

## **Eservice for High Street, Baldock, Arlesey and Stotfold Methodists on 11 April 2021**

North Hertfordshire Methodist Circuit.

Worship prepared for Methodists at Baldock, Arlesey, Stotfold and High St Stevenage.

Sunday 11 April 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend the church building. Do spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

### Introduction

Welcome to worship for High Street, Baldock, Arlesey and Stotfold Methodist Churches on 11 April 2021. Jackie Greatorex and Tim Hoof are leading the service. Today is the second Sunday of Easter. The theme of the service is “believing and living”.

### Call to worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

### Hymn

We continue worship with a hymn saying that Christ is risen. That's Singing the Faith 348 “He is Lord, he is Lord”. The link is below.

Singing the Faith 348 He is Lord, he is Lord

<https://youtu.be/1Yq8MPYFEvk>

<https://youtu.be/ADw-63o1g84>

He is Lord, he is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord!

He is King, he is King!  
He will draw all nations to him, he is King;  
And the time shall be when the world shall sing  
that Jesus Christ is King!

He is love, he is love!  
He has shown us by his life that he is love;

All his people sing with one voice of joy  
That Jesus Christ is love!

He is life, he is life!  
He has died to set us free and he is life;  
And he calls us all to live evermore,  
For Jesus Christ is life.

Anonymous

CCL 052772

## Prayer of Adoration

Let's pray:

Living Lord.

We are jubilant you live.

Present Saviour.

We are overjoyed you are with us.

Life source.

We thrive with new life.

Breath of life.

We answer your call.

Peace giver.

We believe and are blessed by you.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

## Prayer of Thanks

And a prayer of thanks.

Resurrected Messiah.

Thank you for loving everyone.

We love that Creation bursts with your love, beauty and glory.

We appreciate your victory over sin, death, hell and the devil.

Thank you for the power to resist temptation.

We are grateful we share in your resurrection.

We appreciate that Christians can resist the devil<sup>1</sup>.

Thank you that nothing can separate us from your love.

We are grateful we can live in perfect relationship with God, others and Creation.

Thank you for the gift of new and eternal life.

In Jesus name we pray

Amen

## Prayer of Confession

And a prayer of confession to right our relationship with God.

Almighty Christ.

We underestimate your power.

We do not expect miracles and supernatural events.

We ignore the Holy Spirit.

We expect you to work our way.

We bargain with you.

We focus on our feelings and situations.

We skip worship or fellowship.

We do not forgive.

We fear people.

We live as if you are dead.

Please forgive us.

Help us to right the wrongs.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

The Bible tells us that when we accept Jesus as God and say we are sorry for our sins, we are pardoned. There is no need to feel guilty. Thank you, Jesus.

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<sup>1</sup> [James 4:7](#)

## Reading

John 20:19-31

## Hymn

We continue worship with a hymn saying that Christ is risen. That's Singing the Faith 553 "I am a new Creation". The link is below the video.

Singing the Faith 553 I am a new Creation

<https://youtu.be/kwjOLFMZhQo>

[https://youtu.be/x0AwlEL\\_Q94](https://youtu.be/x0AwlEL_Q94)

I am a new creation

No more in condemnation

Here in the grace of God I stand

My heart is overflowing

My love just keeps on growing

Here in the grace of God I stand

*And, I will praise you Lord*

*Yes, I will praise you Lord*

*And I will sing of all that you have done*

*A joy that knows no limit*

*A lightness in my Spirit*

*Here in the grace of God I stand*

Dave Bilborough (b.1965)

CCL 052772

## Talk

Lord, may my words be your words.

I asked God what message to preach. When I read the lectionary John 20:31 caught my attention. It says:

“but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

So I offer an understanding of that verse. I break that verse into bits, see what each bit means, and then put it back together.

The first technical word is “Messiah” or “Christ”. Messiah or Christ means “the Anointed one”<sup>2</sup>. In the Old Testament the anointed ones are prophets, priests and Kings<sup>3</sup>. Anointing someone shows they are a spiritual leader appointed by God. So, the Messiah is the spiritual leader appointed by God.

Old Testament prophecies say what the Messiah is like and what he will do<sup>4</sup>. The New Testament frequently flags Jesus as the “Anointed one” fulfilling prophecies<sup>5</sup>.

So what is the Messiah like and what will he do?<sup>6</sup>:

- The Messiah is love. He is righteous. That is Christ is in a perfect relationship with God.
- The Messiah is the eternal King over all Creation. The Messiah reigns perfectly and righteously.
- The Messiah will destroy world powers in an act of judgement, and deliver his people from their enemies. Explicitly, Jesus has power over sin, death, hell, and the devil. Let’s look at those nasties one at a time.
  - Sin. Sin is disobeying the Holy Trinity. Jesus overcame sin, for example Jesus is sinless. Sin estranges us from God. God loves everyone and wants a perfect relationship with everyone. So God (Jesus) took all sin upon himself and took the capital punishment for all sin. From God’s perspective that righted all relationships for ever. Relationships are a two way thing and we can do our bit. When we believe the Holy Trinity is the one God then an eternal right relationship with God begins!
  - Death. Jesus has power over death. Specifically, he was executed, buried and then can back to life.
  - Hell. Hell is permanent separation from God. That is an awful situation of suffering. God (Jesus) judges who does **not** believe in him and

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<sup>2</sup> R.E. Harlow. 1991. Names of Christ. Every Day Publications. Hong Kong.

<sup>3</sup> Aaron and sons were anointed as priests (Exodus 40.13-15). Elisha was anointed as a prophet (1 Kings 19.16). Kings David and Saul were anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 10.1; 16.13).

<sup>4</sup> Examples include Daniel 9.25-27 and Isaiah 53.1-12 Jesus’ death.

<sup>5</sup> Luke 4.21

<sup>6</sup> NIV<sup>TM</sup> Compact Dictionary of the Bible. 1989. Edited by JD Douglas and Merrill C Tenney. Hodder and Stoughton. London.

therefore goes to hell<sup>7</sup>. God (Jesus) judges who believes in him and has eternal life in a perfect relationship with God, others and the new creation. In short Jesus saves believers from hell.

- Devil. The devil is God's enemy. The devil tempted Jesus to disobey God. For instance, the devil asked Jesus to worship him. Jesus refused. In other words, Jesus overcame the devil. God (Jesus) will judge the devil and the devil will be separated from God for eternity.

Our verse asserts that Jesus is the Son of God. "Son of God" and "Messiah" mean similar things. Additionally, Son of God refers to Jesus' unique relationship with the Father. Jesus is God's only son<sup>8</sup>, he is one with the Father<sup>9</sup>. Jesus does the Father's will<sup>10</sup>. Jesus has unique knowledge of the Father<sup>11</sup> and the authority of the Father<sup>12</sup>.

Moving on to another part of our verse, specifically, the word "belief". Belief is accepting something is true and having confidence in it.

Turning now to the phrase "Life in his name". Generally, this phrase is understood in three ways<sup>13</sup>:

1. "eternal life in a right relationship with God"
2. "life which is faithful to Jesus' teaching"
3. Or both 1 and 2.

Earlier we talked through number one. Numbers 2 and 3 are consistent with the wider Bible. Whichever understanding we choose, the gist is that, unbelief differs from Christian life.

Let's look at it from another angle. Believing that Jesus overcame sin and the devil, gives us the power to do the same. How? Well, we love God so we love to copy him. Just like a child loves to copy those they love. We study the Bible to find out who God is and what he wants us to do. One of the ten commandments is to tell the truth. Sometimes the devil tempts me to lie to avoid conflict. But when I believe that Jesus overcame sin and temptation, I tell the truth, whatever the risk.

That's not all Jesus has done for us. When we repent, we apologise for our sins, and try to right the wrongs. God forgives us and gives us a new start. For example, someone I knew well tried to regain contact with me. I did not respond. A few weeks later she took her own life. I felt guilty that if I had been in contact I may have helped and she may have lived. I asked God for forgiveness, and he forgave me. But

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<sup>7</sup> Campbell, Ted, A. (2011) Methodist Doctrine. The Essentials. Abingdon Press.

<sup>8</sup> John 1.18

<sup>9</sup> John 10.30

<sup>10</sup> John 4.34, 5.30, 6.38

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 11.27

<sup>12</sup> John 3.35, 5.22, 13.3

<sup>13</sup> Based on my reading of Bible Gateway and commentaries.

occasionally I recall she took her life and I feel guilty. Then I recall that God forgave me and I can move on.

Jesus is alive. That shows that his power delivers from death and hell. Believers' future includes resurrection in a new body, in a new heaven and a new earth. There we will live in perfect relationships with God, others and the new creation. There will be no suffering, or death, or decay, or sin. I long for eternity, living in perfect relationships with God and others, in a new perfectly healthy body, tunefully singing God's praises.

Now I have taken the verse to bits, I'll reconstruct it. A simple summary of the verse is:

*The Gospel of John is written so we know the truth, explicitly;*

- *The Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit (Holy Trinity) are one God.*
- *The Holy Trinity are love and love everyone. Such love is eternal, perfect, self-sacrificing and morally pure.*
- *God created everything.*
- *God (Jesus) has power over the universe, life, death and any physical, natural or supernatural power.*
- *Jesus judges who knows the truth. People who reject the truth spend eternity separated from God which is an awful state.*

*Accepting this truth:*

- *Helps us live on earth in Jesus' way.*
- *Means that after death we live eternally with God, in perfect relationship with God, others and everything in a perfect place.*

Amen

## Prayer of Intercession

We continue worship with a prayer of intercession.

When I pray:

"Risen Jesus"

Please respond

**Make all things new**

Let's pray:

Risen Jesus,  
Watch over your world church.  
Grow their love for you and others.  
Revive the persecuted church and hold them close.  
Live through the world church to make more Christians.  
Heal those who are ill or suffer.

Risen Jesus.

**All: Make all things new.**

Resurrected Saviour,  
See your family at High Street, Baldock, Arlesey and Stotfold Methodist Churches.  
May we receive new life at chapel, at home or elsewhere.  
Replenish our love for you and others.  
Boost evangelism to make more disciples.  
Be with those who feel the absence of loved ones.  
Heal those in our circuit who are poorly or suffering.  
Protect us from covid 19.

Risen Jesus.

**All: Make all things new.**

Living Messiah,  
Your Creation suffers from conflict, climate change and a pandemic.  
Progress the reach of peace keepers.  
Renew our eco-friendly living.  
Extend the fight against covid 19.  
Guide every government and leader with your love and justice.  
May they work towards health, safety, shelter, food, work and hope for all.

Risen Jesus.

**All: Make all things new.**



In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

## The Lord's Prayer

Please join in the Lord's prayer.

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.

© Singing the Faith

## Hymn

We continue worship singing that Jesus lives

Singing the faith 302 **He Has Risen**

<https://www.elyrics.net/read/n/noel-richards-lyrics/he-has-risen-lyrics.html> (scroll down and click on the video the lyrics are beneath it)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObvvXb55Y48>

He has risen, he has risen,  
He has risen, Jesus is alive.

When the life flowed from His body,  
Seemed like Jesus' mission failed,  
But His sacrifice accomplished,  
Vict'ry over sin and hell.

In the grave God did not leave Him,

For His body do decay,  
Raised to life the Great Awakening,  
Satan's pow'r He overcome.

If there were no resurrection,  
We ourselves could not be raised,  
But the Son of God is living,  
So our hope is not in vain.

When the Lord rides out of heaven,  
Mighty angels at His side,  
They will sound the final trumpet,  
From the grave we shall arise.

He has given life immortal  
We shall see Him face to face,  
Through eternity we'll praise Him  
Christ the champion of our faith.

Gerald Coates (b1944)

Noel Richards (b1955)

Tricia Richards (b1960)

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## Offering

Offerings can be made in person at the chapel when there is a service. If you want to donate another way, please contact Rev Graham Claydon-Knights or your church treasurer. They can explain how to make a donation.

Let's pray:

Lord

Thank you for the gifts of money, time and resource given to High Street, Baldock, Arlesey and Stotfold Methodist Churches. The money comes as cash, electronic transfer and cheques. Bless all these donations and use them to your glory.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen

## Blessing

We go from this worship session:

With a new life in Jesus.

To love the Holy Trinity.

To love with Jesus love.

To study the Bible.

To fulfil Jesus' ways.

To live with joy and hope.

In Jesus name.

Amen

Original material by Jackie Greatorex