



# The Sunday Supplement

Issue 8: 9th May 2020

## Call to Worship

Come, people of God!  
Take refuge in the Lord,  
who listens when we cry out,  
who rescues us when we call,  
and who leads and guides us according to  
his unfailing love.  
You are our God;  
our lives are in your hands.  
Let's worship God together!

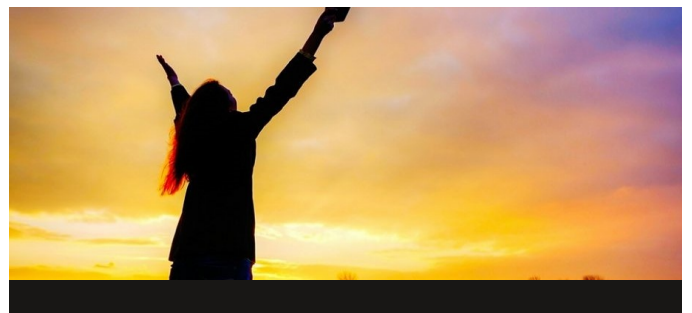
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## Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's Destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.





Loving God,  
strengthen our innermost being  
with your love that bears all things  
even the weight of this global pandemic  
even the endurance of watching for symptoms  
of patiently waiting for this to pass  
watching while we pray,  
keeping our gaze fixed on you,  
and looking out for our neighbours  
near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls  
the belief and hope that all things  
are possible with your creative love  
for strangers to become friends  
for science to source solutions  
for resources to be generously shared  
so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need.

May your perfect love that knows no borders  
cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends  
be our comfort, strength and guide  
for the wellbeing of all and  
the glory of God.

Amen.



## Reading

John 14:1-14

## Thought for the week



On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his disciples. After washing their feet, he began to speak of events that would soon unfold. Knowing what was to come, his words were reassuring. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled'.

Those words of comfort have echoed down the ages. The first six verses of John 14 are often used at funerals. In our time, as daily the numbers of people dying from Covid-19 rise, they come again to us. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled'.

As people across the world have learnt to stay home in the hope of halting the spread of the coronavirus, the idea of dwelling in the Father's mansion resonates in a new and real way. Our homes, however large or small, have become our world. We are required to dwell in them more than we might wish. Confined within our own four walls, maybe the Father's dwelling place with its many mansions is an appealing prospect.

'Dwelling' means more than simply living in a place. To dwell with God in this context is to live in the divine presence and to allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. With more time available perhaps we can learn to dwell more deeply with God and to allow ourselves to be changed by the experience. As we do, we become more like Jesus and so are able to bring his presence to others.

Like Thomas, perhaps we wonder how we can know the way when we don't know where we are going. It is true that we do not know what lies ahead. Few would claim to know the way forward right now. There are many questions. What sort of world will we find when we re-emerge from our homes? Will we ever get back to normal? Will there be change for the better? On this Christian Aid Sunday we focus on the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world. Will anything change for them? Will justice and fairness be part of the new order or will vested interests and greed rule the day?

Jesus describes himself as the way, the truth and the life. As we walk together towards the future he promises to show the way. For those who dwell in God during these days the path will become clear. A new future is not just possible, it is within reach. Jesus encourages his disciples to pray. To ask for what is needed. To have confidence in troubling times. Above all, they are to come to him, not just for comfort but for equipping. These words offer both hope and the promise of power.

'Do not let your hearts be troubled'. Dwell with the one who loves you and gave himself for you. Trust him for a future filled with hope and the promise of a new beginning.

## Blessing

May the presence of the Creator refresh you,  
may the comfort of the Son renew you,  
may the inspiration of the Spirit restore you  
to be love in action, even from a distance,  
in our neighbourhoods, near and far,  
this day and for evermore. Amen.

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**Highams Park Baptist Church Text for 2020**

Romans 10:13-14

**Everyone who calls  
on the name of the  
Lord shall be saved.**

**But how are they  
to call on one in  
whom they have  
not believed ?**

**And how are they  
to believe in one of  
whom they have  
never heard?**

**And how are  
they to hear  
without  
someone to  
proclaim him?**

