



Praying Together



Number Fourteen

July 2020

Dear Friends,

Cautiously and carefully our churches begin to open again. Everyone is trying to work out the best way of making sure everywhere is as safe as possible for our return. Some of us are still sheltering and many are cautious about venturing out, anxious about ourselves and loved ones. None of us are sure what a church service will look like now. For the moment we know there will be no singing, no sharing the peace, no books, no coffee or tea and a chat afterwards and, as yet in Marbury, no Communion. We will try to adapt to a new way of doing things and none of us is sure, as yet, what that will look like.

There is something significant about gathering together as a community in Christian worship that many of us have missed during this time. Our collective worship on a Sunday is important and has been very effectively moved to on-line sources by many churches over the past few months. We have encountered an abundance of ways we have been able to access worship in this new form of 'together but apart' gathering through many different platforms. We have all been engaging in worship in a very different way.

Wonderful as it is to gather together to worship, biblically, worship is a way of life. In his book *Holy Habits*, Andrew Roberts says that '*worship offered as grateful response for all God is and does involves all of our lives: our work, our rest, our enjoyment of creation, our service, our eating, our giving – and our gatherings with fellow disciples for the focused activity of praise and worship*'. So, let us remember that, important as it may feel to have our church services back again, our worship and praise to our Creator God is something we can do anytime and anywhere! Alleluia!

From the Bible: Psalm 100

"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

*Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

*For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Let us Pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, help us to remember you in the everyday of our lives.

Today be in our thoughts;

Today be in our words;

Today be in our works.

We ask that we would remember you today in all that we do;

In the expected and the unexpected;

In our work and in our play;

In our going out and our coming in;

In our time with family and with friends.

Help us to remember to praise you for your goodness.

To thank you for all that we have;

To thank you for all that we are and all that we will become;

To thank you for loving us so dearly, even when we are not worthy of your love.

As I turn my face to you, O God,

let my worship be once more a new beginning:

cleanse my spirit with your mercy,

draw me ever deeper into your love,

and accept my offering of praise and prayer

on behalf of the world;

through Jesus Christ,

our Brother and our Saviour. (Angela Ashwin)

Amen

And finally, a worship song, which, if you click on the link, you can listen to!

In the course of every working day, Lord, we will worship.

When our business takes us far away, Lord, we will worship.

When we care for children in the home, Lord, we will worship.

When our audience is you alone, Lord, we will worship.

(Chorus)

And whatever we do, in word or deed, we do for the one who sets us free;

when we're on our feet or on our knees, Lord, we will worship.

'As We Gather (Whatever We Do)' by Joel Payne.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Enx4TEeylrw>

Give us the music of your praise, Lord, morning, noon and night, that our lives may be fruitful and our lips confess you as the true and only God.

(Refrain following Psalm 92 from the Liturgy)

Ali, on behalf of St Michael's Church, Marbury.