

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT HOME

10th May 2020 at 10.30am

Today once again we worship God in our own homes yet joined by His Spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we live in a world of change
Every day is filled with uncertainty
We are surrounded by the twists and turns of life
and we often feel we have little or no control
over things that happen to us.

Lord, we come now into your eternal presence.

We come to find you in ourselves, to find our way, to find hope. We come to worship you.

AMEN

Let's sing or say together

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless One, You're my Rock of peace
Lord of all, I depend on You
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again
You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm, Your love is the anchor
My hope is in You alone

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WE PRAY

Lord of all, we thank you for your received promises, for the times you have been our rock, when we've felt lifted and held. For the times when we've held fast to you in the storms of our life and found you faithful, and that we can totally have hope for the future, in this life and the next, through you. AMEN

So we sing

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD,
With hearts and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,

And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be ever more.

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READINGS

Lamentations 3 vs 22-23

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail, they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

Psalms 86 vs 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

When one of our sons was just 3 he was sitting in the back of my mum and dad's car next to me. As we turned a corner the back car door swung open and Paul began to fall out of the door. The incident could have ended tragically but because he was wearing a seatbelt, not a common thing 35 years ago, he was held secure and saved from ending up under the wheels of other cars. An unforgettable experience which speaks to me of the steadfast love of God, not keeping us from storms, but with us in them.

Scripture says that God is abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, yet many have not had the support and nurturing that many of us have to understand this and recognise experiences of it. In this past week one person said, "I think God has it in for me", and another approached me and asked what I thought they could have done for God to punish them like this. Their circumstances were sad and tragic and I'm sad they saw God as one to fear, who piles punishment on His children, and seeks retribution. I ask myself - why would our God of love do that.

In 1 John 1-2 we read - "In Jesus we see God with our eyes, hear God, watch God, touch God with our eyes". Through Jesus we know God as love, compassion, faithfulness, as steadfast, strong,

merciful, vulnerable, forgiving, comforter, a restorer, a saviour, a shepherd. Why would God therefore want any of His children to be alone, why would God just choose to help and be with some, and ignore others. Why would God, in whose image we are all made, ever turn away from anyone or anything. God loves all that He has made.

It is heartening to hear that sales of Bibles and other spiritual books have risen sharply in this last month - unprecedented increases. People are searching for the one who is already with them, in them and for them.

I hope and pray that you and others, will open hearts and minds to discover God's love as steadfast and secure, an anchor, holding you firm through this storm spreading across the world. I pray also that those who are searching find the living God

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

We pray now to the faithful God who knows us already and loves all in the world.

We pray for your World, your children, connected together through you, and at this moment especially through Covid 19.

Help all to experience your steadfast hold.

We pray for all emergency services, front line workers, carers, who put their lives at risk for the sake of others, give them skill and resilience, sympathy to those they sit by, and strength for the day.

Help all to experience your steadfast hold.

We pray that governments work wisely, with proper consideration to the vulnerable and weak.

Help all to experience your steadfast hold.

We pray for the healing of hurts and tensions in families, for those disturbed by mental illness, for those making desperate decisions.

Help all to experience your steadfast hold

We pray for ourselves, our families and friends. Thank you for the blessings they give.

Help us to be generous in our friendship and care.

Help all to experience your steadfast hold

We remember those whose earthly life has ended, for those grieving for loved ones.

Help all to experience your steadfast hold

We pray these prayers in Jesus name

AMEN

Our offering

Lord we offer our time, energy, prayers and resources to you. We offer you our gifts of money, putting them aside to bring together when we are able AMEN

HYMN

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love*

Will your anchors hold in the straits of fear,
When the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rage, and the wild winds blow
Shall the angry waves then your barque o'erflow

Will your anchor hold in the floods of death
When the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide you can never fail
While you're anchor holds within the veil

Will your eyes behold through the morning light
The city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore
When life's storms are past for evermore.

A blessing

Christ be in me, Christ within me
Christ behind me, Christ before me
Christ beside me.
Christ to comfort and restore me
Christ beneath me and Christ above me
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger
Christ, my strength, my life.

AMEN