**A Service to Celebrate the Return of Public Worship at**

**The United Church Warminster**

*Call to Worship – Psalm 100*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
**come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;

**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

**Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever,
**and his faithfulness to all generations.**

*Prayer of Approach*

**Gracious God, you are our host and guest. We gather today, in your house,**

**knowing that you are with us.**

**As you welcome us, help us to be a welcoming community.**

**Send your Spirit to blow through our worship as a breeze blows through the open windows of a long-closed house.**

**Amen**

**STF 57***We listen to the music*

**Let all the world in every corner sing,**
"My God and King!"
The heavens are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
God's praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

*Prayer of Praise*

God of creation, Source of all being

the heavens declare your glory
and the earth is your handiwork.

For the diverse beauty of all you have made;

**we offer you our praise.**

God of salvation, Eternal Word,

you came amongst your people,

and made yourself vulnerable

becoming one like us.

**we offer you our praise.**

God of life, Holy Spirit,

you move in the church and in the world,

calling the least and the lost

into a deeper fellowship of love.

**we offer you our praise.**

**God of all grace,**

**Accept our praise, and help us to live as your people in the world. Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Let us confess our sins,

trusting in God’s mercy and forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

For those times when we have lost sight of your love,

despairing for ourselves and the world

**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

For those times when we have lost perspective,

putting our own concerns before the needs of your world.

**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

For those times when we have taken for granted

the gifts that you have given to us.

**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

For those times when we have chosen to ignore injustice,

and neglected those in need.

**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

*Declaration of forgiveness*

God has heard our confession,

loves us still and, through Christ,

offers healing and a new beginning.

Hear then, Christ’s gracious words:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

An Act of Re-commitment

On this first Sunday when we are enabled to worship in our Church, together we pray the words of the Prayer of Commitmentas we remember that the church is not simply the building, but that it includes each of us.

**Enable this church to do your will;**

**Make it vulnerable that it may speak with calm humility;**

**Make it outward looking that it may care deeply;**

**Make it a community of peacemakers and bridge builders;**

**In the midst of turbulence let the church make space for the hearing of your still small voice. Amen**

*Delia Shephard*

**STF 20:**

**Be still for the presence of the Lord**
The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 9.12-17 – God’s rainbow covenant.

Gospel

John 20.19-29 Jesus appears to his disciples.

A Brief Reflection

STF 78

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

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Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us

*Prayers of Intercession*

Gracious God,

You care for all that you have made,

hear us now as we offer our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

For all in authority, we pray,

remembering those who bear the heavy weight of responsibility.
We think of those whose decisions affect many lives,
in our villages, towns and cities,
in our counties and in our countries.
We pray that they may have wisdom, strength and humility.

God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For all your church, we pray,

remembering the body of Christ throughout the world.

As we give thanks that we are free to worship here today,

we remember those who cannot gather, among them those who live with ongoing restrictions and those who know the danger of persecution.

We know that many churches will struggle to continue, following these months of closure and we pray for wisdom and discernment as we work out how to be your church in the future.

God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For all in need, we pray,

remembering those who are ill in homes and in hospital.

We give thanks for the NHS, for all health and social care professionals, cleaners and caterers and so many others who help to bring healing and comfort.

We give thanks for volunteers and all who serve their neighbours, offering care.

We pray that those who give their time and skill to serve others might be protected and be given your peace and strength.

God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For all who grieve, we pray,
remembering those who have not been able to mourn in the way that they would wish,
and those who have not been able to say goodbye.
We hold before you all who have died,

remembering that each person is made in your image.

Help us to remember that you are the God of resurrection and in you we find hope and new life.

God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

All our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we offer to God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**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.**

**STF 545**

**Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;**
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

*Blessing and Dismissal*

The blessing of God,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**

**We go into the world**

**to walk in God’s light,**

**to rejoice in God’s love**

**and to reflect God’s glory. Amen.**

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