

## 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Morning Service

Rev Josephine Soon (Testimony Service) & Rev Alan Combes

### Call to Worship – Psalm 145

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

### StF 340 – Ye servants of God

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| 1) Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,<br>And publish abroad his wonderful name;<br>The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;<br>His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.   | 3) 'Salvation to God who sits on the throne!<br>Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;<br>The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,<br>Fall down on their faces, and worship the<br>Lamb.  |
| 2) God ruleth on high, almighty to save;<br>And still he is nigh, his presence we have;<br>The great congregation his triumph shall sing,<br>Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King. | 4) Then let us adore, and give him his right:<br>All glory and power, all wisdom and might,<br>All honour and blessing, with angels above,<br>And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love. |

*Charles Wesley CCL No. 515642*

### Prayer of Adoration

Mighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come together to praise you with one voice, weaving our lives together in unity and diversity as a representation of your body. We are all different but we have the same maker; we have unique stories but the same author, who writes again and again on our hearts miracle testimonies, of transformed lives, answered prayers and changed perspectives. Each of us has countless stories to tell of God's goodness. And today we choose to bring them together for Jesus' precious names' sake. And as a testimony to ourselves, each other and the world - of his kingdom's rule.

We gather together to share our stories, to build our fellowship, to spur each other on to grow in faith – individually and as a community – and to persevere in prayer seeking the things on God's heart. We seek Jesus' righting of every wrong and entering into every troubled story, until, by God's grace and the action of the Holy Spirit, goodness may come. Through our collected stories may the truth that Jesus is alive and moving today, be proclaimed to all the earth.

This is the God we gather to worship.  
This is the God we unite to praise.  
Able; Almighty; Active;  
Kind, Creator, Saviour and Sustainer.  
Three in one – one in three. **Amen.**

### Prayer of Confession

Faithful God – present, active and mighty to save today, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have been slow to come to you in prayer and reluctant to believe you will answer. We have been quick to label prayers as 'unanswered' when we have not received what we wanted in the timescale we wanted it. And when we have seen situations transformed forgive us for thinking of coincidences – rather than proclaiming our faith in the God who answers prayer.

Lord we have not been diligent in storing and treasuring our testimonies so that we can recount in praise and to fuel our faith. We have been quick to fit in with our culture which often denies the spiritual and tells us that our own actions – rather than coming to our God in prayer – are what will bring about the biggest change.

We are truly sorry and turn from our sin. We ask you to renew our minds and assure us once more of who is Lord.

Faithful God — present, active and mighty to save today, we thank you that you have already answered our prayer for forgiveness, making a way for us to be reconciled to you through sending us your son, Jesus Christ. Promised by your prophets, he came, he lived, died, rose and ascended and has restored us to you once and for all. Hear then these words of grace – your sins are forgiven. May we receive your grace to us – made possible by your living Word. May we know our sins to be forgiven Amen.

### **Reflection – “I never get tired of telling that story” - Today is a Day of Testimony**

Today is a special day, a day that will be full of testimony that I hope and pray you will hear, receive and through which you may be blessed. Scripture is rammmed full of statements about the importance of testimony. Indeed 1 John 1 begins: we declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the word of life... They are of course, proclaiming from the very beginning of their dialogue that this is the story of Jesus Christ. I hope that today will remind us that when we may feel that we don't have the words or understanding to explain the nature of salvation, all we have to do instead is to tell our own story of the love of Jesus Christ and what impact that God has had on our lives.

### **StF 663 – I, the Lord, of sea and sky**

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| 1) I, the Lord of sea and sky,<br>I have heard my people cry;<br>All who dwell in dark and sin<br>My hand will save.<br>I, who made the stars of night,<br>I will make their darkness bright.<br>Who will bear my light to them?<br>Whom shall I send? | 2) I, the Lord of snow and rain,<br>I have borne my people's pain;<br>I have wept for love of them<br>They turn away.<br>I will break their hearts of stone,<br>Give them hearts for love alone;<br>I will speak my word to them.<br>Whom shall I send? |
| Ch) <i>Here I am, Lord.<br/>Is it I, Lord?<br/>I have heard You calling in the night.<br/>I will go, Lord,<br/>If You lead me;<br/>I will hold Your people in my heart.</i>  | 3) I, the Lord of wind and flame,<br>I will tend the poor and lame,<br>I will set a feast for them<br>My hand will save.<br>Finest bread I will provide<br>Till their hearts are satisfied;<br>I will give my life to them.<br>Whom shall I send?       |

## Testimony – JOSEPHINE AM SOON

A life of being Called and Sent by a God who is amazing. God has called me to be part of His story

### Introduction:

A story of God calling me into the ministry - how God has intervened into my situation/come into my life and rescued me when I needed Him. A story of God calling and sending me to serve, even me!!

I hope to share with you a few highlights from the last 10 years ...

### 1<sup>st</sup> Highlight: My 'Burning Bush' which leads to my 'Holy Ground'

God called me from a child of God/ a follower to be a servant of God / a messenger who bring His voice to the world.



### Reading: Exodus 3:1-6

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, **God called** to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! **Remove the sandals from your feet**, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

### My Burning Bush & my 'Holy Ground' - Verse 3: "I must turn aside and look ..."

I moved to North Derbyshire – Cliff College. In fact – both Nathaniel and me were sent by God to live in the seminary that year. In my mind – this was our one year mission before I planned to move back to Malaysia.



### 'Remove the sandals from my feet...' and go/stand before God...

- The comfort / 'protection/ security' and be vulnerable/ open/ bare
- Leave all dust/ burden/chains and be clean again

The journey starts...'The Summons' means a lot for us.

The name of this hymn is called 'The Summons' - it means 'the calling and sending to ... ' in order to do God's will.

### StF 673 – Will you come and follow me (The Summons)

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|---|--|
| 1) Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name?<br>Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?<br>Will you let My love be shown?<br>Will you let My name be known,<br>Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me? | 4) Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?<br>Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?<br>Will you use the faith you've found<br>To reshape the world around,<br>Through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me? |
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2) Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?

3) Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in Me?

5) Lord, Your summons echoes true when You but call my name,  
Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go  
Where Your love and footsteps show  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

John L Bell & Graham Maule © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community CCL No. 515642

### Reading: Exodus 3:7-12

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. **So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."** **But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"** **He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Highlight: It does not matter about 'why me?' (v 11)

#### 十年寒窗 – 人生 40 方开始学习在主里的生活

Ten years learning to fix my eyes on Jesus/ the way being a Christian

#### Good news:

- I do not need to know God's whole plan
- I DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO 'DO' IT
- The fact is – I was worried and scared like Peter walking on the water

The First Year – God revealed His call for me to preach and lead and teach

First sermon I preached was in the Chapel in college. Then in circuits – the Connexion – international churches (Outside of the local community)

The Second Year – God called me to do something different – He sent the right people to me

- Inspire Movement
- Discipleship (more toward inner community ministry)
- Christian leadership, mentoring, Wesleyan Spirituality

All for Christ (I am yours, you are mine),

Christ for All (We are to be more like Christ – to feed the poor and hungry until they are satisfied)

## Reading: John 4:31-42

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” **But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”** So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, **“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.** Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.”

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Highlight: ‘food’ that satisfied my soul ...

**The Fruits (harvest):** Not of the worldly recognition / titles ie certificates/ degrees

But – looking for the Harvest in Jesus’s vine yard/ God’s Kingdom:

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God has used me to bring <b>people to faith</b></li><li>• God has used me to <b>help many believers</b> who are hungry to grow mature in their faith &amp; to make disciples of Jesus – teaching &amp; nurturing them through small band meetings</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God has used me to bring up a Christian young man who loves Jesus – my son.</li><li>• God has answered many of my prayers for others and answered the prayers of many through me</li><li>• A blessing of a new relationship</li></ul> |
|---|---|



## Conclusion:

All glory to God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. From a child of God/ a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ to be a servant of God/ a messenger of God’s voice... to be a tool to attract people around Jesus and a channel/ a cup to enable people to drink from the Living water.

### Good news:

- I do not need to know God’s whole plan
- I DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO ‘DO’ IT
- I do not need to give anything – but only your NEW HEART

### Faith is:

Believe the rewards for us may be here on earth – but will be greater in Heaven without end.

So if God has called me, even me, He calls you too. I have decided to follow Jesus, to let Him teach me/ equip me. I have let Him be my Lord and Master – to led me step by step. Will you be another one? From a child of God to be a servant of God and to be the cup/plate that holds the Living Water and the Bread of Life to the world?

### Words of Assurance: Exodus 19:4 – 6

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, **if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be** my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but **you shall be for me** a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.

## Prayers for Josephine and the world.

Almighty and all caring God, We thank you for Josephine's journey – her story, her testimony of your presence in her life, your answers to her prayers. We praise you for this story as an example of so many others across the world who have come to faith and serve in your church, both lay and ordained. So today Lord we pray for your Church universal – in all its shapes and sizes, even the parts we disagree with. Sustain us and lead us in paths of grace and service. May we remember Josephine's story as another testimony in our journey. Telling us again that you are present and active among us. May we recognise and receive it as an act of kindness from you, and as another demonstration of your great power, and your loving faithfulness to us. Today Lord we pray for people inside and outside the church who are vulnerable, isolated, sick or stressed. That they may hear the story of Jesus and know his presence with them. May we see in Josephine's story the evidence of the living God guiding and protecting her along her way. Today we pray for a world that needs guidance as we try to emerge from isolation and yet see spikes in increased infections and continued risk. The future is very unclear and we ask that leaders and doctors and researchers may make good, wise and safe decisions.

Almighty and all caring God, you answer prayer. May we see your answers and grow in faith. For you are the one who gives us strength to pray. We thank you for answered prayer, for testimonies of living faith and we trust in your unfailing grace. **Amen**

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.**

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 sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

## StF 78 – Give Thanks

### English

- 1) Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.
- 2) And now let the weak say 'I am strong',  
Let the poor say 'I am rich',  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

### Malay

- 1) Dengar hati bersyukur,  
pada allah yang kudus.  
Syukur karna diberikan nya anak-nya Yesus
- 2) Kini yang lemah berkata kukuat  
Dan yang miskin berkata kukaya  
Karena semua t'lah tuhan perbuat bagi kita

Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna Music CCL No. 515642

## Closing Prayer/Blessing

Give thanks to God who gave us the living word to lead, challenge and inspire us.  
Give thanks to the Lord who sent his Son to save us.  
Give thanks to him who left his Spirit to comfort, counsel and guide us.  
The Lord's faithful love endures forever.

Go in the name of Christ and tell his story  
**Amen**