

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT HOME

17TH May 2020 at 10.30am

As we worship in our homes we call to mind many others doing the same, and are confident in Christ's presence with, in and for us.

Opening words

God the Father, maker, creator & sustainer.
Jesus the Son, in who we see God
Holy Spirit, the power of God

Hymn

Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

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We pray together

God of the galaxies,
yet accessible to every human heart
Mind behind the universe,
yet the one we can call our father
Infinite, yet within our reach
Awesome and powerful,
yet compassionate and tender
Above and beyond us,
yet here beside us.
We praise your name, Holy and anointed one.
Jesus Christ. AMEN

We say the Lord's prayer...Our Father....

Ezekial 34 vs 26

I will make them, and the places surrounding my hill, a blessing. I will send down showers, in season there will be showers of blessings. The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land.

John 16 vs 22-24

So now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask

me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

A WORD - Today is called 'rogation Sunday'. The word comes from the Latin verb rogare, meaning 'to ask' (I only know this because I looked it up). We could ask ourselves - What am I asking for? This of course depends on when, where, what etc and will differ for all individuals. Over the years people have asked for great and small - for a good harvest, for rescue from earthquakes, health for a loved one, new leadership, food for the table, clean water - we all have needs which we hope to have met.

Notice the reading doesn't say, "here you are, I'm giving you whatever you want", but in this reading we are invited to ask for the blessings, ask for what is already available, waiting for us. Matthew & Luke the reads "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you. It seems God stands back, as it were, and waits for us to make the request. We are all invited to do so, but we have free will, and it is up to us to enter into this relationship.

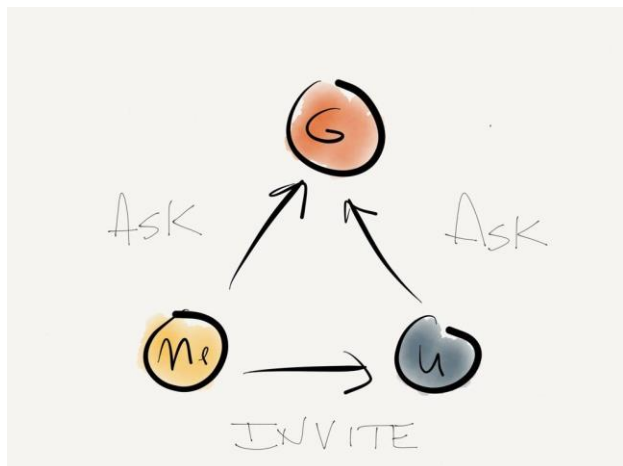
Many of us know the story of blind Bartimaeus, Jesus approached him and asks what seems to be an odd question - "what do you want me to do for you?" Surely it's obvious what this man needs. Thankfully Bartimaeus has courage to call out and asks Jesus to help him to see, with faith that a positive change would happen. Bartimaeus enters into this new relationship with Jesus.

Some don't feel it is right or have the courage to ask, others don't think it will make any difference to ask, or are worried that the answer will not be what they want - yet we are told to ask, that God is waiting for us to do so, waiting to bless us.

I have receive many requests for prayer, and it is so cheering, days, weeks, months, even years later, to of the answers prayers have brought. How some, who have been very sick, are making amazing recoveries; of the bereaved finding great comfort knowing they are held through prayer; others who have received blessings from families & friends on just the right day; of people walking and having their senses heightened to God's creation, of peace in the storm. As we ask, we

freely enter into a deepening relationship with God through these times, and we are changed.

There is no doubt that there is plenty to ask for, and we need to be confident when we do ask, confident that God hears and blesses with unique answers just for us, at just the right time, immediately or in the future. With asking comes a deepening of our relationship, with God, the Ultimate Divine Energy.



TODAY, LET'S USE THIS HYMN AS OUR PRAYERS

The words have been changed to speak into our current situation.

Please feel free to say or sing it

Father I place into your hands
the things I now can't do
Father, I place into your hands
the times we're going through
Father, I place into your hands
the world as it is now
For we need your courage, strength and hope

Father, I place into your hands
My friends and family
The Father, I place into your hands
the people I can't see
Father, I place into your hands
Those finding life lonely
For I trust that you are with us all

Father, I place into your hands - All the NHS
Father, I place into your hands
All those whose lives are stressed
Father, I place into your hands
My prayers for you to bless,
For I know that you hear my requests

Father, help me to see your face
Help me to hear your voice
Father, help me to sing your praise
And in your name rejoice

Father, give to me peace of mind
And to the dying rest
For I know just how much we need You

Father, I want to be with you
and do the things you do
Father, I want to speak the words
That you are speaking too
Father, I want to love the ones
that you are loving too
May I know that I am one with you.

OFFERING

We sit quietly, and think through God's blessings,
and we offer to God ourselves, and our gifts, to
be used for his purposes. AMEN

LET'S SING together

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.
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 snow and rain,
I have borne my people's 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?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them – My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied;
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

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A BLESSING

Let us know the blessings of Christ's presence,
with us and our loved ones, now and for
evermore. AMEN