**This week’s worship sheet has been prepared by Colin Webber of Berkley Street Methodist Church**

**PRINTED WORSHIP MATERIAL FOR SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER**

Generous God, we come to you now with love in our hearts, praise on our lips, intent on worship. We come to offer our time and our thoughts to you. We come to receive your comfort and your challenge for us. Lord, unite our prayers and our worship, that your name may be glorified. **Amen.**

**HYMN**Praise to the holiest in the height <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mtGqxsOSEs>

**PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**
For the times when we have not lived in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, dear Lord: forgive us.
For the times when we have not stood firm to your kingdom values, dear Lord: forgive us.
For the times when we have not united in the Spirit, dear Lord: forgive us.
For the times we have heard your call but turned away from you, dear Lord: forgive us.
For the times we have not celebrated your goodness and love, dear Lord: forgive us.
We are sorry that we do not always listen, do not always hear, do not always obey;
and we ask for discernment, courage and strength to be faithful to you. Amen.

We adore you, O God, our king; your name shall be always upon our lips.
For your love is great, and greatly to be praised. Those who went before us praised your works. Those who follow us will praise your name. Our words shall resound with the proclamation of your goodness and righteousness. For you are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.
You are good to all, and you show tender mercies to everyone. Your kingdom is glorious in power, your majesty is beyond words, your kingdom will last for ever, and your praise shall be sung eternally.
We adore you now, Creator God. We adore you now, Loving Lord Jesus. We adore you now, Eternal Spirit. Amen.

**ACTIVITY**Draw a line down the middle of a large sheet of paper. Head one column ‘Us’, and the other ‘God’. What makes people angry? What makes God angry? Write some ideas in the respective columns – if you have a newspaper to hand and it helps, find stories of people being angry for themselves, and stories that you think make God angry. Do you have any ideas/stories that could be in both columns? Pause and reflect before praying that we may be appropriately angry about those things that make God angry, and that we may avoid anger that is selfish or self-centred.

**READINGS**The focus of this material will be MATTHEW 20.1-16, but if you have time don’t overlook JONAH 3.10-4.11 and PHILIPPIANS 1.21-30.

**REFLECTION**
Did you see or hear about the Telford teacher who became only the sixth person to hit the jackpot on Who wants to be a Millionaire this week? A clever and modest man, he has also been quoted as saying he will give the majority of his winnings to his family, so generous too, but perhaps most of us would do the same. Can we allow God to be so good to everyone? The parable today is about the generosity of God, not an encouragement to idleness nor a way out of finding employment for our people, each of whom has the right to work.
It is Jesus using an unusual example from life to highlight the unconditional love of God, stressing as he so often did, that God’s love depends on God, not on our good works. Is Jesus pointing the way to the first truth of our faith: that God is good in love to all?  From believing that in the heart, we are empowered to love others like him, or try to.
It is only human to object to this approach – but that’s not fair! We very often repay love with love, and withdraw love when it is not given. I’ve heard it said that you can give without loving, but I don’t believe you can love without giving. Pope Francis has written “There are two aspects of love. First, love is more about giving than receiving. Second, love is more about deeds than words. Love is always given or transmitted to another and love always gives life, fosters growth.”
The joy of God is in giving love; this is a prime meaning of the parable. He calls on us to enjoy his giving of love to everyone, even the ones we do not think deserve it.

*Teach me, Lord to be generous in love, as you are to me and to all.*

**PICK AND MIX HYMN(S)**From heaven you came helpless babe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VeQrWmvCms>
Give thanks to the Lord, our God and king <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHClyGEdeXw>
For the fruits of his creation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZjppmwhdwc>
Such love, pure as the whitest snow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XRTUk5vbNY>
I will worship with all my heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXJPWEu8SbQ>

**PSALM**Appointed for today is Psalm 145.1-8. Read it slowly and make it personal by substituting your own name whenever ‘I’ appears.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**
We pray for all those who struggle to find regular work, and for those who are overworked in sweatshops. We pray for those who struggle to ‘make ends meet’, because they are low paid. Loving God, we pray for the coming of your kingdom when all will be rewarded for their labours with generosity.
We pray for those who are looking for jobs, for those who work in job centres, and for all who offer careers advice, help and support. Loving God, we pray for the coming of your kingdom
when all will be valued for who they are rather than for what they do.
We pray for those in dangerous jobs: for the emergency services, for all whose work brings them close to real dangers every day, and for all who have been injured through their work,
or whose health has been adversely affected. Loving God, we pray for the coming of your kingdom when all will be safe and secure and will be healed and made whole in you.
Hear our prayers, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**
**HYMN**Take my life and let it be <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf11rReeWIs>

Lord, send us to work in your vineyard. May we be willing, may we be contented,
and may we be productive for you. **Amen.**

