the priorities of your life and of our community and our country.

You see resurrection is not just true it is real and as we face our future; we know resurrection will happen again and again. We just need to look for it and to live it and to preach it.

O Lord my God how Great thou art

IN Christ alone my hope is found

A week in the life of an apostle was amazing wasn't it

John tells us in Chapter 20 of desolation, then horror at the empty tomb, then the growing realisation that something amazing was happening, then the certainty for the 10 disciples in the locked room and then a week later the experience of Thomas that was to send him on a missionary journey that ended bringing the good news of Jesus

Christ to Chennai in India where he is buried on a hill known as St Thomas Mount.

Why do I mention St Thomas Mount, well because I was there just a few weeks before the lockdown started? It was the culmination of a journey with Jesus that started in Mandalay, Upper Myanmar. Such a journey that it is beyond words to describe.

I travelled with the President of the Upper Myanmar Methodist Conference to visit the Churches and places in which my Father had worked as a Missionary.

What an amazing experience, the Missionaries had been forced to leave Myanmar (Burma) twice. The first time in 1942 when the Japanese invaded Burma. They returned in 1945 at the end of the war and were able to remain until 1964 when the Military Government enforced their departure again and they have never been allowed to return.

On both occasions it was assumed the Church would flounder. I visited for three weeks in January this year with the Rev Kap Tluanga, the President of Conference and for three weeks travelled around the villages and Methodist Churches there.

What an amazing experience. The Churches have exploded in growth since 1964. New churches being built but most importantly when they lost their Ministers and their Churches in 1942 and their Missionaries again and finally in 1964, they could only focus onto their people or in John's language their Spirit. Every Methodist

House/home/compound is considered to be a Christian Church. Every house is seen as a place to worship, pray, and offer hospitality. Prayer is a constant, before every journey, we would stop the car, or gather together in the airport and pray for our journey. Grace before taking food was considered to be a must (every meal) and in Hotels guests could often be seen praying alone at the table before they started their meal.

So, you see when their Ministers left, they just focused onto Jesus in their lives, in their Spirits and in their homes and in the way they live

It seems to me that during this lockdown we find ourselves separated from our Churches and our Ministers and so we must turn our houses into Churches, and we must be the priesthood of all believers and minister to each other.

In Christ alone our hope is found.

I serve a risen saviour

It's all too easy isn't it to feel that there is no life left in this world.

But then we see the Doctors and Nurses risking their lives every day, bin men ready to risk everything to take away our rubbish, the people who telephone us to check we are Ok, and we know the Good

Spirit is alive, that these people know God as Holy Spirit even if they do not recognise him at work in them.

Then there are the ones who are concerned about the mental health of our nation.

But you know Mental Health and Spiritual Health are very close to each other. When someone is spiritually sick, they can quickly become mentally sick.

And you know we are spiritual doctors. We have the risen saviour with us who will enable us to bring release and renewed freedom to the troubled mind.

It is time for us to attend to the spiritual health of our family, our friends, our neighbours.

My Jesus my Saviour

In the land of the blind the one with just one eye is king

Our Nation is Blind. The world is blind, but we have spiritual knowledge and our Teacher, Rabboni, is able to heal the broken Spirit.

In the world of the starving the one with food and the cookbook is sought by everyone

In a world where the virus, which destroys the physical, the mental and the spiritual health of our people, is rampant the one who can bring spiritual healing is King

But you know, however one eyed we may feel in our ability to administer the antidote to a dying world, the time has come to share the antidote with everyone we meet.

Remember in the world of the blind, the hungry and the sick, we have the power invested in each one of us to administer Spiritual Healing.in the name of Jesus Christ. We may feel, we know little or our faith isn't strong enough, but we know more than most. You see we can say "My Jesus my Saviour."

Praise is rising, eyes are turning, we turn to you

We have learned from our time of isolation that the people called Methodists are more, important than the buildings called Methodists but we are all together the body of Christ.

So for the kingdom of eternal life, of freedom, of joy, of justice and peace to return and grow during this new age, we must focus our eyes onto our network of people spirits who call themselves Christians and Methodists, we must be a network of people dedicated to the spiritual, health of our homes, ourselves, our families our friends and our network of contacts.

Let us for a moment turn to scripture for some more inspiration:

1 Peter 1 verse 3 - 9 (NIV)

3: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth

into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4: and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

5: who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

6: In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

7: These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8: Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9: for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Verses 8 & 9 do I think challenge us to rethink our priorities. During the last month the virus has forced change upon us. We older folks are

taking to technology in droves and in ways we would never have imagined. Zoom, Whats App, Facetime and many others have become tools we are using every day to communicate with our families and each other. V8 & 9 says:

8: Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9: for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

We have to work out our Faith in this new age, one which is going to be with us until the end of our days in one form or another.

We have to consider resetting our No 1 Priority to be to serve God as Father, as Jesus and as Holy Spirit and to serve each other and the world in this new age.

This means we the un ordained Methodists, that is local preachers, church leaders and stewards, members and non-members and Christians of all denominations and people who just believe in being good people have to step up and accept personal responsibility and accountability before God for what we think, for what we do and for what we do not do. Just as the lay Methodists in Myanmar had to

in 1942 and 1964 and still are doing so today and who are seeing the Kingdom of God grow like a Mustard Seed planted into the ground or yeast causing the loaf to grow and grow.

For We are the body of Christ, the Priesthood of all believers

This is the time of hope for our world, our country and our people.

There is a song written by Paul Baloche which is very meaningful to me and it goes like this:

HOSANNA Hosanna"

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You, we turn to You

Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You, we long for You

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day

In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, hosanna

You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises

Hosanna, hosanna

Come have Your way among us

We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You, we turn to You

In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, you make us new

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day

In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, hosanna

You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises

Hosanna, hosanna

Come have Your way among us

We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Yes, Lord we welcome you into our homes this morning and every morning.

Let's sing now My Jesus My Saviour after which Eddie will lead us in our prayers of intercession.

During the intercessions if you have someone or something you would like people to pray for please add a comment from your screen and I will endeavour to flash it on the screen. If you are naming someone please be sure you have their permission to pray for them by name.

HYMN

"My Jesus, My Saviour"

1. My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.

Chorus:

Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

(Repeat 1)

(Repeat Chorus)

Darlene Zschech

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PRAYERS OF THANKS AND INTERCESSION – EDDIE VINCENT

Lord's Prayer

HYMN - "Hosanna, Hosanna"

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You, we turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You, we long for You
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You, we turn to You
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

[Repeat]

Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna, hosanna

CLOSING PRAYERS – RICHARD VINCENT

BLESSING.

Go, and know that the Lord goes with you: let him lead you each day into the quiet places of your heart, where he will speak with you.

know that he loves you and watches over you, that he listens to you in gentle understanding, that he is with you always, wherever you are and however you may feel:

and the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be ours for ever and ever.

Amen.