Then let us adore,

and give Him his right,

all glory and power,

all wisdom and might,

all honour and blessing,

with angels above,

and thanks never ceasing,

and infinite love.

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-88) CCLI 1507801

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all evermore. Amen



**1 November 2020 Christine Milner**

Psalm 46 ‘God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble…..be still and know that I am God’

**Gathering Prayer**

Loving, gracious God we pray that as we join in worship this morning we may know your presence and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be encouraged and empowered to serve you – so we open our hearts and minds to receive you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

**Hymn 468 My God how wonderful you are**

My God, how wonderful You are,

Your majesty how bright!

How beautiful Your mercy-seat,

in depths of burning light!

In awe I glimpse eternity,

O everlasting Lord;

by angels worshipped day and night,

incessantly adored!

O how I love You, living God,

who my heart's longing hears,

and worship You with certain hope

and penitential tears!

Yes, I may love You, O my Lord,

almighty King of kings,

for You have stooped to live in me,

with joy my heart now sings:

How wonderful, how beautiful,

Your loving face must be,

Your endless wisdom, boundless power,

and awesome purity!

Frederick William Faber (1814-63) altered © 1987 Horrobin/Leavers CCLI 150801

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, we have come with praise in our hearts to say thank-you for your many blessings – for sin forgiven and for the love, grace, mercy and peace with which you fill our lives – but we struggle to find the words adequate to say thank-you. You see our hearts Lord – you know how we feel - receive our praise and worship this morning Lord.

 (pause for silent personal thoughts of thankfulness for what God has done in each life)

We thank you that we can say together the prayer Jesus taught His disciples …..

Our Father…… Amen.

**Notices and Mission Prayer - Prayer for the Offering.**

**Reading** Romans 12 v1, 2 and 9-18

SHINE return to share

**Hymn 784** Ye servants of God

Ye servants of God,

your Master proclaim,

and publish abroad

His wonderful name;

the name all-victorious

of Jesus extol;

His kingdom is glorious

and rules over all.

God ruleth on high,

almighty to save;

and still He is nigh,

His presence we have;

the great congregation

His triumph shall sing,

ascribing salvation

to Jesus our King.

‘Salvation to God,

who sits on the throne’,

let all cry aloud,

and honour the Son;

the praises of Jesus

the angels proclaim,

fall down on their faces,

and worship the Lamb.

strength as we continue to present ourselves to Him, to do His will and be a blessing to those we meet.

**Hymn 14** All heaven declares

All heaven declares

the glory of the risen Lord;

who can compare

with the beauty of the Lord?

For ever He will be

the Lamb upon the throne;

I gladly bow the knee,

and worship Him alone.

I will proclaim

the glory of the risen Lord,

who once was slain

to reconcile man to God.

For ever You will be

the Lamb upon the throne;

I gladly bow the knee,

and worship You alone.

For ever You will be

the Lamb upon the throne;

I gladly bow the knee,

and worship You alone.

Lord, I worship you alone.

Noel and Tricia Richards © 1987 Kingsways Thankyou Music CCLI 150801

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Hymns 50 Be still for the presence of the Lord**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

the Holy One, is here;

come bow before Him now

with reverence and fear:

in Him no sin is found

we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord

is shining all around

He burns with holy fire,

with splendour He is crowned :

how awesome is the sight -

our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord

is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord

is moving in this place:

He comes to cleanse and heal,

to minister His grace -

no work too hard for Him.

In faith receive from Him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord

is moving in this place.

Evans, David J © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music – CCLI 150801

**Sermon**

**‘**Be still and know that I am God’

These words in Psalm 46 come during verses that speak of great calamities effecting the earth – wars, nations in uproar, kingdoms falling but then God is described as making wars to cease and He speaks these words ‘Be still……

It’s not always easy to be still, to quieten our minds, to stop rushing about; in fact some folk say they feel guilty if they are doing nothing. Yet the stillness spoken of here I believe is an active stillness not doing nothing! It is a desire within us to pause in readiness to encounter God – the great ‘I AM’.

How many times I wonder like me have you sat and thought ‘right a bit of quiet time’ but how the issues of the day and its worries crowd in and prevent that stillness and the knowing of God’s presence. We find ourselves so often thinking of those who need our prayers, those in our family or among friends whom we are worried about and that of course is the time to simply offer all our worries and cares to Him – for we are reminded in His word that we are to ‘cast our cares on Him for He cares for us’ and that includes all the burdens of worry that we have.

Not easy to do while easy to say you might be thinking – and I agree but I am reminded that in our reading from Romans 12 – that we are to offer our bodies to Him as living sacrifices and that this surely includes our minds for it says that our minds are to be renewed …. So that

we can discern God’s good, pleasing and perfect Will and if we are aware that His Will is that we should Know Him – love and trust Him with all that we have and are and submit to His will in every area of our lives – serving Him with the gifts He has given to us – well that does sound like quite a challenge – however; the chapter does go on to give very practical instructions as to how we are to live as living sacrifices (offerings) to God and is worth looking up and (re)reading.

However, being still does speaks surely of quiet contemplation - a focus maybe on something which brings to mind God’s power or His love or some other aspect of His nature.

We are told in scripture to look at various aspects of God’s creation in order to be aware of Him. Psalm 19 tells us to look at the sky for it proclaims the glory of God – who hasn’t marvelled at a glorious sunrise or sunset – or even the flight of birds overhead – then of course there are the trees –just now resplendent in their autumn colours – we can be still (switch off to our worries) and know God through the wonders of His creation and recognise that He knows all that we are going through in every part of our lives.

So at this difficult time with the pandemic, when life has changed so very much - God has not changed and we can trust Him to be with us through all the various restrictions – we need not fear the future – our needs are in His hands and faith can drive away fear as we are still – in order to know Him – so may we find the peace of His presence and receive the awareness of Him as our refuge and