

# WORSHIP - BIBLE SUNDAY - 25 OCTOBER 2020

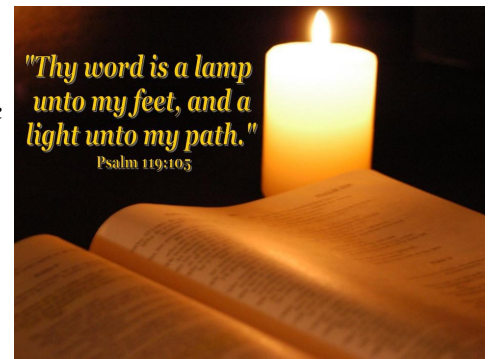
## Welcome and notices

For the last few weeks I have been putting a Communion Service on the website - this week I have put on Morning Prayer, similar to the one Clive is using at St Matthew's at 10 am. Please pray for those of us worshipping in one of our churches, as we pray for you.

Light a candle and prepare to worship - listen to

**Anthem** - O sing joyfully                      Adrian Batten, words Psalm 81.1-4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gG85VIGqSAE>



O sing joyfully unto God our strength, make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take the song, bring hither the tabret, the merry harp with the lute. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, ev'n in the time appointed and upon our solemn feast day. For this was made a statute for Israel and a law of the God of Jacob.

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

The word of God is living and active. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we give account. We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

May your loving kindness come to me, O Lord, and your salvation according to your word.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path.  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

O let your mercy come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gloria in excelsis** - say this, as those of us in church will be saying it

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**  
**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**  
**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**  
**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**  
**Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**  
**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**  
**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,**  
**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible readings - Nehemiah 8.1-12 and Colossians 3.12-17

*The text for these are on the blue sheet, which you can download from the front page of the website*

Psalm 119.9-16 is printed on the blue noticesheet

Address - Clive's sermon is on the website

## The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

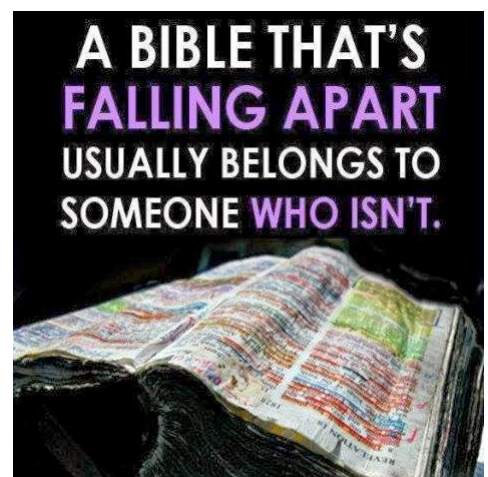
Hymn - Thou whose almighty word

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs255M8e77k>

*is a recording of the hymn sung at Westminster Abbey - all the pomp and circumstance we do so well.*

## Prayers of Intercession

From the very beginning was	Your Word,
which spoke this world into being,	Your Word,
which thunders from the skies,	Your Word,
which flows like mountain streams,	Your Word,
which whispers in morning breeze,	Your Word,
revealed through kings and prophets,	Your Word,
revealed through Angels' praise,	Your Word,
revealed in humble service,	Your Word,
revealed through a tiny child,	Your Word,
alive from the beginning of all things and to eternity.	



Lord, we stand with Your Word, and ask your blessing. Help us on our continuing journey, as we seek to be your people. Help us to hold onto your word in these dark and difficult times. As we prepare to remember, as we prepare for the coming of your Kingdom, as we celebrate Christmas together. We know, Lord, that this will be a different year - but your Word is not defeated by Covid. May we not be defeated either.

Lord, in your mercy. **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world. It feels a world of darkness, confusion and chaos - but we know your light is brighter than all the darkness. We pray for our government, the opposition, and all in authority. For our relationship

with Europe, for National and Local Government, for those leading industry, education, the health service, all the aspects of our life. For wisdom, determination, and the sense to work together.

Lord, in your mercy. **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our schools at the start of this half term. For teachers and staff, may they get a rest and a holiday. For families, trying to juggle work and childcare. For our young people. We think of our children, perhaps coping better with all of this than many of us are. We think of our teenagers, growing up in this frightening world. We pray for our students - those who are still in isolation, wondering why they bothered to go to University. We pray for those trying to find jobs, and struggling at this time.

Lord, in your mercy. **hear our prayer.**

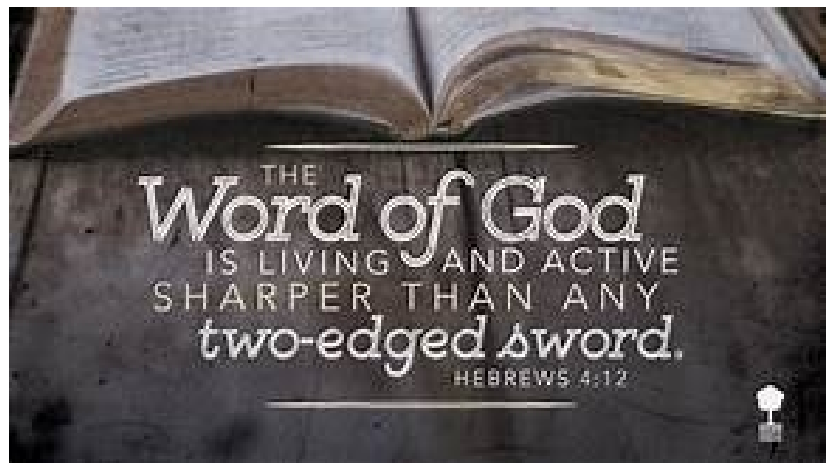
We pray all those who are fighting Covid. For doctors, nurses and hospital staff. We those working long hours dressed in PPE. For those who are tired, and frightened they can take no more. For those who are ill, and for their families, especially those who are unable to be with their loved ones. For people needing treatment for other illnesses, those whose treatment is delay or cancelled - all who are frightened and confused.

Lord, in your mercy. **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died. At this time of remembrance, we remember those special to us. We ask for faith, for your healing power, and for your love. Thank you for the journey we have been on together.

Lord, in your mercy. **hear our prayer.**

Your Word is the light we see,  
a guide for our footsteps  
to where you are found.  
Your Word is the strength we find  
when darkness threatens  
to overwhelm.  
Your Word is the power we need  
to become servants  
of a Heavenly King.  
Your Word is the reason we live  
in the sure knowledge  
you are everything.



**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn - Lord, thy word abideth**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcghwj7zZZg>

*sung by a church in Southampton - almost the opposite of Westminster Abbey*

**The Dismissal**

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

Hear the teaching of Jesus:  
'Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.'  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Final music** - At St Matthew's we have a **Musical interlude** - John will play a Prelude by Ralph Vaughan Williams, based on the Welsh hymn tune Bryn Calfaria, which is by William Owen, 1813-1893. The tune is reputed to have been originally written by Owen on a piece of slate whilst on his way to work at the Dorothea Quarry in North Wales. Here is it being played by Howard Darke (who wrote the tune we use for In the bleak mid-winter)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTQYItglQ5g>



Peter Barham, 20 October 2020

Back in 2013 I produced a display for Bible Sunday

<http://www.pontelandstmary.co.uk/archive/bible-exhibition.html>

When we reopen and people can have a proper explore, would anyone like to help me produce something similar?