



# BASINGSTOKE SALVATION ARMY

q u a r a n t i n e   w o r s h i p

**Sunday 17 May 2020**

## **The Pursuit of Joy and Happiness**

Join us online if you can at 11am. Website: <http://www.christianworldmedia.com/livesite/BasingstokeSalvationArmy>.

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/BasingstokeSalvationArmy/live](https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeSalvationArmy/live).

YouTube - [www.youtube.com/robwestwoodpayne/live](https://www.youtube.com/robwestwoodpayne/live).

Listen on any phone – dial 01256 679888 (from around three hours after the service).

## **Song – Joyful, joyful we adore thee**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of Glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Hail thee as the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the clouds of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and Heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Centre of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Blossoming meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest.  
Thou the Father, Christ our brother?  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father-love is reigning o'er us,  
Brother-love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music lifts us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

*Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)*

## **A Prayer for the Church in the world**

Jesus said, 'In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me; because I live, you will live.' O living God, help us to see you and welcome you. As you live, so may we your people be faithful to the Gospel. Paul said, 'I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship...' Loving God, give us a sensitivity to the peoples, cultures and traditions which surround us, slow to judge, not quick to condemn. Paul made a discovery. 'I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an Unknown God". What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.' Loving God, help us not to be timid or afraid of engaging with the world around us. Give us the confidence we have in the living God to proclaim in words, ideas, and acts of loving service, the good news of great joy: Christ the Lord is risen indeed, and with us now. Luke notes, 'Some scorned; others said, "we will hear you again about this". Others joined and became believers.' Loving God, help us not to be discouraged when we are laughed at; nor irritated with bursts of enthusiasm followed by disinterest and apathy. Help us not to swamp the joyful respondent with a smothering welcome either! But help us always to hold our arms wide in welcome to everyone, that through us they might see your healing, reconciling love at work in the world and in us. **Amen.**

## **Bible Reading: Acts 17:16-34 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city.<sup>17</sup>He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.<sup>18</sup>He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, "What's this babbling trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some

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foreign gods.”<sup>19</sup> Then they took him to the high council of the city.<sup>[a]</sup> “Come and tell us about this new teaching,” they said.<sup>20</sup> “You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it’s all about.”<sup>21</sup> (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.)<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing before the council,<sup>[a]</sup> addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way,<sup>23</sup> for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.<sup>24</sup> “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples,<sup>25</sup> and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.<sup>26</sup> From one man<sup>[a]</sup> he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.<sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.<sup>28</sup> For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your<sup>[a]</sup> own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’<sup>29</sup> And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.<sup>30</sup> “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.<sup>31</sup> For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”<sup>32</sup> When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.”<sup>33</sup> That ended Paul’s discussion with them,<sup>34</sup> but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council,<sup>[a]</sup> a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

### Song – Though tears may fall

My song will rise to You  
Though my heart may fail my song will rise  
My song will rise to You  
While there's breath in my lungs  
I will praise you Lord

*The joy of the Lord is my strength  
The joy of the Lord is my strength  
In the darkness I'll dance  
In the shadows I'll sing  
The joy of the Lord is my strength*

4 How You shine with glory Lord of light  
I feel alive with You  
In Your presence now I come alive  
I am alive with You  
There is strength when I say  
I will praise You Lord

2 In the dead of night I'll lift my eyes  
I'll lift my eyes to You  
Though the waters rise I'll lift my eyes  
I'll lift my eyes to You  
While there's hope in this heart  
I will praise You Lord

3 When I cannot see You with my eyes  
Let faith arise to You  
When I cannot feel Your hand in mine  
Let faith arise to You  
God of mercy and love  
I will praise You Lord

When sorrow comes my way  
You are the shield around me  
Always You remain  
My courage in the fight  
I hear You call my name  
Jesus I am coming  
Walking on the waves  
Reaching for Your light

*Rend Collective Experiment*

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## quarantine worship

### **Bible Message: The Pursuit of Joy and Happiness**

#### **Is religion finished?**

People are seeking after a religious faith that will help them feel happy, that will help them feel they are enough, but they're looking in the wrong places.

#### **Meeting people on their way to God**

Paul spots something about the Athenians. In his deep distress he sees them not as far away from God, but as on the way to God:

#### **Acts 17:22–23 NLT**

So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.

Paul meets the Athenians where they are on their journey towards God and encourages them to keep looking. He even reaches into the Athenian’s own libraries quoting Greek poets Epimenides and Aratus:

#### **Acts 17:28 NLT**

For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

#### **Jesus Christ puts other “gods” into perspective**

##### **Acts 17:30–31 NLT**

“God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

This is the “controlling story” in David Dark’s words, for human life, found in the Bible. Jesus Christ is the one who provides the happiness – the enoughness – we seek:

#### **Colossians 1:17 NLT**

He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

The story of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ puts all our other gods into perspective.

#### **Demonstrate the difference Christ makes in your life**

Rather than worrying whether the Christian church is on its way out, like Paul, we need to begin where those around us are, seeking as we do for our happiness and enoughness and telling our families, friends, neighbours and work colleagues how Jesus Christ has impacted our lives and the lives of our comrades. Everyone you know is religious about something. May God help you to tell them of your faith that has enough for them. We’re going to remind ourselves that Jesus is enough for us as a way of framing our story for others as we sing:

#### **Song – All I once held dear**

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres, and wars to own,  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this:

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,  
There is no greater thing.  
You’re my all, you’re the best,  
You’re my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord.*

*(After last chorus)  
Love you, Lord.*



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2 Now my heart's desire is to know you more,  
To be found in you and known as yours,  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.

3 O, to know the power of your risen life,  
And to know you in your sufferings,  
To become like you in your death, my Lord,  
So with you to live and never die.

*Graham Kendrick*

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### Song – God's soldier marches as to war

God's soldier marches as to war,  
A soldier on an alien shore,  
A soldier true, a soldier who  
Will keep the highest aims in view.  
God's soldier goes where sin is found;  
Where evil reigns, his battleground;  
A cunning foe to overthrow  
And strike for truth a telling blow.

*We're going to fill, fill, fill the world with glory;  
We're going to smile, smile, smile and not frown;  
We're going to sing, sing, sing the gospel story;  
We're going to turn the world upside down.*

2 God's soldier has to stand alone,  
Accepting burdens not his own;  
A lonely work he cannot shirk,  
Where dark and deadly dangers lurk.  
God's soldier must courageous be,  
And from his duties never flee,  
For millions wait, whose need is great,  
And he must not God's plan frustrate.

*Harry Read*

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### Song – The Blessing

The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His  
Face toward you  
And give you peace  
Amen, amen, amen

May His favor be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
And your family and your children  
And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you  
And behind you, and beside you  
All around you, and within you  
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening  
In your coming, and your going  
In your weeping, and rejoicing  
He is for you, He is for you

*Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick*

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