



Chet Valley Churches
Last Sunday Praise
25 April 2021



Welcome

Welcome to Last Sunday Praise. In this file you will find links to the songs we have chosen for our worship. Click on the links to take you to each song.

Introduction

We hope it won't be too long before we can sing in church again, but in the meantime Last Sunday Praise is here for you on screen. We have celebrated Easter, when the big stone was rolled away from the tomb and Jesus rose from the dead. The theme for this month is Rock. After a year of so much uncertainty it feels good to follow a solid theme for our praises, knowing that God is constant and dependable. So let's take some time to praise and worship God who is the same yesterday, today and for ever. We'll start with a well-known hymn.

♪♪ All the songs link to YouTube. Just click with your mouse on the link, which will take you to a song with on-screen words. You may have to skip a few YouTube adverts if we have chosen songs that are not currently on the Chet Valley Churches YouTube channel.

♪♪ **Christ is made the sure foundation**

<https://youtu.be/W5Jz8xYiGM8>

♪♪ **My Jesus, my Saviour**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr78ff70XKQ>

♪♪ **When I was lost**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCoinlk0s48>

Pause for thought, and prayer...

There are so many options and choices in our lives! From the moment we wake up in the morning we are required to make decisions of various levels of significance. There are not many things that are absolute. Yet one of the most important things about our Christian faith is that God is absolute – he is unchanging, and he hears our prayers whether or not we feel that we are close to him.

The Collect is a special prayer written for each day. Perhaps you might read the prayer aloud, line by line, stopping to think about each line as you do so.

The Collect—A Special Prayer for the Day

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

♪♪ All heaven declares

<https://youtu.be/bLAOYZHuV6U>

♪♪ How deep the Father's love for us

<https://youtu.be/TQ5kqQ359E4>

♪ Faithful One

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

Pause for thought, and prayer...

God's love is all-encompassing. We have sung that the whole of heaven declares his glory, and we have sung that his love is immeasurably deep. Just thinking about that is a springboard for praise! But we all have times when we don't feel like praising, or we find prayer difficult. At times like that we need to hold on to God's promises because we know them to be true, and to accept that our feelings can sometimes be very fickle.

Perhaps you might like to ponder the following prayer.

A prayer for our lives

Heavenly Father,

Forgive us for the times when we grumble about small hardships,

forgive us for the times when we expect everything to be about joy and blame you for the times when we're sad,

forgive us for the fears and troubles that eat away at us, yet we sometimes fail to bring to you,

forgive us for forgetting how much you've done for us and how much you love us.

Help us to be Easter people, living in the strength and joy of the resurrection and in the knowledge of your amazing love,

🎵 **Cornerstone**

<https://youtu.be/BHzlxSuHtqs>

🎵 **Here is love vast as the ocean**

<https://youtu.be/MbZeHNkT9Ic>

Bible Reading

Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- ² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
- ³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
- ⁴ Yet their voice^[b] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- ⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
- ⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.
- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
- ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,

enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth
and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer

Talk

David Owen has written this reflection.

The year before I needed to choose which A levels to take my school appointed a new Geography teacher to the staff. However his passion wasn't just for geography but also geology. And so in the 6th form a new subject was added to the choices available - Geology A level. So, along with studying Chemistry and Maths, I joined the first group of students at my school to study Geology. Which I loved. Perhaps it was the thought of field trips to the coast of Wales or to Arran that appealed but whatever it was it made an impression so that I continued to

study it for my degree. Whereupon I was able to enjoy field trips to other parts of Scotland as well as the Lake District and a whole summer mapping a small part of Anglesey. The field trips gave us an insight into the rocks that make up the British Isles.

Rocks can be classified into three categories. Igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Each having been formed in a different way.

Igneous rocks are those formed from molten lava the product of fire from the belly of the earth - the fiery core which is at the centre of the planet. Scientifically not the same as the story created by Jules Verne in which an adventurous geology professor chances upon a manuscript in which a 16th-century explorer claims to have found a route to the earth's core. Professor Lidenbrock can't resist the opportunity to investigate, and with his nephew Axel, he sets off across Iceland in the company of Hans Bjelke, a native guide. The expedition descends into an extinct volcano... A fantastic story but ...

Sedimentary rocks are created by the slow compaction of eroded pieces of other rocks or shells such that they form a new type of rock.

Metamorphic rocks are those which are made when either igneous or sedimentary rocks are either subjected to extreme heat or put under pressure.

Each type of course has its uses - but they will be different. Trying to use one type out of place might be calamitous. A sedimentary rock like sandstone or mudstone would not provide as solid a base as an igneous rock like granite or basalt if one is building on it.

Yet..... the expression "rock solid" indicates that there is strength and substance to rock which clearly isn't present in shifting sands or squelchy mud! And that picture of firmness,

solidity, is the one which is conveyed throughout Scripture about the nature of God and of those on whom one can depend.

David, the psalmist, found his life quite turbulent. A shepherd boy plucked to be king. His encounter with the giant Philistine, Goliath, has him using a stone - a piece of rock - as his weapon of choice. So possibly that was in his mind when he frequently writes about God being a rock. In 2 Samuel 22. 1-2 it is written: "David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

'The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.' " God provides the necessary security to him. The concept of God being a rock comes throughout the Psalms. Ps 18.1-3; Ps 62.7-8; Ps 144.1-3 and especially in Ps 19.14: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." A verse which is very familiar to me since it was recited, in Welsh, at the beginning of nearly every sermon in the chapel as I was growing up! The prophet Isaiah (Is. 17.10) chastises the people of Israel because they "... have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not remembered the Rock of your refuge.."

O Lord my rock - What a comfort. What a support. Here is an assurance that no matter what we are encountering in our daily lives there is One who is solid and secure. One who will provide a refuge in times of distress; One who will not crumble away. That's the God in whom we can trust and rely on.

♪♪ **Rock of Ages**

<https://youtu.be/cv4qQgiO5fQ>

Time for prayer...

Let's take time to pray for:

- The people we live amongst – family, neighbours, friends far or near, acquaintances
- Our national leaders who make decisions that directly affect all of us
- Our church leaders seeking to find a way to enable the church to reconnect face-to-face and yet to preserve the lessons we have learned during lockdown
- Members of church congregations tackling their own decisions about life and faith
- People we know who are still struggling as a result of Covid, either socially or economically or because of long term effects on their health
- Those who are ill, or who have lost touch with society following isolation and are afraid to venture out
- Those who are fearful of the future
- Ourselves, that we might be brave enough to stand out as people of faith and not fall into discouragement

And a prayer about God as our rock:

Dear God,

In a year when so much has been uncertain,
you are the rock on which we build our lives.

Help us to cling to you,

Safe in the knowledge that you will never let us down.

Help us to trust you every day of our lives.

You might want to pray aloud the prayer that Jesus taught his first disciples. Use whatever version or language you wish!

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

♪♪ **I will offer up my life**

<https://youtu.be/5tYEO0DXclE>

♪♪ **Today**

<https://youtu.be/Hho7TvFXXIE>

♪♪ **Rejoice, rejoice**

https://youtu.be/g6HA9G_hxHg

A blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.
Amen

And here's a song that's fun, but has a serious message too:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu5bBDRpzPM>