



Sunday 29th March 2020

***Live Courageously:
Leaving a Legacy***

Notes from our Sunday Morning
Pre-recorded Worship

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are with us today. We thank you that we can still ourselves before you and we invite your peace, your hope and your comfort to reign in our hearts, minds, bodies and spirits today. Bless us we pray. Thank you that you are all powerful, you are closer than hands and feet and nearer than breathing. Amen.

Opening Worship

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision
O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me
Save that Thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping
Thy presence my light

Verse 2

Be Thou my wisdom
Be Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father
I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling
And I with Thee one

Verse 3

Be Thou my shield
And my sword for the fight
Be Thou my dignity
Be Thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter
And Thou my high tow'r
Raise Thou me heav'nward
O pow'r of my pow'r

Verse 4

Riches I heed not
Nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance
Now and always
Thou and Thou only
Be first in my heart
High King of heaven
My treasure Thou art

Verse 5
High King of heaven
When vict'ry is won
May I reach heaven's joys
O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall
Still be my vision
O Ruler of all

Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne © Words: Public Domain/Music: Public Domain. CCLI Licence No. 96350

Reading: Deuteronomy 34 v 1-12

34 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, 2 all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, 3 the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. 4 Then the Lord said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

5 And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. 6 He buried him[a] in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. 7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. 8 The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

10 Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, 11 who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. 12 For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Talk by Mike Norris – ‘Leave a Legacy’

We are finishing off our Moses series today and reflecting on the end of his life under the title “Leave a Legacy”. I don’t know about you, but I have loved journeying with him and is strangely appropriate for these times. Today, as we have heard in our reading we are thinking about the end of his life when on Mt Nebo.

Moses is so relevant and inspiring because he is someone who not only coped well in a crisis but finished well to:

7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. Deuteronomy 34:7

So, a very reliable guide for us in these times. A reliable guide for Israelites and for us. By way of an introduction, Moses has 3 qualities worth thinking about at this time; courageous, humble and faithful. But how on earth can we be these at this time?

1. Bend don't break

Moses was flexible and changed his approach as his circumstances and context changed. Moses is quite inspirational because it is clear that God kept leading him beyond his comfort zone, into new and unforeseen circumstances, but he changed and found new ways of seeking God doing life and coping. He delegated out leadership. His father in law Jethro visits him and says:

1 "What you are doing is not good. 18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. 21 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22 That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. 23 If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied." Exodus 18

You might be thinking, I can't do what I normally do." No, that's right you can't". We are living in a new normal and so what are you going to do? In this new environment of different ways of doing life, with more time in doors we need to morph into new. The old rhythms and routines aren't going to work. We need to fashion new ones which are reasonable and realistic. As well as change there will be growth.

We may not think we're good teachers or not sure we have what it takes to isolate or get through this. But as you think about new approaches and rhythms and practices, focus on what you can do or change not what you can't do – if feel stuck you won't change and just get frustrated.

Make your plans on what is happening today and not what might happen tomorrow or next week. Stay present and think practically about finding new rhythms and patterns.

- How are you going to work?
- How are you going to pray?
- When are you going to relax and take breaks?
- What do you need?

2. Connect & Unplug

Connect (relationally connect with others)

Moses was really well relationally connected. He had a good relationship with family, his siblings Aaron and Miriam and his father in law, Jethro. This was essential to his wellbeing and life. There are lots of ways to connect – Facetime, Zoom, Snapchat, Instagram, phone calls. Do contact us if you're isolating, especially if you are isolating alone. We know many of you are struggling, we are here and can help.

Unplug (have time alone with God)

Moses also unplugged. We looked at that last week in the tent of meeting where he spent time alone – 'be still and know that God is God'. Unplugging is powerful. We had a problem with our printer, so I tried to fix it. I turned it off and then on and fixed it. I didn't tell Bex! I just said "yeah...it was tricky, but I managed to fix it"!

Anne Lamott says, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug for a few minutes including you".

Unplug and seek God

4 Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Psalm 105:4

8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:8

When we unplug and spend time with God he helps, strengthens and comforts us. This is key at this time. Many are struggling and there are mental health challenges too.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles....., 2 Corinthians 1:3

3. Lament and lighten up

4 A time to weep and a time to laugh. Ecclesiastes 3:4

Moses was someone who had a lot to lament on in his life. The loss of a relationship with his parents, his loneliness in the desert and facing many losses. He experienced great grief over not being allowed to enter the promised land. This is one of the most moving bits of bible. He could see the promised land but not enter it:

23 At that time I pleaded with the Lord. Deuteronomy 3:23

Moses felt deep grief when Miriam and Aaron died. He faced many griefs but learnt how to deal with these.

We are facing a lot of grief at this time. People are losing their lives to the virus and there are many other losses too. School children lost being able to end the year, which was cut short in 24 hours, missing out on proms etc. Many have lost the opportunity to take exams, GCSE or A levels or degrees having worked so hard. For many there has been loss of business and financial collapse.

I have spoken to many people feeling weighed down with the intensity of it all. Let's try and lighten up – watch something relaxing on TV or read a book that is different. Humour is not a bad thing. Please hear me I am not saying the virus is funny or the situation we are finding ourselves in is, but humour can take the intensity off. There is lots of funny stuff flying around on social media which is relieving stress. It's interesting that, during the war often comic or entertainers were sent to the front line troops. This is not trivialising the situation, but humour is an essential coping mechanism. It always has been.

4. Go for hope, not despair

Moses maintained his hope against the odds. He had so many grounds for despair but of course, he found his hope in God.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick – Proverbs 13:12

Can we look to God – especially if we are feeling despair? He can sustain you.

You know Moses did make it to the promised land. He was on the Mount of Transfiguration with Elijah, Peter, James and John (Mark 9). He made it. More significantly, he did not just make it to the promised Land he met the promised one, Jesus.

In Hebrews 3, Jesus presented himself to Moses. In these challenging times let's come to Jesus. In changing times come to the unchanging one. The Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. And let's be strengthened by him (Rev 22), remembering always that he calls us into his living hope:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
1 Peter 1:3-6

Jesus' hope is alive, draw near to him find hope and comfort

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

In Jesus, we can access and discover hope. I would commend Him to you at this time however you are feeling. Can I encourage you to be drawing on His love, strength, grace comfort, kindness, goodness and compassion in these uncertain times.

Song

Verse 1

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

Verse 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

Verse 3

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are

Bridge

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

Prayers

Good morning wherever you may be. It's a pleasure to lead you through some prayers together this morning.

Moment of silence: Why not pause for a minute or two and start from a place of silence. As we do this, let's remember: that God, Immanuel is with us; that He is the one who calms the storm; that God is the one, we get to call Abba, Father. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

Psalm 108: 1-6

My heart, O God, is steadfast;

I will sing and make music with all my soul.

2 Awake, harp and lyre!

I will awaken the dawn.

3 I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;

I will sing of you among the peoples.

4 For great is your love, higher than the heavens;

your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

let your glory be over all the earth.

6 Save us and help us with your right hand,

that those you love may be delivered.

Dear Lord, in the midst of these troubled times, may you help us to remain steadfast. May you help us to remember your promises to love us, to be faithful to us, to fill us with your peace and joy. May you help us to sing a new song and to find comfort in your Psalms. In the darkness, may you help us to find your light. In the voice of despair, may you help us to hear your voice of comfort. May you help us to sense your presence with us. Amen.

Dear Lord, great is your love, higher than the heavens. Lord, in truth this can feel quite hard to say right now. It is easy to panic, to worry and to be anxious. But Lord, we want to trust that your love is good and that it is higher than the heavens. So, please help us to do that. Lord, we confess that at times we have turned from you, that maybe we have got lost in despair. Lord, help us to come back to you, knowing that you run towards us with loving arms and cover us with your grace. You whisper to us that we are your beloved and so we thank you for all that you are and have done for us. Amen.

Dear Lord, we want to pray a big prayer that you would somehow stop this virus from spreading and that you would bring an end to it. We dare to believe that all things are possible for you. And so, we stand with the universal church to lift up that cry for you to please save this world from the coronavirus, which is causing such suffering. And in the here and now, we pray that you would be with all those on the front line, serving in the NHS, retail, logistics, education or other places of work. May you please be the wind in their sails, and watch over them and protect them during this time. We thank you for the pioneering spirit and creative ideas that are springing up and pray may they continue and may you help the hospitals to get the ventilators and other PPE that is so needed at this time. Amen.

Dear Lord, we want to lift up all the other needs in our Church right now. We pray for the sick and those with medical needs. We pray for those who have no work, or who's businesses are struggling. We pray for the lonely. We pray for all the children and those who are home schooling. Lord – we trust them all to you and pray would you be with them all and help them in their time of need. Amen.

Family News

Do you need help?

If you are struggling, we are here to help and support you. Please let us know by contacting 01483 455333 or office@st-saviours.org.uk.

Prayer Requests

We would love to hear from you with your prayer requests so that we can be praying. If you are happy for your request to be shared with the wider church family, do let us know so that we can be praying as a Big Family.

Sundays & Easter

We're not able to livestream our services at the moment so we will continue to pre-record our 10am Sunday services each week. We are looking forward to celebrating Easter and we'll be doing this slightly differently this year. Do look out for more details coming soon.

Stories

Thank you for all you're doing at this time – we have loved hearing your stories. We would love to hear more of them, and updates from our church family. Do send in your stories, photo's and videos which we can share to office@st-saviours.org.uk.

Worship & Prayer – 1st April

On Wednesday we will be holding a Worship and Prayer evening from 8pm to 9pm via Zoom. Do join us! See Thursday's Happening for further details.

Volunteering Opportunities and Resources

Our website has more details about volunteering and useful resources. [Do visit this link.](#)

Closing Worship

Verse

God I look to You

I won't be overwhelmed

Give me vision to see things like You do

God I look to You

You're where my help comes from

Give me wisdom You know just what to do

Chorus 1

I will love You Lord my strength

I will love You Lord my shield

I will love You Lord my rock

Forever all my days I will love You God

Chorus 2

Hallelujah our God reigns

Hallelujah our God reigns

Hallelujah our God reigns

Forever all my days hallelujah

Closing Blessing

Lord, we want to thank you for this opportunity to come together this morning to be encouraged and to worship you together. Lord, I want to pray for us all this week. I want to pray that you would fill us with your strength, encourage us where we need encouraging, and above all that we would hold onto hope in you. Hope in who you are, hope in what you've done and hope in what you're doing. Lord we praise and worship you. As we go about our day today, would we know that that we are blessed people, blessed by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.