

## Worship sheet Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October Anti-Slavery day



Today in the Salvation Army we are asked to consider those who are victims of modern slavery by letting people know 'We are not for sale'.

**Why the barcode?** When people are held as slaves, they are treated as objects that can be bought and sold, with the ways in which they are exploited limited only by the imagination of their trafficker.

Victims are made to feel powerless and isolated, and are tricked into thinking there is no one who will help them.

By wearing this face mask, not only will money be raised for The Salvation Army's Victim Care Fund, which provides additional support to help survivors of modern slavery, but you will also be standing in solidarity with victims and helping raise awareness that there are people and agencies out there to help them.

The Salvation Army has held the government contract to provide specialist support to adult victims of modern slavery in England and Wales for more than eight years.

In that time we have supported more than 8,000 victims, through safe accommodation, outreach support and specialist services tailored to each individual.

Before we think more on this subject lets join together in a song of praise to our wonderful, amazing, all-loving Father God, who loves everyone whether slaves or free. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Rc95yQFqA8>

Praise my soul the King of Heaven, to his feet thy tribute bring  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like thee his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise the everlasting King

Praise him for his grace and favour, to our fathers in distress  
Praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide and swift to bless  
Praise him! Glorious in his faithfulness.



Fatherlike he tends and spares us, well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hands he gently bares us, rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Widely as his mercy flows.

As we continue in worship we come to God and pray as we sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peZudXt9faU>

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you  
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength and shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*



I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy  
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

You're my friend and you are my brother even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

Last year there was a 58% rise in British nationals needing support after being rescued from slavery according to a report issued by the Salvation Army. Over 12 months, 136 British nationals needed help from The Salvation Army's network of safe houses and outreach workers making them the fifth most common nationality accessing the organisation's specialist support.

- 96 were victims of forced labour, which includes being forced to sell drugs but also manual labour, such as farm work
- 30 were forced into sexual exploitation
- 10 were trapped in domestic servitude

Major Kathy Betteridge, The Salvation Army's Director of Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery, said:

**"It's appalling that anyone is forced to work as a slave whether a British national or a victim from across the world. Thanks to our government contract, we are able to offer safe houses and outreach support services for victims. Referrals to these services are up by 21% on last year but we know there are more people out there who we have yet to reach.**

People this year have been purchasing masks (as shown in the picture at the beginning of this sheet) in order to help raise funds for the Army to continue this very much needed work.

Is it possible that we too are slaves? To be a **slave** is to be owned by another person. A **slave** is a human being classed as property and who is forced to work for nothing. An enslaved person is a human being who is made to be a **slave**. Maybe we think we are not slaves? But to be a slave to **something** is to be unduly influenced by or care too much about something; to spend too much time or energy on something. It is possible that we could be slaves to television, to technology, to fashion, to money or anything else that we are unduly influenced by or care too much about?

Our bible reading is from Galatians 4 v 1-7

Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves great wealth for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though that actually own everything their father had. They have to obey their guardian until they reach whatever age their father set. And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were slaves to the spiritual powers of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt you as his very own children. And because you Gentiles have become his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear Father. Now you are no longer a slave, but God's own child. And since you are his child, everything he has belongs to you.

This passage reveals our glorious transition *from* slaves to sin and the world to our status as beloved sons of God and heirs of all that is His.

There has been quite a lot in the news over recent months about slaves and slave masters and about the treatment of slaves. We know from our history that slaves were at times treated very badly. Some slaves in history have earned the money to purchase their own freedom, but if we are to think biblically, we must recognize that we cannot save ourselves. We cannot rescue ourselves from our enslavement. Someone more powerful, someone sovereign, someone omnipotent must save us. And gloriously, that is exactly what Paul describes in these verses. Having been adopted by the powerful work of God we can live as God's beloved children.

Romans 8 v15-17 in the Message translations puts it like this.

<sup>15-17</sup> This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know

we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

And so we can sing with confidence this song, reminding us that we are no longer slaves <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyew81gL7XA> (need to play through twice)

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Saviours blood  
Died he for me who caused his pain  
For me who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
That thou, My God, should's't die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

He left his Father's throne above  
So free, so infinite his grace  
Emptied himself of all but love  
And bled for Adam's helpless race  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free  
For O my God, it found out me.

No condemnation now I dread.  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine.  
Alive in him my living head  
And clothed in righteousness divine  
Bold I approach the eternal throne  
And claim the crown, through Christ,  
My own.

## BEYOND THE DARK

### COMMITMENT PRAYER

I hear the cries of daughters and sons beyond the dark, trafficked and enslaved for the profit of others.

#### **I stand with you.**

I see the next generation of vulnerable children targeted for the benefit of worldly pleasures.

#### **I will fight for you.**

I stand with frontline practitioners, advocating for the freedom of victims of oppression and walking alongside survivors.

#### **I acknowledge you.**

I lament for the ways I have knowingly and unknowingly contributed to modern slavery and human trafficking through my ignorance, my privilege and my spending power.

#### **I refuse to be blind.**

May my prayers and those of your people turn into action as we fight against injustice together.

#### **We are not free until we all experience light.**

INTERNATIONAL  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
COMMISSION

