**WESTFIELD EVENING SERVICE SUNDAY 6:30pm – 2nd May 2021**

**1/. Opening Welcome and Prayer.** We welcome everyone to our in-formal Evening service and hope that the content is enjoyed by all, to the glory of God.

**Help Me (Thanksgiving Day Prayer)**

O God, when I have food,

help me to remember the hungry;

When I have work,

help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home,

help me to remember those who have no home at all;

When I am without pain,

help me to remember those who suffer,

And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency;

bestir my compassion,

and be concerned enough to help;

By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Amen.

Samuel F Pugh

Now a beautiful version of ‘Make Me a Channel of Your Peace’ This video also shows some gorgeous pictures of God’s creation.

**2/. YouTube Video** > type in *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”* The video to select is 4:26 mins \ secs long and by Vincent Ramkhelawan.

Well 2020 was quite a year for everyone, but let’s have a look at some good news stories from 2020 that give us hope (and maybe a laugh or two!)

**3/. YouTube Video** > type in *"Top 10 Positive News Stories of 2020 That Give Us Hope.” The* video to select is 10:47 mins \ secs long and by WatchMojo.com

**4/. Our 1st Bible Reading**  (Glynis and mine’s favourite Psalm):

### Psalm 91

**1**Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
    will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2091&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15397a)]
**2**I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
    my God, in whom I trust.”

**3**Surely he will save you
    from the fowler’s snare
    and from the deadly pestilence.
**4**He will cover you with his feathers,
    and under his wings you will find refuge;
    his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
**5**You will not fear the terror of night,
    nor the arrow that flies by day,
**6**nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
    nor the plague that destroys at midday.
**7**A thousand may fall at your side,
    ten thousand at your right hand,
    but it will not come near you.
**8**You will only observe with your eyes
    and see the punishment of the wicked.

**9**If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,”
    and you make the Most High your dwelling,
**10**no harm will overtake you,
    no disaster will come near your tent.
**11**For he will command his angels concerning you
    to guard you in all your ways;
**12**they will lift you up in their hands,
    so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
**13**You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
    you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

**14**“Because he[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2091&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15410b)] loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him;
    I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
**15**He will call on me, and I will answer him;
    I will be with him in trouble,
    I will deliver him and honor him.
**16**With long life I will satisfy him
    and show him my salvation.”

(New International Version)

What a most amazing Psalm it is – Psalm 91 has been such a comfort to us both over the years and especially if we have had a challenge to deal with - for we know for certain that God is always with us. Let’s look at Psalm 91’s promises from God:

* "I will rescue him..." (deliver, cause to escape)
* "I will protect him..." (set him on a high place)
* "I will answer him..." (respond to, speak)
* "I will be with him in trouble..." (in afflictions, in distress)
* "I will deliver him..." (rescue, to bring into safety)
* "and honour him..." (to make rich, strong, heavy with honour)
* "With long life will I satisfy him..." (to have abundance in the journey)
* "and show him my salvation." (let him see my deliverance & victory)

**5/. Time of Reflection** – let us have a quiet moment now reflecting on Psalm 91 and God’s faithfulness to us, especially when we found life tough. How can we relate to verse 4 – “*He will cover you with his feathers,  and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart*.” When looking back on your life and getting through a difficult period, have you felt like a chick under the wings and feathers of a mother hen, when God has protected you and got you through safely to the other side. Thank God in your heart for this.

**6/. YouTube Video** > type in *‘Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven’(Lauda Anima)’*The video to select is the one that is 3:10 mins \ secs long, and by First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska

Now a very powerful testimony about God’s answer to prayer when a mother screamed out to The Lord to bring her son back to life.

**7/.You Tube Video >** type in *"A Miracle: the story of John Smith’ -* The video to select is 5:13 mins \ secs long and by SSM Health St. Louis.

What can we say about that, an amazing outcome for John, his mother and dad and all the family. Again we should never underestimate the power of prayer.

**8/.You Tube Video** *> type in “Lord Of The Dance****”*** The video to select is 3:30 mins \ secs long and by Melandochromis Chippoka.

**9/. Our 2nd Bible Reading:**

### The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13, 1 to 9 – the first half)

**1**That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. **2**Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. **3**Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4**As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5**Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6**But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7**Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8**Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9**Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Now let us watch a video that will help our understanding of this parable:

**10/. YouTube Video** > Type in *"Understanding the Parable of the Sower"* The video to select is 8:23 mins \ secs long, and by Messages of Christ.

Let us now have a bit of African. This is beautiful African song which has a lovely twang to it. We only recently came across this song by courtesy of Leo our 9 year old grandson, who is a You Tuber, like myself! The song is sung by Ada Ehi, a Nigerian Gospel singer and songwriter. Hope you like it. It’s a song that leaves you happy!

**11/. You Tube Video >** Type in *"Ada Ehi – Congratulations ft Buchi”* Select the video which is 4:56 mins \ secs long and by Ada Ehi.

**12/. Now our closing Prayer:**

We lift to God those we hold in our hearts – praying for their health, their well-being and their sense of hope. We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together they would not feel apart. We ask for God’s help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring. We pray for all those involved in the shaping of young lives. We give God thanks for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education. We pray that all might be nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource would be made available – that all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no-one would be overlooked. In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country. We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work. We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together. We pray for those who are in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this difficult time. We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgment. Amen. The Church of England

Our final song is “Oh Jesus I have Promised”, the famous old hymn written by John Ernest Bode in 1869. This version is my favourite tune. I used to love hearing our brother Geoffrey Walshe play this tune so beautifully on the Westfield organ. The video in question from a Baptist church in Bristol took me back to the 1980’s and memories of the parade services we used to hold at Westfield with our brownies and pilot packs taking part. Happy memories indeed – Praise Jesus!

**13/. YouTube Video***>* Type in *“Oh Jesus I have Promised ”* Look for the video which is 3:57 mins \ secs long and by Notyobs.

Yes ‘Oh Jesus I have promised’ is a very special hymn reminding us of our life-long commitment and promises to Christ, whatever may happen to us.

***14/. The Grace*** *-* May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and all whom you love, now and forevermore. Amen.

Thank you, we hope you enjoyed our informal service. God bless you, and we send you our sincere love in Christ, Glynis and Neil.

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