**Sunday 15th May 2022 ‘At Home’ Worship**

**What Next?**

(Sourced from Roots worship resources)

**Call to worship**

All around us new life is emerging,
though we may not see it yet.
All around us, God makes things new.
Let us open our eyes and see –
see the new things God is doing,
see God at work in and among us!

**A gathering prayer**

God of our past, present and future,
help us to see you at work in your creation –
as flowers lift their heads to the sun,
or trees shake their leaves.
Help us to see you at work in our daily lives,
in our routines and choices,
in our growing and our changing.
Help us to see you at work in all things.
In Jesus’ name.
**Amen.**

**First impressions**



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | For artist's details, see [this issue's illustrators.](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2022/119-may-june-2022-c/issue-119-illustrators) |

 **Questions for the image**

* What might the colourful brick-like elements of this Revelation window symbolise?
* What glimpses of heaven do you see in the world around us?
* How do we make heaven on earth a possibility?

**Song : Dear Lord and Father of Mankind** [Dear Lord and Father of Mankind - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0)

John G Whittier

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper rev’rence, praise.
2. O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!
3. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.
4. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small Voice of calm.
5. In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

**Saying Sorry to God**

Lord, you give us life.
But there are times we don’t live life the way you wish us to.
When pain has us in its grip, we may give in to the gloom of pessimism.
Forgive us when we see only the gloomy downside of situations.
Forgive us when circumstances take over and moaning is easier than fighting.
Dark times sap our strength and courage and blind us to your light.
Renew our strength to fight our way into your healing light.
**Forgive us and rekindle the light of hope in these times, Lord, that all shall be well.**
**Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

Through the blood of the Lamb, we are forgiven and cleansed.
Let us praise God for his Son, the Lamb,
who through the cross paid the price for our sins.
Thanks be to the Lamb of God.
**Amen.**

**Prayer for the Day**

Risen Christ,

your wounds declare your love for the world

and the wonder of your risen life:

give us compassion and courage

to risk ourselves for those we serve,

to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

**Bible passages**

**Revelation 21:1-6** **New International Version**

### A New Heaven and a New Earth

**21**Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21%3A1-6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31055a)] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2**I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4**‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21%3A1-6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31058b)] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

**5**He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**6**He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

## Reflection

##

**Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication**

**Children may like to do the activity sheet**

Do you watch BBC’s The Repair Shop? Lots of people do – it is one of the most watched TV programmes of recent years. People are fascinated to see old and battered objects – usually well past their best – transformed by the skill and loving care of the craftspeople who work on them. They often speak about preserving as much as possible of the original. But it is hard to see how the thing can be restored because it seems so far gone! And yet…we inevitably see a remarkable transformation. ‘See, I am making things new’ could be the show’s catchphrase! What was and is becomes something renewed, made new.

But, of course, it is not just the objects themselves. There is often a real emotional pull in the backstories and the memories associated with the objects. And the transformation of the object gives new life to these stories too – and to the people who share them. Grandmother or grandfather’s story will be told with renewed passion and passed on to another generation. What was and is and will be.

This is something like the vision of Revelation, especially the part we heard today. The writer, John, sees all things being renewed. The world of the past and the present day is replaced by a new world in which heaven comes to earth. God lives among his people. God will be present and provide all things to his people. Knowing the past and living the present gives great hope to John’s view of the future.

But it isn’t all about the future. It is the same God who ‘was’ (God of Abraham, of Moses, of the prophets, and was with us in Jesus), who ‘is’ now. Who is God of, and God with us in, the present. Our lives matter in the here and now, and our work and worship are – at least in part – about us seeking to bring the future into the present, to make it real now. So, our task is not only to follow Jesus to the holy city, but to rebuild the city where we are, making the kingdom come everywhere and for all.

## **Song: Praise is Rising**

## [Hosanna Praise is Rising | Maranatha! Music (Lyric Video) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioL62cqH3iM) [Brenton Brown](https://www.bing.com/search?q=Brenton+Brown&filters=ufn%3a%22Brenton+Brown%22+sid%3a%22488476fe-55b1-29e4-34bb-09d1b24be396%22&FORM=SNAPST)

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

*'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away*

*Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises*

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your kingdom broken lives are made new
You make all things new

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus Yeah*

## ****We pray for others****

## We pray, dear God,for places where there is division and for countries in the gripof civil war...may your Holy Spirit bring peace;for countries where there is religious persecution…may your Holy Spirit bring unity;for towns and cities where gang warfare brings fear…may your Holy Spirit bring hope;for communities where there is inequality…may your Holy Spirit bring dignity;for workplaces where there is insecurity…may your Holy Spirit bring confidence;for homes where there is brokenness…may your Holy Spirit bring healing;for churches where there is dilemma…may your holy Spirit bring life:to your glory.****Amen.****

## **Song: I the lord of sea and sky** [I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord - 3vv+refrain) [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zr9SMm1glI)

## I, the Lord of sea and sky,I have heard My people cry.All who dwell in dark and sin,My hand will save.I who made the stars of night,I will make their darkness bright.Who will bear My light to them?Whom shall I send?Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?I have heard You calling in the night.I will go Lord, if You lead me.I will hold Your people in my heartI, the Lord of snow and rain,I have born my peoples pain.I have wept for love of them, They turn away.I will break their hearts of stone,Give them hearts for love alone.I will speak My word to them,Whom shall I send?Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?I have heard You calling in the night.I will go Lord, if You lead me.I will hold Your people in my heart.I, the Lord of wind and flame,I will tend the poor and lame.I will set a feast for them,My hand will saveFinest bread I will provide,Till their hearts be satisfied.I will give My life to them,Whom shall I send?Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?I have heard You calling in the night.I will go Lord, if You lead me.I will hold Your people in my heart

## A sending out prayer

God, who is Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end of all things,
you know our past – the burdens we carry.
We know that you will wipe away every tear
and make all things new –
though we cannot always see the work you are doing,
help us to learn from the past,
live in the present,
and hope for the future.
In all of life’s joys and sadnesses,
may we love one another as you love us.
**Amen.**

 

All music and digital material covered by the following licences:

HTS – CCL & MRL 21033, Streaming 930014, CVL 640919, PPL 1641113, CLA 640902, PRS 640892

SMLT – CCL & MRL 42256, Streaming 930111, PPL 1660620, CLA 2119754, PRS 148198

Prayers and reflections © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2021. Reproduced with permission