**Sheffield United Reformed Churches**

**Team Ministry worship for individuals or families**

**Sunday 30th August 2020 at 10:30 am.**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Call to Worship - Psalm 105, verses 1-4**

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; Let the nations know what He has done.  
Sing to Him, sing His praise! Tell others of His wonderful deeds!

Take joy from the power of His holy name;

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.  
Look to Him for help and strength to face the day; seek his loving face always.

**Hymn**

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here

Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord, Is shining all around

He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned

How awesome is the sight - Our radiant King of light

Be still for the glory of the Lord, Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord, is moving in my soul

He comes to cleanse and heal, to make me good and whole

No work too hard for Him - in faith receive from Him!

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in my soul

**Prayer of Worship**

Lord, who calls from a flaming bush - we worship you.

We worship you in the beauty of holiness because you call us to stand in a holy place in your presence. And yet, because of the grace of Jesus Christ, like the bush we are not consumed but welcomed.

We worship you because, through Christ, you call each one of us to walk with you on the road to the cross, to forsake our own priorities desires perspectives and even our very lives for the sake of your kingdom.

We worship you, because in that holy place where we surrender our lives to you, we are transformed. We are called to work with you by the power of your Holy Spirit; not to contribute to the ever- increasing darkness, but to shine the light of your love upon the difficulties and challenges that face the human race and your creation; not to increase evil or simply to ignore it but to overcome it by imitating and acting through your goodness.

We are conscious of our sin and our weakness. But we are equally conscious of your grace that overcomes our weakness with your power, that overcomes our hatred with your love that overcomes our ignorance with your wisdom.

So help us, Father, through our worship, to be drawn by your Spirit and the grace of Jesus into your holy presence. That, like Moses and those apostles of old, we might hear and heed your call to follow. So may you use us to proclaim and demonstrate the life of your Kingdom and so, we pray for your kingdom to come as we say together the prayer that Jesus taught us... **Our Father**

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**Readings**

**Exodus 3: 1-15**

The Lord calls Moses from a burning bush…

**Matthew 16: 21-28**

Jesus spells out the cost of following him…

**Romans 12: 9-21**

Paul describes a life of “Love in Action” - a good life that overcomes evil…

**Reflection –**

**Prayers of Thanks, Confession and Intercession (based on Romans 12)**

Creator God, we thank you for all your gifts. Jesus, Saviour, we are sorry for the ways we misuse them. Holy Spirit we ask that you will help us and your world.

We thank you for the deep love of those who are close to us and hold us every day in their hearts. We are sorry that our love so often lacks sincerity and active expression. Change our hearts that we might hate what is evil and hold firmly to what is good.

We thank you for your church where we find the deepest expression of devotion to you, your children and your creation. We are sorry that we fail to honour one another above ourselves. Stir up our zeal that we might know your direction and serve you with passion as you show us the new things to which you are leading us

We thank you for the joy that sustains us with hope during these difficult days. We are sorry that we often lack patience in the difficulties and setbacks we face. We expect everything to go our way. Lead us into the practical ways we can faithfully uphold your world through prayer, share generously with those who are in need and show hospitality to the lonely and the refugee.

We thank you for the example of Jesus who, facing the cross, blessed those who persecuted him and forgave those who made him suffer. We are sorry that we fail to follow his example that would unlock the sufferings and hateful divisions of this world. Help us to discover mutual care that we might live in harmony with one another, rejoicing with those who rejoice and mourning with those who mourn. And so we bring to you, those who are particularly on our hearts today… (*name them here*)

We thank you for all the good gifts that you bestow on us so generously each day. We are sorry that in our pride we hoard these things and are not willing to share them with the poor and those of low position. We pray, in particular, for those fleeing persecution and violence. Though it is tempting to be fearful, and to shut our doors, help us feed the hungry and welcome the stranger.

We thank you that you lead us in ways of goodness, rightness and peace. We are sorry when we rush to readily, in our own strength to put the world to rights and we leave no room for God’s judgements when you have promised to act justly. Give us strength, not to repay evil for evil but do what is right in your eyes.

We thank you for the grace that holds us each day in your love in the lives we live, in the places we are. We are sorry that, preoccupied and feeding our souls on negativity, we overlook this grace, which is a clear sign of your goodness to us and a call to share hopeful news with those that we meet day by day. Recognizing that you have given us grace and power to influence our immediate surroundings, may we, as far as it depends on us, bring your peace to our neighbours.

Let us not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good - because you Lord, created every good gift; you Lord Jesus are the pattern of all goodness, you Holy Spirit bring the fruit of goodness wherever you are working.

**Hymn**

Come, living God, when least expected, when minds are dull and hearts are cold,  
through sharpening word and warm affection revealing truths as yet untold.

Come now, as once you came to Moses within the bush alive with flame,  
or to Elijah on the mountain, by silence pressing home your claim.

Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us as vivid truth and living Lord,  
exploding doubt and disillusion to scatter hope and joy abroad.

Then we will share his radiant brightness and, blazing through the dread of night,  
illuminate by love and reason, for those in darkness, faith's delight.

**Blessing**

God who created every good gift, bless you

Jesus who showed all goodness, bless you

Holy Spirit who brings the fruit of goodness, bless you

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit - make your goodness abound in us

As you bless us…