**Text

Description automatically generatedWorship sheet for 9th May, 2021 Christian Aid Week prepared by Pauline Zähner**

**H&P = Hymns and Psalm, StheF = Singing the Faith**

**Call to worship (from Roots)**

The Lord has done wonderful things;   
let us sing a new song with our lips,   
our lives, our hearts, our very being.

**Hymn** “Let all the world” H&P 10,

Or <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07cdvjm>

Or “O sing to the Lord” StheF 42

**A prayer based on the hymn “How great thou art” from Christian Aid/Jess Hall**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.  Our souls sing out a joyful song, Our souls sing out how great thou art.  We consider the works you have made  The stars of the night, the leaves of the trees The birds of the air the oceans and streams. | 2.  Our souls sing out a mournful song,  Our souls grieve before our God.  We consider the works our hands have made;  The warming of the planet, the rising of seas The wilting of the harvest, devastating communities. | 3.  Our souls sing out a contrite song  Our souls bow down low. We regret the works our hands have made  The impact on the poorest, the livelihoods lost The deepening of poverty, the environmental and human cost |
| 4.  Our souls sing out a penitent song,  Our souls turn back to what is right.  We consider the good works our hands can make;  The words of justice we can speak, the acts of love we can give The hand of solidarity we can extend, for others to fully live. | 5.  Our souls sing out a hopeful song  Our souls look to the Lord, where our hope comes from We consider the works you call us to;  The love of our neighbour,  the stewardship of the earth  The flourishing of all creation,  the wonder of its worth. |  |

**Readings** :

1. Psalm 98
2. Acts 10 verses 44-48

**Reflection**

The sea can be amazingly frightening in a storm when the waves crash against the shore powerfully and energetically. The sea can also be quite calming when the tide is gently but systematically coming in on a calm day and the water is filling every crack in the rocks until finally all has been filled to the brim and more. The Holy Spirit is a bit like this, dynamic, energising and powerful one minute and gentle, flowing yet keen to fill every gap in another. Perhaps, these are helpful images for us as we read the story of Peter and Cornelius from Acts 10. By the time we reach verse 44 in our lectionary reading, Peter has been nudged into rethinking his food regulations and pushed into visiting Cornelius. At the meeting of Peter and Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fills the Gentiles to overflowing. Both Peter and Cornelius have become freed from the rules, regulations and rituals that their culture required of them and freed to further God’s rule on earth and the development of the early church. Last week at Hilton, we clicked on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fErXScG_6Jk> and listened to one of our former local preachers, Ken Luxon, tell the story of Peter and Cornelius in a different way. We invite you to do the same.

Psalm 98 calls us to respond in a new way when we become aware of the presence of God in our lives and to rejoice with the whole of creation. Peter’s experience of the Holy Spirit, in this story, brings him and his fellow Jews the realisation that Gentiles as well as Jews could be filled to overflowing by the Holy Spirit and his response was not to sing but, in his joy, to order the baptism of the newly converted and support their discipleship development.

**Questions to think about**

1. What is it in nature which will give us the ability to notice God at work ?
2. Which actions can we personally take in response to the work of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives ?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | The week ahead of us is designated “Christian Aid” week and this year, the charity is highlighting Rose (<-) whose life is made more difficult because she has no easy access to water and Florence (->) whose life has been improved by the building of a dam near her home. She can now water her tomatoes, onions and chillies, keep bees, make honey and sell her honey at the market. In short, she can feed her children. A water source near home has been transformational for the life of Florence and her children and Florence responds in joy and song. With sufficient donations this year, it is hoped that the life of Rose and others can also be transformed by the provision of a water supply near to home. |  |

**Hymn** “

Holy Spirit come confirm us” H&P 288/ StheF 382

Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcccR_SZrv4>

**Prayers (by Christian Aid)**

Our God,  
we pray for transformation of hardened hearts and closed minds resistant to the changes needed for a sustainable and thriving future  
for stones of apathy and indifference to become hearts of concern and compassion,

for stones of self-preservation to become hearts of secure generosity,  
for stones of fear of scarcity to become hearts of generous abundance

for stones of judgement and shame to become hearts of mercy and grace  
for the stones of longing and consumerism to become hearts satisfied and in communion with your phenomenal creation.

Transform us by your Spirit that we might be your people. In your name we pray,

Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught his disciples we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn** “Sing to the Lord a joyful song” H&P 17,

Or “You shall go out with joy” StheF 487

**Or** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OH0XbpNY2g8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OH0XbpNY2g8)

**Sending out prayer** : (adapted from Roots)

Spirit of truth, lead us to a greater wisdom.  
Spirit of strength, in our weaknesses, make us strong.  
Spirit of power, show us when and how to act for you.  
Holy Spirit, help us to share the gospel message with all whom we meet.  
**Amen.**