

# The Salvation Army

# **B** **SCOMBE**

Palmerston Road  
[www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk)

Sunday 10 January 2021

Recorded Morning Worship led by  
Majors David and Jane Alton



At 6pm this evening  
why not join us for  
our Prayer and  
Praise Meeting  
(details on page 2)



To KNOW Christ ~ To LIVE Christ ~ To SHARE Christ

# **BOSCOMBE CORPS NEWS**

## **Prayer Requests**

We have a number of our corps family who need our prayers at the moment for various reasons:

- 🙏 Please pray for Joy Cox who is going into Royal Bournemouth Hospital for surgery this week.
- 🙏 Please pray for Rex Mead, Janet Chapman and Major Georgina Atkinson
- 🙏 Please pray for any you know who are facing difficult circumstances relating to employment, health or relationships.
- 🙏 Pray for those who live alone and for many of the older members of the congregation who are finding this time particularly difficult.

## **Call to Worship**

As we are now moving forward into another period of lockdown and continuing with recorded online services, we are looking for volunteers to be part of our Sunday worship. So if you would like to read from the scriptures, lead us in prayer, share your testimony or perform a musical item we would love to hear from you.



## **Prayer and Praise Zoom Meeting**

The details for the Prayer and Praise Zoom Meeting are:

Meeting ID: 922 2182 7918

Passcode: 686618

## **Job Advert**

We are currently recruiting a Community Project Manager for the BH1 Project. Job descriptions and application forms can be found at <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/jobs>. Closing date is 17 January.

## Questions to consider based on today's sermon

1. When Abraham faithfully set out with God, he exercised huge trust in this unexpected and strange voice of God, different from any of his expectations. He is applauded by Paul for his believing in this covenant call (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3). How do we learn to hear and discern the strange voice of God? How often do we act upon it?
2. In contrast to Abraham, the people of Israel had been miraculously and dramatically delivered from captivity in Israel 'on eagles' wings' (Exodus 19:4) as the foundation of their covenant call. What are some of your experiences of God's faithfulness that should give us confidence to step out with him under his love and protection?
3. If God's covenant of love with us is an everlasting and unfailing love (*hesed*), then what obstacles might there be to this covenant reality being fully alive and active in us, and what can we do about them?



## PRAYER MATTERS

**Monday 11 January 2021** – (NSB874) (please read Romans 12:6 and 2 Corinthians 12:9) The story's told, in UCB Word for Today, of a man who went to hear a great speaker and ended up seated beside the speaker's wife. During the talk, the man noticed that the great speaker had monogrammed socks. Intrigued by this, he looked closer and saw that instead of the usual two or three initials were the letters 'TGIF'. When the talk was over he complimented the speaker, then turned to the speaker's wife and said, 'How come your husband's socks say TGIF: Thank Goodness It's Friday?' She replied, 'Oh, that's not what those letters mean; the monograms are there to help him get dressed. They stand for Toes Go In First!' Now the Bible teaches that God gives each of us certain gifts, and the grace to use them... Grace for the areas of our gifting, and Grace for the areas in which we're not gifted at all!! As long as you live you will soar in some areas and struggle in others. And we will find that God's grace is sufficient for any challenge we face.

**Tuesday 12 January** – (NSB325) *Lord, You know that I don't always radiate intense gladness! Please give me the gift of deep joy, so that my life may be a support and inspiration to others. Amen. (LL)*

**Wednesday 13 January** – (NSB93) *'Sometimes I feel as if I'm invisible. But I SO want God to use me.'* Ann was tidying up the gym at the hotel I was visiting when we struck up a conversation. As we talked, I discovered she had an amazing story. 'I used to be a crack addict and prostitute living on the streets', she said. 'But I knew God wanted me to put down my pipe and walk with Him. One day years ago I knelt at Jesus' feet, and He set me free.' I thanked Ann for sharing what God had done for her and assured her she wasn't invisible – He had used her in our conversation in a beautiful way to remind me of

His power to transform lives. God loves to use people others might overlook, and He can use us powerfully wherever we are – even when no-one is looking. *Father, use me to make a difference wherever I am.* (James Banks ODB)

**Thursday 14 January** – (NSB490) *Give thanks for the truth that nobody is beyond redemption through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Pray for people who maybe consider themselves too bad to be accepted by God, to discover His infinite mercy and grace.* (CARE)

**Friday 15 January** – The ‘old ones’ have such Power in these difficult times!... v1. *Tell me, is there a place where the lone and the weary may come with their burden and find ease from pain? Tell me, is there a place where the careworn and anxious may bring their anxiety, find Peace again? Chorus: HERE is the place for the lifting of burdens, HERE is the place of freedom from care; HERE is the place where the sinner finds pardon, HERE is the place where God answers prayer!...(continued)*

**Saturday 16 January** – v2. *Tell me, is there a place where the one who has wandered may come with their wretchedness, burdened with shame. Tell me is there a place where the one who has squandered his treasure in pleasure may know Peace again? Chorus...*

**Sunday 17 January** – v3. *Tell me, is there a place where the penitent sinner may come with his wrong and full pardon receive? Yes, there is a place, and there the God of all comfort will answer all prayers if you will but believe! Chorus: HERE is the place for the lifting of burdens, HERE is the place of freedom from care; HERE is the place where the sinner finds pardon, HERE is the place where God answers prayer!* (beautiful, timeless words and music written by Colonel E H Joy and is page 82 of Vocal Solos No.1). Pray for those you know who need to seek and find Jesus Christ.

# Worship and Word



**Sunday 10 January 2021**

This act of worship has been prepared for use at home and follows the service posted on the Boscombe Salvation Army YouTube channel and corps website. Spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

**Welcome and Prayers**

Major Jane Alton

**Song 581 SASB:** Father, let me dedicate

Father, let me dedicate  
This new year to Thee,  
In whatever worldly state  
Thou wilt have me be;  
Not from sorrow, pain, or care  
Would I ask that Thou shouldst spare;  
This alone shall be my prayer,  
Glorify Thy name.

*Thy great name! Thy great name!  
Let my life, O Lord, each day  
Glorify Thy name.*

If in mercy Thou wilt spare  
Joys that yet are mine,  
If on life serene and fair  
Brighter rays may shine,  
Let my glad heart, while it sings,  
Rise by faith's exultant wings,  
And, whate'er the future brings,  
Glorify Thy name.

If Thou callest to the cross,  
And its shadow come  
Turning all my gain to loss,  
Shrouding heart and home,  
Let me think how Thy dear Son  
His eternal glory won,  
And in steadfast faith pray on:  
Glorify Thy name.

Lawrence Tuttiett

## **Introduction to Methodist Covenant Prayer**

Major David Alton

## **Methodist Covenant Prayer**

Lynne Allcock

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing,

put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you,

or laid aside for you,

exalted for you,

or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'

John Wesley

## **COR Worship Collective: I am yours**

(Song based on Methodist Covenant Prayer)

**Bible reading:** Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

Major Maureen Hunt

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you."

**Song 489 SASB:** Dear Lord, I lift my heart to Thee

Dear Lord, I lift my heart to Thee,  
My helplessness I own;  
The way before I cannot see,  
I dare not walk alone.

More clearly would I realize  
Thy presence and Thy power,  
Not only under summer skies,  
But in the darkest hour.

Not only when I sense Thee near  
Art Thou most surely nigh,  
Nor hast Thou, Lord, a quicker ear  
Because my faith is high.

My changing moods do not control  
Thy covenanted aid;  
Thou hast the guarding of my soul,  
And I am not afraid.

So often in the pleasant place  
Our faith depends on sight;  
The temper of my trust must face  
Its trial in the night.

Then quietness and confidence  
And waiting on the Lord  
Shall be my strength, my sure defence,  
And peace be my reward.

John Izzard

**Bible reading:** Exodus 19:1-8 (NIV)

Dario Atkinson

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup>After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup>So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. <sup>8</sup>The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

### **Freewill Offering**

**Boscombe Songsters:** God of my Praise

**Message**

Major David Alton

Last Sunday, in an exploration of ‘Vision & Commitment’ the Territorial Commander considered the significance of covenant in the Old & New Testaments and how God’s covenant with humanity is fulfilled in Jesus.

The Old Testament includes examples of God's covenanting with Noah, Joshua and King David as well as re-affirmations of original covenants. **The** definitive covenant is with Israel, through Moses, in the giving of the Ten Commandments and the setting up of the Ark of the Covenant with its Tabernacle. It's a covenant well summed up by Jeremiah:

*'I will be your God and you shall be my people' (Jeremiah 7:23).*

Going even further back in time, in a covenant with Abraham, God makes both a personal promise to Abraham and the universal promise to bless all humankind through his descendants. Abraham's obedience and trust in God is his part of the agreement.

God's covenants with Abraham and with Moses reflect both his promise to humankind and his commitment to us.

Covenant with Israel through Moses has 3 key ideas:

God asks Moses to remind the people who have been rescued from Egypt,

*'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself' (v4).*

This image of being carried to God on eagles' wings is compelling and reassuring, as Isaiah rightly reminds us:

*'those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint' (Is 40:31)*

It also underlines the initiative that God takes in choosing us first.

'Everlasting' is one of those words that advertisers use that isn't always accurate – Everlasting gobstoppers, everlasting batteries, everlasting guarantee. Eventually all of those disappoint. But with God, it's different – He speaks of 'an everlasting covenant', no 'use by' or expiry date, small print conclusion clause. There is a significant difference between the idea of a 'contract' and a 'covenant'. A contract may be broken and dissolved, and of course humankind proves

unfaithful in its covenant with God. Yet God's covenant commitment is everlasting, and he cannot forsake his faithfulness, it's part of his character, as 2 Timothy

2:13 reminds us

*“if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself”*

2 Timothy 2:13 expresses the concept of God's covenant love or in Hebrew 'Hesed' – variously translated, *loving-kindness, steadfast love, loyal love, unfailing love*. It repeatedly sums up this covenant commitment of God's love and is the closest thing in the OT to the NT understanding of grace.

Again, it is Isaiah who clearly captures the reality:

*“Though the mountains be shaken, and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love (hesed) for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you’ (Isaiah 54:10).*

This reassurance is spoken to an unfaithful Israel, in exile. Doesn't this whole Covid lockdown thing feel a little like an exile experience, we are exiled from our normal, usual lives and the way we remember and want things to be. Even as our mountains are shaken, God says that he is there with us.

While God's covenant is everlasting and faithful, it's designed to be a relationship in which we as God's people declare our love & humble obedience to our King, finding in him our life & fulness. God says to Moses,

*‘Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession’ (Exodus 19:5).*

God's covenant with Israel through Moses is accompanied by the giving of the Ten Commandments, which are to define the character and the conduct of God's people, enabling them to be different from all other peoples and nations of the world. Historical study shows just how radically different these expectations were from any other known

religion or polytheism in the surrounding nations, in worshipping one living God with no other idols or gods.

At the end of December Jane and I were privileged to conduct the wedding of Danni and Tom. Amidst COVID restrictions this couple expressed their commitment to each other through a holy covenant of love.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams wrote:

**'Marriage has a unique place because it speaks of an absolute faithfulness, a covenant between radically different persons; and so, it echoes the absolute covenant of God with his chosen, a covenant between radically different partners.'**

Ultimately the people of God, in covenant with him, were being called to grow into the very character of the God who chose and called them, set apart for him and holy. God said to Moses,

*'Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation' (Exodus 19:5,6).*

When the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek, the Hebrew word for covenant was translated as 'testament', meaning 'the evidence of a specified fact'.

The covenant people of God are called to bear witness to their King, in word and deed, to show evidence that he is at work in them and, in the world, through them.

A *'kingdom of priests'* mediates or at least signifies God to the world, and so bears witness to who God is and what God expects. Equally a *'holy nation'* is a people set apart, who as such give clear testimony to the nature and character of God.

In our focus on holiness, it's easy to get stuck on what we don't do (the negative aspect of holiness) rather than what we do (the positive aspect of holiness)!

If God's covenant love, 'hesed', speaks of constant, unfailing love and forgiveness, then the character of our holiness in the world is to be known fully for our actively generous, sacrificial, merciful and unfailing

love, as the people of this holy King. That is what we do, and who we are called to be.

While the Israelites' journey as a covenanted people reveals disobedience and seasons of questioning their destiny, God keeps his covenant. He is faithful, just and merciful no matter how the people behave.

God is unchanging, and our responsibility to obey him does not change despite our failures or change because of the circumstances we find ourselves in.

When Abraham faithfully and courageously set out on his journey with God, and believed the promises of God for his life, his family, his descendants and his future, it was with a very dim and rather smoky view of what this meant.

We too, are learning to navigate and journey through unknown territory and we too need to trust in God's Covenant promise.

In contrast to Abraham, in God's covenant with Israel through Moses we see a much fuller flowering of God's character and intent, to be ultimately superseded and fulfilled hundreds of years later in the hopes of the prophets and the reality of Jesus.

We already know this New Covenant relationship with God through the crucified risen Jesus. *As a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*, we press on living out the 'hesed' love of God in who we are, who we are called to be and what we do.

**Reflection:** Faithful God, so unchanging

Faithful one, so unchanging  
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace  
Lord of all I depend on you  
I call out to you, again and again  
I call out to you, again and again  
You are my rock in times of trouble  
You lift me up when I fall down  
All through the storm  
Your love is, the anchor  
My hope is in You alone

Brian Doerksen

**Song 26 SASB:** Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]  
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas Chisholm

**Benediction**

**Exit Music**

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