**All Age Service of Worship for Father’s Day – 21st June 2020**

**Welcome to Worship**

Welcome to our All Age Worship today on this Father’s Day!

Now in the service today you will need a piece of paper and a pen/pencil…..  
I will explain why a little later (so, I would pause me and go and get those….)

OK, welcome back! As we begin worship, I want to share with you a verse from Romans 5:8  
**“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

I want to invite you to pray with me – we say together…..

***“Loving Father God,  
We come as your children today. Separated by space but joined together by the Holy Spirit of God.   
We praise you today, on this Father’s Day, that you love us more than we can ever imagine and that is why we come to worship you today and everyday.   
But we so often fail you because of our human weaknesses. Forgive us we pray and help us to live a life like Jesus.   
Amen.”***

Following our prayer we now sing 2 songs of worship (‘We bow down’ and confess and then straight after we sing ‘Father of life draw me closer’):

**Opening Songs:**

**We bow down and confess (sung left to right) and Father of life draw me closer**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *We bow down and confess*  *You are Lord in this place.*  *We bow down and confess*  *You are Lord in this place.* | You are all I need;  it's Your face I seek.  In the presence of Your light  we bow down, we bow down. |
| *We bow down and confess*  *You are Lord in this place.*  *We bow down and confess*  *You are Lord in this place.* | You are all I need;  it's Your face I seek.  In the presence of Your light  we bow down, we bow down. |
| *We bow down and confess*  *You are Lord in this place.*  *We bow down and confess*  *You are Lord in this place.* | Viloa Graftstrom  ©1996 Thankyou Music  cli 169737  Streaming licence 595811 |

**2. Father of life draw me closer**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.. Father of life, draw me closer,  Lord my heart is set on You:  let me run the race of time,  with Your life enfolding mine,  and let the peace of God,  let it reign.  (repeat) | *Oh Lord I hunger, for more of You.*  *rise up within me, let me know Your truth.*  *oh Holy Spirit, saturate my soul,*  *and let the life of God, fill me now,*  *let Your healing power,*  *breathe life and make me whole.*  *and let the peace of God, let it reign.* |
| 2.. Oh Holy spirit, Lord my comfort;  strengthen me, hold my head up high:  and I stand upon Your truth,  bringing glory unto You,  and let the peace of God, let it reign.  (repeat) | *Oh Lord I hunger, for more of You.*  *rise up within me, let me know Your truth.*  *oh Holy Spirit, saturate my soul,*  *and let the life of God, fill me now,*  *let Your healing power,*  *breathe life and make me whole.*  *and let the peace of God, let it reign.* |
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**PART 1: Quiz questions for children about their Dads**

*This is where you need a piece of paper and a pen/pencil. I am going to ask you some questions about your Dad.  
( If your Dad is no longer with us then perhaps still think about your Dad with the memories you have of him. Or if you prefer, answer the same questions for a grandfather or someone who might have played a father figure in your life.)*

*There are 9 questions that will appear on the screen as well as me speaking them….8 are about your Dad and 1 extra…..(if you have a brother or sister with you don’t tell them your answers until after I have asked all the questions and see if you get the same answers* 😊*)*

*Before I ask the questions I want you to listen really carefully to 2 sentences from the Bible….these are important words so we need to listen really carefully…..*

**“16 For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.”** – GNB (Reading from John’s Gospel chapter 3 verses 16 and 17)

*(Scriptures [marked GNB] are taken from the Good News Bible published by The Bible Societies /Collins © American Bible Society)*

Hold those words in your mind for a minute or two…..

1. What is/was your Dad’s favourite food?
2. What is/was your Dad’s favourite drink?
3. What is /was your Dad’s favourite TV programme?
4. What is/was your Dad’s job?
5. What is/was your Dad’s hobby?
6. What is/was your Dad’s nickname for you?
7. How does/did your Dad make you laugh?
8. How do/did you know your Dad loves/loved you?

OK, they’re the first 8 questions that you have answered…no one is going to mark them because some of them only you know the answers to! But today we give thanks for our Dads or those who have played the role of Dad in our lives. And it is right that we thank God for them.

I want you to look at your answer for question 8 – How do you know your Dad loves you?

Some of you may have put something like…..

\*his cuddles \*his kisses \*he cares for you/protects you etc.

**\*he tells you he loves you. (stress this answer)**

The final question….is perhaps a little more difficult….

1. How do you know God loves you?

The 2 Bible verses we heard before I asked the questions might help you here….

The Bible tells us that God loved us so much that he gave his son (from heaven) to us on earth. And God gave his son so that we might know God’s love for us.

And like I hope our Dads tell/told us that he loves/loved us…because God tells us in the Bible (which are God’s words to us) that He loves us.

I am going to say a prayer now…and in the middle there will be a moment or two of silence for you to say out loud or to say quietly in your hearts what you are thankful to God for about your Dad.

Loving God,   
thank you for our Dads. Thank you for their love for us and the way they show(ed) us that love.

In a moment of silence or aloud if you like, thank God for your Dad or the person who has been a Dad figure for you*……*

*(moment of silence)*   
We pray for those who are Dads, that they will never stop telling their children how much they love them. And we thank you, God, that whatever our experience of our earthly Dads you love us more than we can ever fully know or understand. May we accept your love for us is always there.

Amen.

**Song: He’s got the whole world in his hands**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1..He's got the whole wide world in His hands,  He's got the whole wide world in His hands,  He's got the whole wide world in His hands,  He's got the whole world in His hands. | 2..He's got everybody here in His hands,  He's got everybody here in His hands,  He's got everybody here in His hands,  He's got the whole world in His hands. |
| 3.. He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,  He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,  He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,  He's got the whole world in His hands. | 4.. He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,  He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,  He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,  He's got the whole world in His hands. |
| 5.. He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,  He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,  He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,  He's got the whole world in His hands. | DJ Crawshaw  ©Harper Collins Religious/CopyCare  (verse 5 added by Richard Bradley)  ccli 169737 Streaming Licence 595811 |

**Part 2:**

I hope you have still got your paper and pen/pencil. I am going to show you some words now that in some way describe God who is our Heavenly Father. The problem is I have got all the letters in the wrong order and I need help trying to sort them out! There are 5 I need help with…..

Now because we are not together….you might have to shout the answers so I can hear you…..

* God **velos** us(loves)
* God shows us **crega** (grace)
* God is **pentait** (patient)
* God is **ikdn** (kind)
* God is our **lepher** (helper)

I hope you will remember these statements each and every day. They are important to remember when we are in lockdown and isolation and when we return to a more normal life.

God **loves** us.

God shows us **grace**.

God is **patient**.

God is **kind**.

God is our **helper**.

Let us pray….

Loving God, thank you for **loving** us, for showing us **grace**, for being **patient** with us, for being **kind** to us and for being our **helper** every day. Whatever we may face you are always there. Amen.

**Bible Reading: Psalm 103:1-13 (New Living Translation of the Bible - NLT)**

**1**Let all that I am praise the Lord;  
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.  
**2**Let all that I am praise the Lord;  
may I never forget the good things he does for me.  
**3**He forgives all my sins  
and heals all my diseases.  
**4**He redeems me from death  
and crowns me with love and tender mercies.  
**5**He fills my life with good things.  
My youth is renewed like the eagle’s!

**6**The Lord gives righteousness  
and justice to all who are treated unfairly.

**7**He revealed his character to Moses  
and his deeds to the people of Israel.  
**8**The Lord is compassionate and merciful,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.  
**9**He will not constantly accuse us,  
nor remain angry forever.  
**10**He does not punish us for all our sins;  
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.  
**11**For his unfailing love toward those who fear him  
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.  
**12**He has removed our sins as far from us  
as the east is from the west.  
**13**The Lord is like a father to his children,  
tender and compassionate to those who fear him.   
(NLT)

We thank God for these words.

**Part 3 (short message):**

*When my children were younger I used to love kneeling down and opening my arms out wide and watching then come running towards me laughing and smiling as they approached.*

*As they ran into my arms my arms would wrap around them and their arms would wrap around me! A loving embrace! I would often then stand up with them in my arms squeezing them as hard as they could cope with!*

That memory came back into my mind as I read the words of Psalm 103. Especially the final verse of our reading (verse 13) **“The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.”** (Psalm 103:12 NLT)[fear = respect and submission]

For when I read verse 13 of Psalm 103 I see an image in my mind of God who like me and many Mums and Dads have done in embracing their children, embraces each one of us. And God longs for all of humanity to come running into His arms of **love, grace, patience, kindness** andarms that are there to **help** us too**.**

For some people today (Father’s Day) can be a hard day because their Dad was not a positive person in their life. He may not have been around for them or if he was he may not have shown them the tender and compassionate love that we read of in Psalm 103.

If that is you, today, then rest assured God’s love far outweighs any love that we have ever been shown by anyone. God will not let you down. God will always be there to love and support you and is ready and waiting every day with arms outstretched to welcome us, as His children.

I want to invite you to watch a music video (or if reading the script please read through the words and let them flow over and through you) – it is a song called….

**Song (video): ‘Good, good Father’ by Chris Tomlin (read down the left hand side and then the right)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like  But I've heard the tender whispers of love in the dead of night  And you tell me that you're pleased  And that I'm never alone. | Oh, it's love so undeniable  I, I can hardly speak  Peace so unexplainable  I, I can hardly think  As you call me deeper still  As you call me deeper still  As you call me deeper still  Into love, love, love |
| You're a good good father  It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are  And I'm loved by you  It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am | You're a good good father  It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are  And I'm loved by you  It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am |
| I've seen many searching for answers far and wide  But I know we're all searching  For answers only you provide  'Cause you know just what we need  Before we say a word | You're a good good father  It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are  And I'm loved by you  It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am  You're a good good father |
| You're a good good father  It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are  And I'm loved by you  It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am | It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are  And I'm loved by you  It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am  You're a good good father |
| Because you are perfect in all of your ways  You are perfect in all of your ways  You are perfect in all of your ways to us | You are perfect in all of your ways  It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are  And I'm loved by you  You are perfect in all of your ways  It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am |
| You are perfect in all of your ways  You are perfect in all of your ways  You are perfect in all of your ways to us | “Good Good Father” by Chris Tomlin  Anthony Brown / Pat Barrett  Good Good Father lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group  ccli 169737 Streaming Licence 595811 |

**Prayers for others**

Loving God, we thank you that you are a good, good Father and we come to you as your children in prayer.

We pray today for Fathers and Mothers who struggle to feed and clothe their children because of poverty. We pray for those who work hard to provide for their children at great personal cost.   
We pray today for children who have lost a parent or parents because of war, human-trafficking or because of illness. Comfort them we pray and may they feel your arms of love.

We pray for parents who have lost a child. In their pain and loss be their comfort and strength we pray.

We pray for those in hospital today. We pray for the care and the expertise of the doctors and nurses who are treating them.

We pray for those who are sad today because someone they love has died. Comfort them and help them to feel your arms of love and care.

We pray for your church. May we all be a shining light of love to all people. People who live close by and those who live far away.

And finally we pray for ourselves. That we, like children, may run into the arms of God so we can know God’s love for us today and always.

Amen.

We end our service as we began it singing 2 choruses which speaks to us in some way about God’s love for us:

**Final songs: Father we love you** and **Father God I wonder**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1..Father, we love You  We worship and adore You  Glorify Your name in all the earth  Glorify Your name  Glorify Your name  Glorify Your name in all the earth | 2..Jesus, we love You  We worship and adore You  Glorify Your name in all the earth  Glorify Your name  Glorify Your name  Glorify Your name in all the earth |
| 3.. Spirit, we love You  We worship and adore You  Glorify Your name in all the earth  Glorify Your name  Glorify Your name  Glorify Your name in all the earth | Donna Adkins  1976/1981 Thankyou Music/Capitol CMG Publishing/integritymusic.com  ccli 169737  Streaming licence 595811 |

**Father God I wonder**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.. Father God I wonder  how I managed to exist  without the knowledge  of Your parenthood  and Your loving care.  But now I am Your son;  I am adopted in Your family,  and I can never be alone,  'cos Father God,  You're there beside me. | *Chorus:*  *I will sing Your praises,*  *I will sing Your praises,*  *I will sing Your praises, forever more.*  *I will sing Your praises,*  *I will sing Your praises,*  *I will sing Your praises, forever more.*  [whole song sung twice] |
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**Prayer of blessing**

Loving God, may we know your loving embrace holding us today and always.

May your blessing and protection be with us today and always. Amen.