



Western Fells Methodist Circuit

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A sacrificial journey

Using resources from
'Worship in the wilderness'
By Engage Worship
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by
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If you can find a quiet moment, take time to reflect and to listen to God

Jesus, you made the way for us to come and worship the Father. As we see your sacrifice, lead us in the way of the wilderness, the way of the cross, the way that leads to eternal life. Amen

Hymn StF 446 I will offer up my life

Music [here](#)

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.

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? O my words could not tell, not even in part, of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.

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.

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? O my words could not tell, not even in part, of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.

(Matt Redman b.1974)

The Lord's Prayer... Let us pray ...Our Father....

Think on these words from the Bible from Isaiah 52 & 53 The Suffering Servant

13 See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.14 Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— 15 so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

53 Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like

a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.³ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹ They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Talk – “Sacrifice” is not a popular term to speak about. Our lives are hard enough, busy enough, without the extra struggle of choosing to go without something we feel we need. During recent times we have become aware of the sacrifices that others are making for each of us. Does God demand that we give things up for him, or choose difficult, “sacrificial” paths in order to please him?

In order to understand what sacrifice means, we turn to chapter 53 of Isaiah. Isaiah foretold, hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, a type of Messiah who was not the strong and powerful leader which Jesus’s contemporaries were expecting. Sometimes the text was thought to represent the nation of

Israel and its suffering, but later the New Testament writers understood it to be about Jesus.

The journey of Jesus himself was one of sorrow as he travelled through the wilderness of this world, a journey which ultimately took him to the very epicentre of wilderness: the cross. Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would not only know our sorrow, but that he would carry the full weight of our suffering, sin and shame.

Whatever wilderness you struggle with, Jesus has born the pain of that, on his shoulders on the cross. He has become your scapegoat, Leviticus 16 v 22 “The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place” carrying your sin, your struggles, your sorrows. He went out into the wilderness of judgement all alone, so that ultimately we may all be healed, restored and made whole. We cannot make ourselves right with God - only Jesus has done that. Therefore, any sacrifices we bring today are not given in order to earn God’s favour. The sacrifice we bring is the sacrifice of response. We can worship God with our lips in songs and prayers, and we can worship God with generosity and compassion towards other people.

StF 287 When I survey the wondrous cross

Music [here](#)

When I survey the wondrous
cross,
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my
pride.

Forbid it Lord that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my
God;
all the vain things that charm me
most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

(Isaac Watts)

Prayers for Mothering Sunday.

Today we pray for mothers and for those who care for others. For new mums, tired mums, reluctant mums, those who want to be mums, for those who are scared of what being a mum will mean. As the saying goes “It takes a village to raise a child”, so here we are Lord, all people together, young and old, ready to play our part. We know that the world is not a perfect place and sometimes relationships are difficult. We lay it all Lord, in its beauty and in its brokenness, at your feet. We pray for those who celebrate today and for those who struggle. We pray for those for whom today is a day of remembering and longing. We remember all who have mothered us and those who we were mothers to. In the name of Jesus who blesses us. Amen