**Holy habits – Worship: Week 3**

Church services are normally the focus of our weekly worship.  This may be especially so during Holy Week and over Easter, when we explore the height, depth, length and breadth of Jesus’s love for us. For many of us it may have been especially strange not to go to church last weekend, and to miss our shared celebrations on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

But what we do in church has only ever been part of our worship of God.  We can praise God wherever we are, and whatever we are doing.  The problem is that away from church and like-minded people, and in the midst of the ups and downs of everyday life, we can so easily lose our focus on God.  Part of the challenge we now face, in social distancing or isolating, is to continue to focus on God.  How can we do this?  The beauty of nature at this time of year, and the love of friends and family are wonderful places to start reconnecting with God.  We can also find inspiration in some well-known hymns.

George Herbert, in 1633, wrote:

*Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see*

*And what I do in anything, to do it as for thee.*

*A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine,*

*Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws, makes that and the action fine.*

Horatius Bonar, in the 19th century, continued the theme:

*Fill thou my life, o Lord my God, in every part with praise,*

*That my whole being may proclaim thy being and thy ways.*

*Praise in the common things of life, its goings out and in,*

*Praise in each duty and each deed, however small and mean.*

At present our ‘goings out and in’ are much reduced.  Most of us are limited to the common things of life.  Can we find ways to praise God in the small everyday tasks, of cooking and cleaning, of texting, emailing and washing the dishes?  Be sure that God is with us as much in our homes, and in our daily chores, as he ever is in church.  May you know the blessing of his presence this week.

*Produced by John Wilkins on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*