



Sunday 21st June 2020

Notes from our Sunday Morning
Pre-recorded Worship

Welcome

Welcome to our service. Everyone is welcome whether it's your first time tuning in or your 100th!. Today we are celebrating Father's Day and we want to acknowledge for some this is a difficult day. We want to recognise that we have a Father in heaven who is perfect and loves us.

Song

My Lighthouse

Verse 1

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Verse 2

In the silence You won't let go
In the questions Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Chorus

My Lighthouse my Lighthouse
Shining in the darkness
I will follow You oh
My Lighthouse my Lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore
Safe to shore safe to shore safe to shore

Verse 3

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Bridge

Fire before us
You're the brightest
You will lead us
Through the storms (hey)

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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Song

I Stand Amazed (How Marvellous)

Verse 1

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene
And wonder how He could love me
A sinner condemned unclean

Chorus

How marvellous how wonderful
And my song shall ever be
How marvellous how wonderful

Is my Saviour's love for me

Verse 2

He took my sins and my sorrows
He made them His very own
(And) He bore the burden to Calvary
And suffered and died alone

Verse 3

And with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see
It will be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me

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Reading: 1 John 4: 1-6

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit^[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Talk by Mike Norris – A Wise Family

We're continuing our series on 1 John and I want to explore how we can be a wise family from these next verses from 1 John 4:1-6.

Wisdom is a relevant topic for us in this season.

The government are seeking wisdom as they look to ease the lockdown and restart the economy without restarting the virus. There are core questions: 1 metre or two? Foreign summer holidays and quarantine response. Shielding easing for the 2.2 million people in a vulnerable category

We also need personal wisdom as we face more freedom: Shall we go back and shop and spend to support the recovery. Is it wise going shopping or not? What about social gatherings and seeing friends following the present guidelines? Shall we try and go away for a holiday over the summer – it is wise or responsible in terms of spreading the virus?

Wisdom is also needed by the government over the whole issue of racism following the death of George Floyd and the protests and pressure which has arisen from that. Wisdom is needed as we tackle this issue.

We are going to look at these next verses and John has 3 recommendations on how we can discover wisdom and how we can be wise.

1. First, John would say if you are to be wise – exercise discernment

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world

At the heart of these verses is a call to discern what is true and what is false.

Recently I read an article entitled 'How to spot and detect a fake' – an article about fake pieces of art. A French dealer had made 179 million pounds by selling 28 fake paintings. The article explained how to examine very carefully the painting under a microscope looking at brush strokes and cracks in the surface of the canvass which help date the piece.

John is also encouraging a careful examination and he calls us to practice discernment. Generally speaking, discernment is the ability to judge well.

Within Christianity, discernment refers to multiple things; determining **God's** desire in a situation or for one's life, or identifying the true nature of a thing, such as discerning whether a thing is good, evil, or may even transcend the limiting notion of duality.

There is a call to discern who is reliable and trustworthy and faithful, and of course, this is what we are doing at this time. Notice in these verses this call to test different things. "the spirits" – in this context there is a reference to not believing every spirit – it is a reference to a person moved by a spirit whether by the Holy Spirit or by an evil spirit.

Talk of spirits sounds strange – but the supernatural realm and the presence of spirits is a reality. A true prophet speaks from God carried along by the Holy Spirit. The Gnostics spoke under the influence of Spirits alienated from God. Christ warned against false prophets (Mt 7:15); 24:11) as did Paul (1 Ti 4:1) as did Peter (2 Pe 2:1). There are all kinds of spirits that we come up against.

2. Second if we are to be a wise family, we need to 'put skin in the game'.

'**Skin in the game**' is a phrase made popular by the renowned investor Warren Buffett, referring to a situation in which high-ranking insiders use their own money to buy stock in the company they are running and so put in a significant stake personally. It demonstrates commitment and belief and personally investing in a situation.

I want to suggest that God calls us to have 'skin in the game' as we follow Jesus. Let me unpack what I mean by this. **As Christians how do you discern?** How on earth do you do this? For the church how can we do this?

² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God (Remember the Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth according to Jesus and so is trustworthy) : 'Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.'

There is a lot here...we touched on good and evil and so I am not going to repeat that but what I find fascinating is that according to John – as you think about Christianity – the big test is whether people teach that Jesus has come in flesh from God. This is known as the incarnation; the discernment test is whether you believe in the incarnation.

What is the incarnation? As we have heard in this series, John is writing in a context where false teachers are promoting a false view of who Jesus was. They were sowing the seeds for the early heresy of Gnosticism which is a complicated set of beliefs, but is largely characterised by the separation of the spiritual from the physical – with the spiritual realm being deemed as good and superior to the physical which is deemed of the flesh and inherently bad. False teachers denied the incarnation. People of the Spirit always affirm that Jesus came from God and took on human flesh. This **sounds theoretical but the incarnation changes everything**. What is the significance of Jesus becoming fully human? The Significance of the incarnation is that Jesus puts skin in the game.

There is a vast distinction between a vague theism – God is out there somewhere in the Spiritual real – to Christian spirituality focussed on Jesus. As when we follow him the God Jesus who put skin in the game calls us to put skin in the game as we follow him.

The Gnostic teachers denied this. But putting skin in the game changes everything. It changes how we pray, seek to discern how God is leading us, how we do community. It changes how we do mission, it calls us to be people who engage with society and issues and the marginalised and not withdraw.

People who have been most admired are those who have put skin in the game, for example, NHS doctors, nurses and cleaners, teachers, supermarket staff, emergency services, ambulance, fire and Police.

Well done, you have put skin in the game. Members of the church family have been amazing.

3. Third, be confident

4-6

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit^[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

How are you feeling? Some are happy that the lock down is easing, others are concerned. However you are feeling be confident in God because we are the people of God. We will get to the other side.

Whatever we are feeling we can be confident because '**the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.** *⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit^[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.'*

I'm praying for you and miss you; we are going to get through this.

Prayers

Today we will be focusing our time of prayer on our Heavenly Father. ! John 3 v1 says "What great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God,

I recognise that for some of us Father's Day can be tricky and painful or difficult., but I would like to encourage all of us to rest in God's promise. In the bible it says "I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters.

Let's begin by praying some familiar words:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Father God, I thank you that you are almighty. I thank you that you are all powerful and that you are sovereign Lord. Father, I thank you are a good Father. Lord, that you love us so much that you run with arms open wise to us. Father, I want to thank you that you want us to know you and you've made us your children.

Father at this time of difficulty, where we've been separated from our loved ones, where there is heart ache and pain, would you please hear the prayers of your children. You promise in Your word that you are our heavenly Father who will give good gifts to those who ask. Lord, hear our prayer.

May Your kingdom come, may your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Father, you are our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Father, our world is broken and sick. God, we are scared and hurting and we need you more than ever. Father, may your kingdom come in power with healing and revival. Would you raise up your church. Father, would you equip us, empower us, would you transform us to be love and life, to be your hands and feet. Lord, may we be transformed by your spirit and may we see something of heaven here on earth. Lord, would you breathe life into dry bones. Would you flow with living water through the streets and people of Guildford. Transform our city and hear our prayer.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Father, I thank you that all good things come from you. Lord for those of us who are blessed with plenty, let us be loving, caring and generous. Forgive us Lord when we are self-centred, and even today give us opportunities to help those in need.

For those in need now, even in this moment, would you please provide for them. Whether that be financially or spiritually or physically or mentally. God, would you give our brothers and sisters the boldness to ask for help. Lord hear our prayer.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Father, help us not to rely on our own strength, to be tempted to try and do this alone, especially in these difficult times. Lord, because when we admit our weakness, when we come to you in our worry, you are strong and we become stronger too.

God, we stand firm on your promises, that you would deliver us from evil that surrounds us. Father, we humble ourselves once more. We turn to you, we seek you God and we ask you to heal our land.

Lord, in the powerful name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask that You would eradicate Covid-19. We ask that you would break the power of fear and uncertainty. God, that you would create jobs and livelihoods. That you would heal us of the deep wounds of racism that are impacting our world.

Father, yours is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

Family News

Update

We continue to be guided by the Anglican Church, [Diocese of Guildford and Bishop Andrew](#). [Currently we are still unable to gather for services, but we wanted to give you an update:](#)

1. Public Prayer

At the beginning of July we will be trialing opening the church for private prayer.

2. Services

Over the next few weeks, we hope to trail 'live' elements during our services on Sundays, incorporating pre-recorded content as well. This will hopefully help us to change the format of some of what we're doing.

3. Preparation for reopening

We are currently making preparations for when we are able to gather and run services again. We want to ensure that we can do this safely and responsibly when the time comes.

4. Small group gatherings

Some of our POD's and smaller groups have been able to have socially distanced gatherings outside. We encourage you to do this if you feel safe to do so, following the government guidelines.

We will continue to keep you updated.

Hope in Depression

The next Hope is Depression Course will be starting the week beginning 29th March on Monday and Thursdays via Zoom. This is a 3 week course, and you can find out more details via the website or by contacting the Church Office on 01483 [455333/office@st-saviours.org.uk](mailto:455333@st-saviours.org.uk).

Church Survey

It has been so helpful to get your perspective on how we are doing as a church, how you're feeling about regathering and also your ideas for the next season. If you haven't yet filled out the survey, please do so by following the link in the email. Alternatively, you can contact the Church Office on how to respond if you don't have access to the internet.

Meal Deliveries

Stoke Community Support (SCS), is doing wonderful work during this current crisis, providing meals for families in Guildford. Originally set up by St John's and St Peter's churches to benefit the Stoke area of Guildford, St Saviour's is now also actively involved, referring families and providing volunteers for deliveries. They are now sending out nearly 1000 meals every week to families all over Guildford, who are either in food poverty or who are having a difficult time during the lockdown due to health or other issues. This number may well increase as redundancies kick in over the summer.

Many meals have been provided free by local restaurants, but as they are now preparing to reopen, in order for the project to continue, SCS need to raise funds to buy in meals from the Foodwise kitchens

or Cook, both of whom are providing them at cost. The project hopes to continue until the end of August, but this will only be possible with the assistance of the involved churches.

Song

King Of Kings

Verse 1

**In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes**

**To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt**

Chorus

**Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings**

Verse 2

**To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross**

**For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died**

Verse 3

**And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death**

**And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come**

To the Father are restored

Verse 4

**And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint**

**By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me**

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Close

Thank you for joining us today. Next week, Mike will be leading our service and Mo will be speaking.

Father, thank you so much for the amazing community that we have at St Saviour's. Thank you for everyone involved in the service and we pray that everyone has an amazing day and rest of the week. Amen.