

Welcome to the Sibyls Evening Service

13th August 2020



Preparing for our Service

The setting aside of time & space for worship demands a conscious transition from “arriving here” to “being here.”

We takes a few minutes to quiet our minds, and become open to the Holy Spirit, and ready to participate in our Worship.

Please turn off your phone, relax and enjoy the music playing before worship starts.

You may wish to pray for those you know and love or you may wish to simply relax and let the cares and worries of the day and the week ease away as you enjoy sitting in God’s presence.

Opening Music The Largo from Dvorak’s 9th Symphony

Leader *Good evening everyone, let’s have a moment’s silence before we start our service.*

Welcome & Introduction

Leader Welcome to the Sibyls Service. I’m Jenny Anne, an Elder in the URC and I will be guiding you through this evenings service. All you need for our service today will be on the screen and also in this order of service

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off or set to silent mode. Our service theme today is “Be as God created you”

(PAUSE)

Please join in with our opening worship responses by saying the heavy type responses on the screen

Leader: Let us sing to the Lord a new song:

All: We sing to the Lord and bless God’s name.
We tell of God’s salvation every day.

Leader: Let us declare God’s glory among the nations:

All: We declare God’s marvellous work to everyone.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Leader: Know that the Lord is our God:

All: It is God who wonderfully made us: we belong to God.
We are all God's Rainbow people.

Leader: *Know that the Lord is good:*

All: God's steadfast love lasts forever.
God is faithful to all generations.

Opening Worship Prayer - Leader

Lord we praise you for the splendour of our world!

We thank you for the varied threads of human diversity that are woven throughout the earth.

We who are wonderfully created in your image; as many colours and cultures, ages and classes, and of diverse sexual and gender identities. No matter how different or alike, we are all your beloved people.

Free us all from all those fears of difference which wound and divide us. Lead us in dismantling all attitudes and systems of prejudice and hatred.

Renew our spirit in the commitment to make all our churches, houses of faith for all people whatever their diversity, that all may know that all encompassing of Christ our saviour.

All: Amen.

Our first song is "Be thou my vision".

(Please make sure your microphone is muted and join in the words on the Screen)

Our Confession

We bring to God the times when we have failed to love others, to love ourselves and above all, failed to love God.

Leader: Listen for the Words of Jesus in the Gospel of St. Matthew:
"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

All: Short silence for reflection.

Leader: **God of mercy, forgive our secret shame: the whispers of self-doubt and pride, the lies we tell to others or to ourselves, the guilt and fear which wall us in. God of loving mercy...**

All: **Forgive us. Make us new.**

Leader: **God of mercy, forgive our outward show: the pride in our own goodness, concealing the deceit, our words which mask injustice, the pretence that all is well covering our despair. God of loving mercy...**

All: **Forgive us. Make us new.**

Leader: **God of mercy, forgive our public pride: our arrogance which refuses to change, our condemnation of what we most fear, our complacency which denies suffering. God of loving mercy...**

All: **Forgive us. Make us new.**

Leader: **God of mercy, You love all that You have made: You welcome us with open arms, even when we fall short.**

All: **Forgive us our failings; help us to begin again, made whole by the embrace of Your love. Amen.**

Our Second song is “ Shout to the Lord”.

(Please make sure your microphone is muted and join in the words on the Screen)

.....will bring us our reading _ Matthew 19

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female,' and said, `For this reason a man will leave his

father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one⁴flesh' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard.

But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.

For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others make themselves eunuchs and renounce marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

Here ends the Reading

Reflection on the reading - Leader

Our Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Together, let us affirm our faith in God as Together we say :

All: We believe that our lives are held in the love of God, who knows our names and deepest needs.

We believe that Jesus is the divine Child of the living God who died for us, and that God's grace has no end.

We believe in the Spirit of God, who cares for us, like a parent for a child.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims, and that we are all called to love everyone, as God loves us all.

This is our faith: we believe and trust in the one God: Creator, Saviour and Life-Giver.

Amen.

Our Third song is “ Lord of all hopefulness”.

(Please make sure your microphone is muted and join in the words on the Screen)

Prayers of Intercession.

At the end of each prayer, please respond with the sentence on the screen. I will say:

“Lord in Your Mercy” Please respond with “Hear our Prayer”.

Leader God, You are the Creator and Lover of us all; regardless of our diversity. You wish us to live in solidarity with each other and to rejoice in our uniqueness. We pray that all your gender diverse and cis gender children may experience justice, enjoy peace & spread Your love throughout the world.

Lord in Your Mercy-

Hear our Prayer.

Leader We Pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness and surgery. We also pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, may they find peace in your healing love.

Lord in your mercy-

Hear our Prayer

Leader We pray for all those caught up in the recent and on-going protests that they may find hope and that society can similarly understand why this happens and instigate reforms to minimise the inequalities engendered by greed and inappropriate behaviour of many of those charged with leading our countries and managing our industries and institutions.

Lord in Your Mercy-

Hear our Prayer

Leader We pray for those attending our Service, all those who could not join us and those suffering for just being themselves. We thank you Lord for the Fellowship and Inspiration we find through your grace and the love being weaved through our group. We pray for all our Families & friends, all those around us, And finally we pray silently for our own special needs.

Lord in your Mercy-

Hear our Prayer

ENDING Gathering all our prayers and praises together, let us pray in the way our Saviour so lovingly taught us.

**All: 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 that 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.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(The Church in Wales)

- 7 -

Leader

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6.35

We give thanks for the saving death and living resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with us now in Spiritual Communion.

SILENCE

All:

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.**

**O most merciful redeemer, friend and sibling,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, every day. Amen.**

Our Fourth song is " Lord of the Dance".

(Please make sure your microphone is muted and join in the words on the Screen)

Blessing and Service End

Leader Please join us for a chat after the end of service. Asylum - please keep all those seeking Asylum in your prayers over this period of so many dangerous arrivals and applications to stay.

Closing Blessing⁻⁸⁻

Leader: Lord God, you feed us with the living bread of Heaven; so that we may renew our faith, Increases our hope, and strengthens our love for you. May that same almighty and merciful Lord, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, bless us all in our rainbow of diversity and our compassion for all. May the Lord keep you and all whom you love in peace and love forevermore. All: Amen.

**Our Final song is “ Guide me O’ thou Great Redemer”,
(Please make sure your microphone is muted and join in the words on the Screen)**

Service Ends

**Please unmute your microphone
and remain to share fellowship**

**Service resources from the United Reform Church, the Church in Wales,
YouTube and JAB**