

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday June 7th Trinity Sunday

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



Hallelujah Anyway!

Now there's a title for you! What do you make of it?

Does it tell you anything about the speaker and their situation?

To me this sounds like the cry of someone going through difficult times but determined to worship God,

Now worship is a word that is often on our lips and, in normal times, the focus of our meeting together every Sunday. Praising and worshipping God is the great privilege of the Christian Church and the individual disciple. It can be thrilling as together our hearts are warmed by songs that remind us of our Saviour's love and as his Word brings us face to face with our God and his amazing grace. These can be times when our hearts lift and our spirits swell as we delight in God and offer him our praise.

But life's not always like that. Is it? Sometimes our circumstances don't seem conducive to worship; life can get hard and frustrating, even painful and heartbreaking. We can feel overwhelmed and vulnerable. We've all been there, haven't we?

So is it possible to worship then? And if it is, **why** should we and **how** do we?

We may feel that we have got it tough but the Bible calls to us, "Join the Club!" I really didn't have to spend much time looking through the book of Psalms before finding believers going through the mill: check out Psalms 13, 69 and 79. Here are men who feel forgotten by God, who are exhausted by their predicament, aware that their very commitment to God brings them further pressure from their enemies. Desperation, destruction and desolation sometimes fill the horizon.

They are not Brits (fortunately) so they cry their tears and pour out their anguish. But that's not all they do. Without exception they worship God; (check it out for yourself).

But why? Firstly, **because God has commanded it**. The way we react to that statement says a great deal about us and our view of God. He has commanded it because that is the way we were meant to live originally. It is the mark of men and women who recognize the wonder of God and have a right understanding of themselves. So we should worship him whether we feel like it or not and whether it makes us feel better or not. It's as simple and as profound as that.

Secondly, we should worship **because God deserves it**. The Bible confronts us with a God upon whom we and all creation are dependent; he is the Creator, the Sustainer, the Saviour, the Sovereign of the universe, the Judge of all mankind and the God of stupendous love, mercy and grace who works to bring sinful men and women out of their sin into his family. What a God! And this God is so much bigger and better than our feelings and our circumstances; doesn't he deserve our worship?

So how do we do it when perhaps everything seems to discourage us from doing so? Well, there's no magic wand to wave; just keep on trying to develop an appetite for God, so get into his Word, not as a dry academic exercise but to find him. And praise him, not unthinkingly but focusing upon something about him and his presence in your situation.

Matthew Henry wrote some wise words about the difference between thanking and praising: "*In thanking God we fasten upon his favours to us; in praising and adoring God we fasten upon his perfections in himself.*"

We could all do with taking that to heart!

Dennis R. Read

2 Corinthians 13

Paul draws his lengthy epistle to a close. He speaks in these final verses about obtaining unity in the Corinthian Church, to encourage one another in the Gospel and to live in brotherly peace.

It is very fitting that his parting message ends with a benediction which mentions both Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Triune God, the perfect unity, a prayer that generations of Christians have prayed together in services and prayer meetings before leaving.

The attributes of the Triune God are clearly seen in this petition. It is the love of God the Father that sent His one and only Son into the world to be a perfect sacrifice for humanity. 'That whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life'. It was the love that flowed from the Father for the fallen race of sinners. His Son was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities and dying for our sin that those who believe in Him might be clothed in His righteousness.

When Jesus ascended into heaven the Father sent another Comforter. God the Holy Spirit to be our guide and our Counsellor. He guards us from the devil. He guides us into all truth through His Word. He empowers us to witness and to carry out godly works and bestows upon us appropriate spiritual gifts according to His will. In all our difficulties He points us to Christ.

It is the Spirit who brings conviction to the unbeliever and causes him to see the truth of the gospel in a clear light. Those who respond to this conviction and place their faith in Jesus Christ receive eternal life and a new nature.

The Holy Spirit unites the believer with Christ and places him in the body of Christ, the church. He also unites the believer with Christ in His death, enabling him to live victoriously over sin.

The Holy Spirit guides the believer who yields to God and submits himself to God's Word. When these conditions are met, the believer lives in the power of the Spirit and produces the fruit of the Spirit.

It is by grace we have been saved through faith, it is a gift of God. Jesus humbled Himself, became like one of us yet without sin and took upon Himself the deserved punishment for our sin.

It is by grace that Christ, although He was rich, became poor on our account, so that we through His poverty, might become richly blessed.

It is by the marvellous grace of our great and loving Kinsman-Redeemer, that our sins are forever forgiven. And it is by His grace that we have passed from death to life.

It is by the grace of Christ, the eternal Lamb of God, that we have been purged, cleansed, forgiven, redeemed and reconciled with the Father. It is by grace - through our faith in Jesus, that we have been given eternal life and an everlasting inheritance, that is kept for us in heaven.

David Page

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen**



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Hymn, Reading and Prayers for Trinity Sunday

Bible Reading 2 Corinthians 13v7-4

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your great love for me. Thank You for the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit and thank You for sending the Lord Jesus to be the sacrifice for my sin. I pray that the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit would be with all Your blood-bought children - today and until the coming of Christ in the clouds, for His church - this I ask in Jesus name, AMEN.

O God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in whose name we are baptized and into whose fellowship we have been received. We cling in faith to you, the only God. We praise you dear Father, for having loved us and sent your Son to die for our sins. We praise you dear Jesus, for having redeemed us from our sins by sacrificing yourself for us. We praise you, Holy Spirit, for having sanctified us you gave us faith and through faith cleansed us from sin. O Triune God, graciously enable us always to believe and obey, and to worship and confess you; Creator, Redeemer and Sanctified, one God, eternal and all-glorious forever. **Amen.**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth,
and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Affirmation of faith

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

For in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created: things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers;
all things have been created through Him and for Him.

He Himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

And He is the head of the body, the church;
He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead,
so that He might come to have first place in everything.

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

(an affirmation of faith based on Colossians 1:15-20)

Benediction of Grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

