

Several years ago, Openshaw Baptist Tabernacle took the decision to hold its church meetings during our communal worship. The distinction between 'business' and 'worship' seems, to us, an artificial one. All our business, all our busy-ness is at the service of the mission of proclaiming and building God's Shalom on earth as it is in heaven.

My presentation is in the form of a 'poemprayer.' A prayer which uses the language of poetry to open itself up to the wild, restless spirit of God who will interpret even our very groans. A poem which uses the attitude of prayer to offer thoughts, images and ideas to God.

Tim Presswood

God who has a dream
a thread runs
from Carlisle to Crewe
a ribbon weaves
from Holyhead to Hazel Grove
connecting
tying
binding
knotting
knitting
your people into an
unbreakable
circle
of those who have caught your dream.

*God who has a dream
when the tarmac band
keeps us apart
use the angels of technology
to hold us
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
your spirit floats
free
blowing where she wishes
uniting
a disparate people
into your body
young, old
black, white
female, male
musical, artistic
creative, technical
coalitions of interest
sharing insights into your dream

*God who has a dream
when the boundaries in our heads
seek to constrain you
surprise us
with the rich and varied connections
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
of a priesthood of
all believers
in which the gifts
of all

are recognised
encouraged
enabled
challenged
developed
celebrated
and supported
each adding value
as we build your dream

*God who has a dream
when we see your servants
as square pegs
take the hammer from our hands
and show us the place you have prepared for all
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
of entrepreneurs
pioneering
new expressions
of good news
for those left outside
listening
responding
loving
exciting
risking
rejection and worse
missionaries
serving your dream

*God who has a dream
when we are challenged
by mavericks
remind us of those pioneers of our history
and hold them fast
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
in which glorious throngs
commune
with tiny clusters
of faithful believers,
in which all have a clear vision
of your call
to proclaim your gospel
there
in their community
context
defining the form
in which we discern
the shape of your dream

*God who has a dream
when the small don't feel able
when the large don't feel the need*

*refresh our vision
of the united strength
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
which lasts for all eternity
all history
alpha
and omega
encompassing
celebrating
releasing
the things which are passed
discerning the signs of the times
rooting
our future
moving on from
the inheritance of your dream

*God who has a dream
when we cling to the familiar
afraid of the unknown
reassure us
of our value
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
which lies beyond the reach
of human minds
and experience
where all your people
strive
grow
develop
towards the unknown
and unknowable
reality
a constant stream
refreshing
our understanding of your dream

*God who has a dream
when ministers books reflect
the year they left college
open us to truths
shared by others
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
where shared learning
creates networks
of support
and challenge
mutually
accountable
caring
being

together
as we seek
deeper insights
into how others
live out your dream

*God who has a dream
when we cannot recognise
the support we receive
grant us the strength
to be vulnerable
in the web of your kin-dom.*

God who has a dream
where the last
shall be first
sharing
generously
according to needs
and ability
resources
deployed
transparently
inspirationally
supporting and
enabling those
fulfilling your dream

*God who has a dream
when small-minded fears
close our hearts and our wallets
inspire us with the creativity
to share generosity
in the web of your kin-dom.*

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where the last
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*God who has a dream
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