

**Circuit Service for 7<sup>th</sup> August prepared by Dr Stephen Appiah for Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit.**

Call to Worship – Psalm 66

***Shout for joy to God, all the earth!***

***<sup>2</sup> Sing the glory of his name;  
make his praise glorious.***

***<sup>3</sup> Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!  
So great is your power!"***

**Stf 113** Oh worship the King (stf 88 Praise ye the Lord the Almighty the King)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dv2BqFgm6\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dv2BqFgm6_M)

<p>1 O worship the King, all-glorious above ; O gratefully sing his power and his love : our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.</p> <p>2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space ; his chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.</p> <p>3 The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your power has founded of old ; established it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.</p>	<p>4 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite ? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light ; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.</p> <p>5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail ; your mercies how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.</p> <p>6 O measureless Might, ineffable Love, while angels delight to hymn you above, your ransomed creation, though feeble our praise, in true adoration our voices we raise.</p> <p>Robert Grant (1779–1838)</p>
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**Prayer**

Father, Good morning, we have come to your presence to give you glory and praise through your Son Jesus and we are surrounded by your Holy Spirit. We join churches around the world to offer you praise because of who you are. Your unconditional love is beyond our comprehension and great is your faithfulness!

Lord Jesus, our great High Priest, you became flesh and bore our sins. You have brought us into the gracious Kingdom of God. You have given us hope in our lives and become our High Priest. You deserve every praise and honour.

We come into your presence with our burden, our pain and concerns. Life is hectic and our lives are not as simple as they appear and we make choices that impact our relationships, impact others and impact nature and cause others to suffer. We have created a world of wars and hunger and poverty. We have all become part of this huge problem of global warming and we ask for your forgiveness and we ask that you restore and renew us in your love.

Lord, let us feel your presence and let our worship be sanctified and be acceptable in your sight through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

**Our Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, which 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 them that trespassed 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.

**Bible Reading:**

Psalms 66 : 1-9; 16-20

John 2: 13- 25

**Hymn: StF 175** Light of the world ( StF 346 Christ is the world's light)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM>

<p>1 Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you.</p> <p><i>So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God, and you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.</i></p>	<p>2 King of all days oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above. Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor.</p> <p><i>So here I am to worship ...</i></p> <p>And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.</p> <p><i>So here I am to worship ...</i></p> <p>Tim Hughes</p>
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### Sermon: In His Presence

God instituted the model of worship from the Old Testament. He made it formal, liturgical and solemn and as rites to be performed to glorify Him. He prepared the setting of the Temple and presented it as a solemn and holy environment for people to come into the presence of God. God himself inspired the finest craftsmen and women to fashion articles of art, worship songs such as the Psalms and even designed the garments of the priesthood for glory and beauty. Everything in the Temple focused the attention of worshippers on the presence of God.

John's gospel narrates the changing of water into wine, then followed by the cleansing of the temple and the challenge of the Samaritan woman on worship.

When the Samaritan woman challenged Jesus about the place of worship and why they cannot worship in the temple they have in Samaria. Jesus replied "you worship what you do not know". But the woman pressed further as to why the Temple in Jerusalem should be the only place to worship God and Jesus replied to her, "a time is coming when people everywhere will worship God in truth and in Spirit and not in Jerusalem alone."

From John's Gospel, Jesus was coming from Jerusalem where he had disrupted the market that had been set up within the Temple to sell sheep for sacrifice and to exchange money for temple coins to pay temple dues. Many preachers focus on this story and conclude that the action of Jesus was harsh and excessive, by creating a whip to drive the sheep out and overturning the tables of the money changers. The cleansing of the Temple was necessary and should be regarded as "tough love". They had created a system to exploit people coming to offer sacrifice to God at Passover. The activity would have been chaotic in the temple to say the least, nevertheless, they were disrupting worship.

**Three** statements of significance were made (1) the zeal of my father's house has consumed me (2) you have made my Father's house a den for robbers (3) bring this temple down and I will replace it in 3 days. All these statements were prophetic.

The first statement taken from the Psalms implied that we all need to be consumed by the love of worship. Jesus expected that zeal from the priesthood at the time.

The second statement taken from (Jeremiah **11** *Has this house, which bears My Name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Yes, I too have seen it, declares the LORD. 12* *But go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for My Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.*) The reference to Shiloh reminds us of the sons of the high priest Eli at the time when God spoke to the boy Samuel. These priests messed up with the sacrifices of God. And God was swift in punishing Israel for defiled worship in the Temple. Jeremiah was sending the message that messing with worship carried the displeasure of God. It was such disaster that Jesus was trying to avoid. Of course, you overturn the tables and as soon as you leave the tables are back upright and the market resumes.

The third statement to replace the temple and rebuild in 3 days is about the Body of Christ which is our temple of worship today. The Body of Christ is a divine place, the sacred meeting place where we can meet and worship God in the presence of our High Spirit. His body has become the new wine to replace the old. The fragrance of our worship in Christ is acceptable to the Father. The early church and disciples who started worshipping in this Temple were filled with power of the Holy Spirit. The Body of Christ is our Temple.

God demands worship and God adores worship. People have turned their back to God but the Old Testament pages ooze out of people who were blessed immensely for worship – from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samuel, David – the prophets, the list is endless. Worship is a blessing. In the presence of God, we are able to glorify him, and we are able to bring our petition to God. In his presence we renew our spiritual strength, we receive his favour and find inner peace and strength.

Today, worship faces challenges and there is the urgent call for people to step forward and become worship leaders and local preachers. To lead the congregation into the presence of God and to praise and honour God. To step into this role is a spiritual privilege and the richness it brings to the people that Christ died for- to glorify and worship God. The role of leading worship is never left to the strength of the individual. The Holy Spirit will open your heart to the riches of God’s Word and lead you to enrich the spiritual lives of the congregation.

If you feel the nudge to serve in any capacity in the church, then pray about it. It could be God Himself calling you to proclaim Christ crucified to the people and serve him. God’s presence – whether it is on zoom, at home or in the church – is always with us when we meet as a body of Christ. Where we meet in his name, His presence will be always be with us. God blesses us immensely when we commit to worship him.

This is essential, because we live in a world that has always been chaotic but in His presence we find hope, peace, and love. Amen

**Stf 407** Hear the call of the Kingdom (*or stf 406 have you heard the good news or stf 398 there is a spirit in the air*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz1B7DWHa44>

<p>1 Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King ; let his song rise within you as a fragrant offering of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem all who trust in his unfailing grace.</p> <p>2 Hear the call of the kingdom to be children of light with the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ ; walking justly before him, loving all that is right, that the life of Christ may shine through us.</p>	<p><i>King of heaven, we will answer the call. We will follow, bringing hope to the world, filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name.</i></p> <p>3 Hear the call of the kingdom to reach out to the lost with the Father’s compassion in the wonder of the cross, bringing peace and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come : let the nations put their trust in him.</p> <p><i>King of heaven, we will answer the call ...</i></p> <p>Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)</p>
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**Offertory**

## Prayer of intercession

God of power and might, our broken world cries out from the depths,  
our world is dominated by the darkness of war, terror, pain and suffering.

We think of the on-going and deepening conflict in Ukraine and in many areas of our world.

We share the pain and anguish of those who have had to flee from their homes,  
countries and livelihoods and the risks they face fleeing from war.

God of life and peace, we ask for your healing power on those who are enduring pain and illness.

We especially think of ..... and all those we name quietly in our hearts.....

We share the grief of people close to us, who've recently lost loved ones.

We especially think of .....

We know your everlasting light shines with within us in moments of great sadness as well as great joy.  
Within our darkest night, Let your light shine.

God of love and hope, renew in us a deeper sense of who we are in you. Let your power be our source of strength every day and help us to be aware of your daily presence. Make us instruments of grace and may the power of resurrection bring us hope and new strength through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**stf 504** May the mind of Christ my Saviour

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_ZBhSxWots](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_ZBhSxWots)

<p>1 May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do or say.</p> <p>2 May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only through his power.</p> <p>3 May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.</p>	<p>4 May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea ; him exalting, self-forgetting — this is victory.</p> <p>5 May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.</p> <p>Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859–1928)</p>
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## Blessing

**May the blessings of God rest with you and keep you. May the Lord send us out from here in the power of the Holy Spirit. May Christ equip us to be the source of our strength for others. May his peace rest on us for ever.**

Amen