

## Worship sheet Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020



There is an advert currently on the television about paint, but it starts with lots of promise statements including a doctor about to give an injection saying 'you won't feel a thing, I promise' and a child looking at a puppy saying 'I'll walk her every day, I promise'. All kinds of things we might say, but can't really promise to be true. This made me think about the promises of God, and the assurance we have that they are always true and can always be relied on.

The Bible is full of God's promises and reminders that he is faithful. Let's read a few as we come to worship

Psalm 145:9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

I Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever.

Psalm 100:5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Let's join together in singing Standing on the promises of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRibuWMg5BU>

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,

Through eternal ages let his praises ring;

Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Saviour,*

*Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God*

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,

When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail;

By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God

Standing on the promises of Christ my Lord

Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword Standing on the promises of God

Standing on the promises I cannot fail,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call  
Resting in my Saviour as my all in all, Standing on the promises of God

Standing on the promises I now can see  
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free Standing on the promises of God



We come before an awesome God in prayer. A God who is so amazing that he created the world; but also a God who promises that he even cares about the number of hairs on our head.

So maybe you would like to take 2 pieces of paper and on one, jot down as many of the huge, big-picture elements

of God's creation that spring to mind, then on the other sheet, some of the tiniest things. This clip might give some inspiration.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhofN1xX6u0>

Then turn each sheet over and write things you want to bring to God that are big-picture such as complex global issues, and on the other, things that feel very detailed, or small, such as your own particular circumstances. God is interested in everything that concerns us. Bring all these before God, praising Him for the wonder of both the macro scale and intricate details of his handiwork and bringing your prayers of intercession for world issues as well as your personal situations knowing that as it says in 1 Peter 5:7 'You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.'

Amen

Isaiah 43 says

But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.

When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.

When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

<sup>4</sup> Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours because you are precious to me. You are honoured, and I love you.



We seem to have come into the autumn storms season very early this year and have already seen and felt the effects of two storms. We've seen pictures like this one reminding us of the strength of the winds and waves. We've seen pictures of people being caught in flash floods, which must be very

scary. I hope we don't have to experience such a thing physically, but we can feel as if we are caught in a storm emotionally or spiritually. In fact our Bible reading tells us that this will happen to us. It doesn't say **if** you go through the deep waters, it says **when** you go through the deep waters. I'm not very good at swimming, and I hate being out of my depth, I panic if I can't touch the bottom



of the pool. Fortunately, there are aides available and if I have a noodle around me that gives buoyancy I can feel confident in the deep end. God promises that when we go through the deep waters He will be with us. When we go through rivers of difficulty, we won't drown and when we walk through the fire of oppression we won't be burned.

This year, we would have to admit, has been the strangest. None of us would have imagined that it would turn out in this way when we welcomed in 2020. I'm sure at times we have felt as if we were going through deep water, out of our depth, not knowing how we would get through when we couldn't do what we would normally do, but we had a promise that God would be with us, and for sure, he has been and still is. That gives us the confidence to carry on. God makes numerous promises in the Bible, and they are there to be claimed. We have a God who is faithful, a heavenly father who will never go back on the promises he has made or withdraw them because we fail to measure up in any way.

As the song says

Since the Lord redeemed us from the power of sin  
Since his Spirit sealed us other lives to win,  
Grace enough is given that we may endure,  
And we prove the promises of God are sure.



There is a wonderful promise at the beginning of our Bible passage. 'I have called you by name, you are mine.' What joy that brings to know that God knows us by name, he knew us before we were born and he is with us, by our side, every step of the way. He holds us in the palm of his hands, and there, we can feel safe and secure from the storms of life.

If you are able, listen to this song 'More than wonderful' which reminds us of the promises of God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0w6Qp98jo0>

Lord, you promise never to leave me alone or to abandon me in my time of need. Even when I can't feel your presence, I know you are near. Your promises are true. Thank you for your faithfulness. Lord, teach my heart to rest in Your presence and not to be afraid or anxious. I will trust in you. Amen

And finally we sing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNz-33V1V8A>

O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end  
Be thou for ever near me, my Master and my friend  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side  
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt me by guide

O let me feel thee near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within  
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me, to chasten or control;  
O speak to make me listen thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
That where thou art in glory there shall my servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

**Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.