



**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Notes from our Sunday Morning  
Pre-recorded Worship

# Welcome

Today, we have Mike Norris and Joanne Gillard leading our service.

Morning everybody, and a very warm welcome from the garden of Mike and Bex. It's a beautiful day, and it's lovely to be here. What an amazing week it's been weather-wise, it's been extraordinary. This morning we've got a wonderful time together. We are going to worship God, and Joy is leading us. Mo Halloum is speaking later. We're going to break bread together.

Let's pray together at the start of our service. So Father God, I just thank you, that we are here today together and I pray now for your blessing of peace and grace. I pray, Father, that as we go forward, step by step, we will know that you are with us in Jesus name. Amen.

## Song

### One Small Step

#### Verse 1

How small is this world compared to You God  
How big are the plans that You've dreamed up for us?  
As You hear our hearts beat let us hear Your voice  
We're chasing after You in all we do 5 4 3 2

#### Chorus

One small step  
In this great big adventure with You  
We're taking one small step  
In this great big adventure with You  
You light up the way and walk with us every day  
We're taking one small step  
In this great big adventure with You

#### Verse 2

Before all the earth and the skies had been made  
You'd planned out our lives and You knew us by name  
As You hear our hearts beat let us hear Your voice  
We're chasing after You in all we do 5 4 3 2

#### Bridge

Brighter than the stars we'll shine  
We'll shine for You  
Brighter than the stars we'll shine  
We'll shine for You

## 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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## Breaking Bread

That is such a wonderful hymn. What we're going to do now is take some bread and wine together.

As we prepare to do so let's take the opportunity to bring anything to God in confession. Then I'm going to read the Apostle Paul's account of the last supper from 1 Corinthians 11, and then we can say the Lord's Prayer together. Let's take the opportunity to bring anything we want to, to God in confession now.

We've been looking at the book of 1 John, and John writes in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." We can bring our mistakes, our failings to God, knowing that He is going to forgive us. So let's have a few moments of silence to do so in the silence of our hearts now.

So heavenly Father, we lift these things to you. We bring them to you in confession, confidence of your mercy, confidence of your love and confident of your total forgiveness. I pray for us all, would we all know that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Amen.

I'm going to read this chunk of 1 Corinthians 11, written by the Apostle Paul, whose life was changed by Jesus, as he recounts what happened on the night before Jesus died. "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you. The Lord Jesus, on the night before He was betrayed, took bread and when He'd given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper, He took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new

covenant in my blood.' Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

We're going to sing another song of worship. During that time, can I encourage you, if you'd like to, to give bread and wine to one another.

## O Praise The Name (Anástasis)

### Verse 1

I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds His hands His feet  
My Saviour on that cursed tree

### Verse 2

His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone

### Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

### Verse 3

Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting  
The angels roar for Christ the King

### Verse 4

He shall return in robes of white  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

## Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

God's love and ours

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: in this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

## Talk by Mo Halloum – A Loving Family

For those of you who don't know me my name is Mo you'll normally see me at the 6pm service with Beth, my wife. I enjoy a good cup of coffee with my friends

Today, we will be looking at 1 John 4:7-21 and focussing on how this passage allows us to be a loving family. 1 John is one of my favourite books and I am really excited to be able to speak on this part of the book.

Throughout this talk, I'll be using John's life as an example to see how he was transformed by Jesus' love.

### We, like John, are ordinary

I grew up in a Muslim family and my full first name is Mohammed. There were lots of rules that I had to follow to try and impress God but I couldn't live up to the expectation. Most weeks I didn't make it to Mosque. I tried to fast during Ramadhan but failed. I was not an exceptional Muslim. I was ordinary.

When we first encounter John, there was nothing spectacular about him. He was a young teenager and a fisherman with his brother James not living the life he was expected to live until Jesus said 'Follow me'. I'm sure John was excited to be leaving the nets behind, but why did Jesus pick John? Why not one of the safer choices? Jesus could have easily picked those who were Oxford or Cambridge material and built a group around Him of intellectual disciples but instead he chose John. For the transformation project Jesus was about to embark on, He wanted the ordinary, not the elites. So, let us look a bit more into what happened next with John.

### **We, like John, will experience love whilst journeying with Jesus**

When I was 16, my mum became a Christian. For weeks she tried to persuade me to go to Church but I wasn't having any of it until she invited me to a church BBQ. Now I wasn't going to turn down free food, was I? I turned up expecting to feel like an outcast, but instead, I found a family who loved me. I had failed more times than I could count yet still, I had a relationship with a God who loved me and a church family who encouraged me to carry on and focus on Jesus.

The more we read the Gospels and look at what the disciples did, we do occasionally wonder why Jesus picked the 12 that he did, especially John.

John was selfish. In Mark 10:35-37, just after Jesus had told them he was going to Jerusalem to die, both John and James asked Jesus for the best two seats, either side of Him in heaven. Jesus, in that moment, could have easily said no. Instead, Jesus responds with love, not anger. He tells them that in order to lead, you must serve. In verse 16 of 1 John 4, John tells us that we 'ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters'. For us, in this time of difficulty, as tempting as it is to be selfish, we need to serve one another.

John was quick to anger! In Luke 9:54, after receiving some opposition from the Samaritans, John asks Jesus if he should 'call down fire from Heaven to burn them up'. No wonder he was called one of the 'Sons of Thunder'. Not that long ago, Jesus was teaching them all to 'Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you'. How did John forget this so quickly? Writing later on in his life, 1 John 4:21 says that 'Whoever loves God must also love his brother'. In loving people and in praying for them, we see a glimpse of how God sees them. Take time to process your anger, work through it in prayer and leave God in charge of the situation.

John was competitive. I'm definitely competitive so I can relate to John here. As someone who loves playing football or cricket, I will do everything I can to make sure that I'm on the winning team. In John 20:3, he decides to tell us that he outran Peter to the tomb to go and see Jesus after he had risen from the dead, yet at the end of the Gospel, he 'doesn't have time' to tell us more about Jesus' miracles. We need to humble ourselves, not look left or right at what others are doing, but instead, focusing on Jesus and his leading in our lives.

After all of this, you would be a bit surprised that Jesus decided to stick with John. But despite John's failings, he wasn't sent back to the fishing nets. Instead, Jesus kept John by his side and helped transform his life with the love of God. This is the true message of the Gospel. Despite our mess ups and failures, Jesus remains faithful to us. He is gracious and merciful when we do take a wrong turn like John did.

### **We, like John, will experience transformation.**

Coming from an Islamic background into Christianity, I thought I had to impress God and do works for Him. There are still times where I do fall into that trap. But I know God's Grace. I know that Jesus is still working within me and that his love is transforming me.

John received a new nickname after encountering this love. When we first hear of John in Mark's Gospel, he's nicknamed the Son of Thunder. This was due to his rash decision making. Now, Jesus has given him a new nickname. 'The Beloved Disciple' or 'The Disciple whom Jesus loved'. That may sound boastful, but it's not. John is speaking truth over himself. He's not the favoured disciple, rather he's reminding us that Jesus loves him.

In this passage that we're looking at today, John refers to the readers as 'Beloved' in verses 7 and 11. He uses this term a lot throughout this letter because he wants to remind us that we are loved by God and that we can now share that love with one another. In 1 John we revisit John in his old age. He had been through a lot in his life and, like the older members of *our* community, he has a lot of wisdom to share. In verse 7, John reminds us, the beloved, to love one another and that love comes from God himself. In verse 11, John reminds us again that we ought to love one another because God loves us. Usually, if things are repeated in the Bible, it is for a reason. It's important! Jesus doesn't choose us because of what we can do and how we can support His work and ministry. Instead, Jesus chooses us simply because He loves us.

He doesn't perfect us instantly. We will still be messed up, but Jesus will transform us through His love for us. He guides us and nurtures us in our relationships with Him. Look at how he's worked through John. John's letter here is proof that God's love can transform you. John still wasn't perfect, but because of Jesus, he was able to share the joy of knowing Him with others and writes about that in the first chapter of the letter.

### **So, how can we be a loving family?**

As lockdown is gradually easing, we need to be showing that transforming love to ourselves and to those in our community. We need to speak the truths of the Bible over ourselves. We need to be generous when all we feel like doing is being selfish. We need to be slow to anger when our tempers quicken. We need to be humble when competitiveness strikes. By doing this, we are showing love to each other in way that Jesus commands us to. Right now, shops are reopening, we will soon be able to go back to cafes and restaurants and some households are now being allowed to meet with each other, albeit socially distant. This may sound exciting to many of us and it does look like normality is slowly coming back.

But for some of us, it is still terrifying. There are many out there who are living with their family but are still experiencing loneliness. Others are scared to go outside due to the uncertainty that coronavirus brings. Some of us aren't able to properly see our other halves due to the restrictions still in place. As a loving family, we need to be reaching out to these people. Whether it is a catch up online, a phone call, a text message or even by dropping baked goods to their house, it will mean a lot. By reaching out to people like this we are showing love to each other in a way that Jesus commands us to do. Simple things such as these are key to helping us build a loving family and allows the love of Jesus to shine through us, transform us and transform others.

## **Prayers - Joanne Gillard**

So, let's pray together. I just pray now, Father God, for your blessing on this time of prayer, for your presence to be with us, that each one of us to feel your love, your loving love, and to know that Jesus is with us and is with you and His presence is there with you. And you will feel His peace and His joy. And to know that we are in this together as a loving family. And as we reach out full of God's love, father, that other people will know your love too. So I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Family News**

### **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

### God I Look To You

#### 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  
(REPEAT)

#### 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

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## Close

So, I bless you in the name of Jesus and I pray that you will know His blessing, you will know His protection and you will know that underneath are the everlasting arms. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.