

## Order of Service for 18th July 2021

### *Be Open*

### **Holy Communion**

#### Welcome

Welcome to Hearsall at Home for 18th July 2021. We include Holy Communion today, so if you would like to take part in that please have some bread and wine or juice ready. Today we consider the theme of openness - being open to God and to becoming the person he calls us to be. Let's be quiet for a moment.

#### Call to Worship

Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness –  
and I will not lie to David –  
that his line will continue for ever  
and his throne endure before me like the sun;  
it will be established for ever like the moon,  
the faithful witness in the sky.'

Psalm 89:35 - 37

God's work continues through all the generations of life. We thank him for his goodness in the words of our opening hymn.

#### Hymn (BPW 128) **Now Thank We All Our God**

Now thank we all our God,  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers' arms,  
Hath blest is on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O, may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in God's Grace,  
And guide us when perplexed'  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son  
And Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom heaven and earth adore,  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.

### The Lord's Prayer

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Praise

Lord of endless creativity we praise and bless your holy name!

Every dawn heralds a new day in configurations of light and sound never before experienced.

Every dusk ushers in a night with an unprecedented array of scents and shades. Every moment has its own fingerprint; and every hour you call forth newness and freshness from our hearts.

Praise you, Lord!

We thank you for Jesus, the great High Priest, the author and perfecter of our faith, who died for our sins and always intercedes for us in your presence.

We choose not to cling to things past, but to worship you as we open our hearts and minds to the abundant inventiveness of your Spirit.

In this sacred hour we pause to praise you in words.

Inspire us also to praise you in the deeds of a life that is an open road, not a locked door.

Amen

We sing together a song of dedication: *I will offer up my life.*

## Song (WT 195) **I Will Offer Up My Life**

Verse 1

I will offer up my life

In spirit and truth,

Pouring out the oil of love

As my worship to You.

In surrender, I must give my every part;

Lord, receive the sacrifice

Of a broken heart.

*Chorus*

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring*

*To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?*

*Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung*

*As a praise of Your name*

*For the things You have done?  
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part  
Of the debt of love that is owed  
By this thankful heart.*

Verse 2

You deserve my every breath,  
For You've paid the great cost,  
Giving up Your life to death,  
Even death on a cross.  
You took all my shame away  
There, defeated my sin,  
Opened up the gates of heaven  
And have beckoned me in.

*Chorus x 2*

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring  
To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?  
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung  
As a praise of Your name  
For the things You have done?  
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part  
Of the debt of love that is owed  
By this thankful heart.*

Offering

Lord, we have just sung of offering up our whole lives to you. May our gifts to church and charity confirm the reality of our trust in you, and share your mercy and love with the world around us all. Amen.

Sandra Noel has kindly prepared our prayers of intercession.

Prayers of Intercession

Father God, we know that your Spirit of love is active in all the world. You have created a world full of colour, interest and excitement. Help us all, whether we are

young or old, to always go on learning about living a life of love. Help us to discover more about other people, so that we can serve them more lovingly. Help us to discover more about the world, so that we can work with You in making it a place where right values are honoured.

Father, we see the world around us through radio, television, the internet, and conversations with neighbours and strangers. This past week many of us have been watching football and tennis with many countries and nationalities competing against each other. May sport in all its forms break down barriers, bringing people together in friendship and fun.

We have been saddened at the racist comments that have hurt many folk who have given so much of their skill as part of their team. May they realize how proud we are of them. We pray for those whose harmful words show how blind they are to true sportsmanship. Heal their minds so that they treat each person, no matter what their colour or creed, with respect.

We realize, Father, how climate change is affecting our planet. We pray for India where hundreds of people have been killed by lightning strikes; for parts of America where uncontrolled fires burn, leaving many people homeless, and for those in the East of England who have had severe flooding this past week. May we listen to scientific information and regulate our actions to limit our carbon footprints.

None of us in our fellowship know what it is like to be really hungry but many in our world are suffering from malnutrition. We think specially of Yemen where mothers hold their starving children with little hope of them living a full and healthy life. Give us the resources as a church and as individuals to support Aid Agencies which are working so hard to help these desperate people.

We bring to You our city, Lord, - a city where different races live together in harmony and friendship. May the changes being made during our year as "City of Culture" transform its vision and make people conscious of all the city has to offer. We pray for those youngsters who have left school this week, beginning a new era in their lives. Some will be starting work, others going to college or university and some too, not knowing what tomorrow will bring. Give them hopes and dreams which can be realized. May they have the support and guidance they need to fulfil their plans.

We pray for our young folk at Hearsall – those linked with our youth organizations. May their leaders be good examples of Christian faith and practice.

As part of our fellowship we bring to You Lee and Sarah Phillips and their lovely family Rowen, Livia, Yves and Avelyn. Be with them, Lord, as they work for You in Benin. Keep them safe and keep them well. We hold them in our prayers.

We pray for all we know who are sick and those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. We give thanks for our wonderful N.H.S., working so hard with a back log of operations and treatments to deal with. Give them the resources, energy and patience they need for each day. We pray, as lockdown ends, people will be sensible as they renew contacts with others.

We will have a time of quiet as we bring those in our hearts to You who need our special prayers at this time.

Lord, hear our prayers, for we ask them in the name of Jesus Christ Your Son, and our Saviour. AMEN.

Many thanks Sandra for those prayers. We hear our Bible readings now from 2 Samuel and from Mark.

### Bible Readings

#### **2 Samuel 7: 1-14a**

God's promise to David

<sup>7</sup> After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.'

<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, 'Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.'

<sup>4</sup> But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

<sup>5</sup> 'Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the LORD says: are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the

Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'"

<sup>8</sup> 'Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people shall not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders<sup>[a]</sup> over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> when your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

## **Mark 6: 30 - 34 & 53 - 56**

### *Jesus feeds the five thousand*

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'

<sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognised Jesus. <sup>55</sup> They ran throughout that whole region and carried those who were ill on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went – into villages, towns or countryside – they placed those who were ill in the market-places. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

In the midst of a busy life, Christ calls us to rest. We sing, *The King of Love my shepherd is*.

Hymn (BPW 394) **The King of Love my Shepherd is**

1. The King of love my Shepherd is,  
whose goodness fails me never:  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow  
to rest my soul he leads me,  
and, where the rich green pastures grow,  
with heavenly food he feeds me.
3. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with you, dear Lord, beside me;  
your rod and staff, my comfort still,  
your cross before to guide me.
4. You spread a table in my sight;  
your blessings grace bestowing;  
you bid me taste the sweet delight  
from your pure chalice flowing!
5. And so through all my length of days  
your goodness fails me never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
within your house forever.

## Talk

### ***Be Open***

Dear Fran, Sylvia and Val, you today are being welcomed as church members. My heart is filled with happiness as you take this step.

In becoming formal members of our church, you are invited to find a **place of rest and belonging** here. As David rested in Jerusalem, you are entering a spiritual **home**, and here you can kick off your shoes, sing your songs, write your poems and discover more than ever who you really are in Christ. Church is a safe place. A home.

And, for those who are already members, we will be welcoming these sisters as **equal partners** in our shared life. Do not see them as work machines or rota fillers - but as jewels to treasure.

There is something **exciting and open** about being a member of a Baptist church. King David had a dream to build a temple for his Lord. But he had to be open to another voice, and the prophet Nathan explained that God was not at all asking for David to build him a house. As far as David was concerned, God could not be housed in some permanent structure; God was free to be wherever he chose to show himself.

In the Baptist church, **everyone has a voice**. We listen to those other voices, and in a church meeting we believe that we hear Christ speak to our church, as we listen carefully to everyone present. So I encourage all our new members to share their perceptions, ideas and insights, even if we don't think they would be popular. But we should never do this like a dog with a bone, making our point repeatedly or aggressively. Rather, we say our piece, and then allow others to ponder what we have said.

Val, Sylvia and Fran, you are entering a **house of prayer**. It's not about being good or bad at prayer, it's about simply praying as we are able. As members of the church, we covenant to pray for one another and to pray for our church and its outreach. It's the prayer that enhances the quality of any contributions we might make to church

deliberations. The prophet Nathan only got his response to King David right **after** he had heard from God.

Those disciples of Jesus were ready for rest and for food after their mission in pairs driving out demons. So Jesus takes them away for a break, sailing in a boat across the sea, but, alas, they are all too famous. The hordes follow them and, when they disembark, there are needy people waiting for them.

Many of us in the church at the moment feel in need of a holiday - a break away from the world of lockdown and restrictions and cares. Sylvia, Fran and Val, in joining a Baptist church, I sincerely hope you do find a place of rest.

But this place of rest is also **the place of growth** and even of challenge. *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls*, said Jesus. To rest in Christ is to find who we really are and so to serve, not as a burden that exhausts us, but as a joy that blesses us. As Christians we need do nothing as if our belovedness depended on it; but we can do everything in the obedience that springs from love. This is the light yoke of Jesus.

If you **are** managing to get away on holiday, well, I hope you have a safe and happy time, but I also challenge you. After a good holiday, we should come back ready to enjoy our continuing regular lives, not resentful of them.

So as members you three come to be welcomed, to find rest, to share your perceptions, to pray for the church and also to serve. We should be open to the possibility of new things growing within ourselves.

King David wanted to build a house for God. In reply, God says **he** is building a House for **David** - meaning a dynasty, an everlasting family of kings. This promise is a root for Jewish expectations of a Messiah, a Christ, a King to come. As Christians we believe that only Christ's kingdom will endure forever and we accept Jesus as the Christ.

As you know, we are considering rebuilding the premises here: as it were, building a new house for God. That's all very well, but we can delight to know that it is first of all **God** who is building a house for **us** - a community of faith. We are a part of his

everlasting kingdom, and Hearsall Baptist Church is only relevant as we remain connected with Christ, our head.

God builds his house as **we** share the good news of Jesus. This is not as scary as it sounds. Our church mission statement is to make the love of Jesus known in word and deed. To share the good news of Jesus begins simply by us being honest about what we love about our faith and about our church. You don't have to be able to explain the mystery of the Trinity or solve the problem of evil - just be ready to share what you love about your Christian life! I hope you may have the confidence to invite folks along to church events and even to worship. God is building his house, but it's not a house made of bricks and mortar, but of people and life.

So the House of Faith will continue to grow. And we need to remain open to him. David had got it wrong, God did not want him to build a house. Later his son Solomon would build that house - a place for God's Name to dwell: a place where his character would be honoured; where his reputation would be celebrated.

Perhaps this was almost as a concession from God. God had no need to dwell in a special house. It's **people** who need physical and permanent sacred spaces. God is wherever God chooses to be.

The gospel reading shows Jesus and his disciples being chased and tracked down. The needs of the world followed them around. The crowds hang around all day, and Jesus asks the disciples to feed them, as the sun drops low in the sky. Then Jesus and his team try to escape in the boat again. Oh, and in the middle of the night, as the disciples strain at the oars, Jesus walks on water. After such a sequence of emotional experiences, the disciples were perhaps even more tired.

But as they get out of the boat, again, people recognise Jesus. They run through the region and fetch the sick. And wherever Jesus goes, village, town or countryside, hordes of people come to him for healing. The Jesus community was not stuck in the official worship building - the synagogue - they were in the market places, on the highways, at people's doorsteps...

Well, I hope you aren't overwhelmed with hordes of people wanting your help. But as a Baptist Church, we are not about buildings, but about community. We can't solve

all the problems of our area, but, if we do get a new building, it's not so as to become a holy huddle where we protect ourselves from the world around us.

Rather we need to remain open. Let's be known as an active and lively church, open to the needs of the world and caring for the people around us, as, I think, Hearsall always has.

Fran, Val and Sylvia, as you become members today, you are taking your share of responsibility for the local character of the house God is building here. That is, for our fellowship, our worship and our mission. You each bring special new gifts and we are thrilled to have you on board. God is building his house and you are playing your part. Oh, and we might get to put up a new building, but that's not the most important bit.

To be a Christian in this church is not to be sterile, fixed, unmoving and dull - that's to be dead. To be a Christian here, at Hearsall, is to be ever open to more and more and more from God - to shine brightly, to rest well, to love deeply, to serve freely, and to live fully. Welcome home.

As we prepare to share in Holy Communion, we listen to the song, *Until all are fed*.

### **Song Until all are Fed**

How long will we sing, how long will we pray,  
How long will we write and send?  
How long will we bring, how long will we stay,  
How long will we make amends?

#### *Chorus*

*Until all are fed we cry out,  
Until all on earth have bread.  
Like the One who loves us, each and every one,  
We serve until all are fed.*

How long will we talk, how long will we prod,  
How long must we fret and hoard?  
How long will we walk to tear down this facade?  
How long, how long, O Lord?

*Chorus*

How can we stand by and fail to be aghast,  
How long till we do what's right?  
How could we stand by and choose a lesser fast,  
How long till we see the light?

*Chorus*

On the green, green grass, they gathered long ago  
To hear what the master said.  
What they had, they shared, some fishes and some loaves,  
And they served until all were fed.

*Chorus x 2*

*Ending*

*Like the One who loves us, each and every one,  
We serve until all are fed.*

***Holy Communion***

**WE GATHER**

God has made us a people  
**we have been shaped by God's will.**

Jesus calls us together:  
**we meet in Jesus' name.**

The Spirit binds us together:  
**and leads us into truth.**

**WORDS OF INVITATION**

Look, here is the Lord's Table, spread as for a feast. Bread for breaking, wine poured for drinking, signs of his love and hospitality, symbols of his life broken, his blood poured out.

He is not dead!

He is risen and present among us; evidence of God's covenant grace and promise.

So we come in faith to the table, you and I, companions on the journey.

Some of us are fresh and eager, others weary, in need of nourishment.

All of us are conscious of our failings.

We sit before God and open our hearts to him.

We confess any particular sins on our conscience this morning.

We confess that we are sinners, in need of mercy and help.

We receive God's forgiveness through the saving work of Christ on the cross. **Amen.**

[In Church Service: Welcoming new members...]

So, we are now to receive Val, Fran and Sylvia into the membership of Hearsall Baptist Church. We enter into a covenant with them to share with each other in building up the church to the glory of God, working alongside one another in his service to the world and encouraging one another in the love of God.

Sylvia, Val and Fran, do you declare your faith in the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, having found new life in him?

Do you believe God has called you to serve Christ as a part of Hearsall Baptist Church?

Do you commit yourselves to love and serve the Lord within this church community and in the world, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, to fulfil your ministry in the body of Christ?

*To the church*

Do you welcome Fran, Sylvia and Val into the family of God in this local church?

Do you promise to love, encourage, strengthen, guide, pray for and care for them as equal partners in the body of Christ?

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of this fellowship, I welcome you into membership.

*Prayer for new members.]*

## WE COVENANT

Come now, don't hesitate, the feast is ready  
and the Lord himself invites you.

**Creating and redeeming God, we give you thanks and praise.**

**Your covenant of grace was made for our salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**We come this day to covenant with you and with companion disciples:  
to watch over each other and to walk together before you in ways known and  
still to be made known.**

**Pour your Spirit upon us. Help us so to walk in your ways that the promises we  
make this day, and the life that we live together, may become an offering of  
love, our duty and delight, truly glorifying to you - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

**This day, we give ourselves again to the Lord and to each other to be bound  
together in fellowship, and to work together in the unity of the Spirit for the  
sake of God's mission.**

**We remember, too, that we are one with Christians of many different traditions,  
near and far, for there is only one body and one faith. In particular we  
remember our unity with our Baptist friends in the Heart of England Baptist  
Association and our ecumenical friends in Churches Together in Earlsdon and  
Chapelfields.**

## WE REMEMBER

It was the night of the Passover, and Jesus and his friends were sharing supper  
together. While they were eating he told them that one of them would betray him.  
They were appalled and protested saying, 'Not me Lord, I would never betray you.'

Jesus took some bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying 'Take this  
and eat. This is my body.' He took the cup of wine and after giving thanks passed it  
among them saying as they drank, 'This is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out  
for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. I will not drink again until the day  
comes when I drink with you in my father's Kingdom.'

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creating and redeeming God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for your covenant of grace:  
a covenant expressed in sinful people  
who know forgiveness,  
the weary who are refreshed,  
the hungry who are nourished,  
the captives who are set free  
and the oppressed who experience liberation.  
Thank you that you chose to make us a part of your story.

Thank you for Jesus Christ  
who revealed your love in his death and resurrection  
and who continues to share his life with us  
through bread and wine.

Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit  
who sustains us in our walk together,  
helping us to watch over each other,  
to pray for one another,  
and to work together for justice and truth.

As we eat this bread and drink from the cup,  
may we be empowered to serve boldly wherever you may call.

Accept these prayers and our heartfelt thanksgiving in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## WE SHARE

One people, one loaf, a sign of our common faith and testimony to the generosity of  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Take this loaf, food for faith, and feed on it with thanksgiving.

One people, one cup, a sign of the new covenant poured out for you and for many. It is a covenant sealed by his blood. When we drink, we must be thankful and agree together never to forget.

We share the bread and wine as we listen to the song, *Come Away*.

### **Come Away**

Don't you be in such a hurry, 'cause it only leads to worry,  
There's a time to work, but there's a time to pray.  
Try to find a quiet place to hear his voice and seek his face,  
I can hear the spirit calling, 'Come away.'

#### *Chorus*

*Come away, come away,  
Come and spend some time with me, come away.  
Let your heart and mind be stilled,  
Let your empty cup be filled,  
Come and spend some time with me, come away.*

Are you sinking in your sorrow;  
Are you worried 'bout tomorrow;  
Are the pressures of this life too hard to bear?  
If you cast your cares on him,  
He'll give you perfect peace within.  
Can you hear the spirit calling, 'Come away?'

#### *Chorus*

Hear him say, 'Come away,  
Hear him say, 'Come away,  
Come and spend some time with me,  
And my love will set you free.  
Come and spend some time with me, come away.

*Chorus*

*Come away, come away,  
Come and spend some time with me, come away.  
Let your heart and mind be stilled,  
Let your empty cup be filled,  
Come and spend some time with me, come away,  
Come and spend some time with me, come away,  
Come and spend some time with me, come away.*

WE JOURNEY

Holy God, we have been nourished and have had our thirst quenched, through bread broken and wine poured in thanksgiving for your son, Jesus Christ. Send us out to be as generous to those we meet this week, that we might show through word and deed that he is not dead, but risen and present among us. Hallelujah! **Amen.**

Our closing song is one of openness to God... to soak up the water of life, to resonate with God's heartbeat, to course on his river, to shine like a star, to be true and untamed, eager to become whoever God calls us to be. *Let my soul be as a sponge....*

Song **Let my Soul be as a Sponge** Words by David Sutcliffe; Music by Martin Prue

Verse 1

Let my soul be as a sponge  
soaking up the water  
of your gentle way of life.  
Let my soul be as a drum  
forever resonating  
with the rhythm of your heart.

*Chorus*

*Your parenting brings confidence!  
Your kingship perfect harmony!  
Your will is shared prosperity!  
Your bread is baked for everyone!*

*Your pardon cascades liberty!*  
*Oh, rescue me from counterfeits:*  
*I choose to live your way!*  
*I choose to live your way!*

### Verse 2

Let my soul be as a boat  
coursing on the current  
of the river of your love.  
Let my soul be as a child  
tenderly enfolded  
in the cradle of your arms.

### *Chorus*

*Your parenting brings confidence!*  
*Your kingship perfect harmony!*  
*Your will is shared prosperity!*  
*Your bread is baked for everyone!*  
*Your pardon cascades liberty!*  
*Oh, rescue me from counterfeits:*  
*I choose to live your way!*  
*I choose to live your way!*

### Verse 3

Let my soul be as a star  
shining as a portent  
of the coming of the king!  
Let my soul be truly wild,  
energised to labour  
for the way things ought to be.

### *Chorus*

### The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;

And the love of God;

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be with us all, evermore.

Amen

### Sung Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

Wherever he may send you;

May he guide you through the wilderness;

Protect you through the storm;

May he bring you home rejoicing

At the wonders he has shown you;

May he bring you home rejoicing

Once again into our doors.