

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME

23RD AUGUST 2020

“This is the day that the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it”

Psalm 118 vs 24

Our prayer - Lord this is all about you, we prepare by becoming mindful of Your energy surrounding us. First and foremost this time will be about what we give..... what we give to honour and praise you. Yet we hope, that through our honour and praise we will sense your presence and receive Your Grace. AMEN

LET'S PRAISE AS WE SING

Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
For by His power each tree and flower
Was planned and made.
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it,
Sun, moon and stars in heaven
Cry, 'Jesus is Lord!'

***Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise Him with hallelujahs
For Jesus is Lord!***

Jesus is Lord! Yet from His throne eternal
In flesh He came to die in pain
On Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From Him all life proceeding,
Yet gave His life a ransom
Thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
From death He rose, and all His foes
Shall own His name.
Jesus is Lord! God sent His Holy Spirit
To show by works of power
That Jesus is Lord.

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Let's pray

God of all being and all time, working your energy of love through the universe millions of years before a creature ever was.

God of grace, freely giving, in abundance, surprising your children, recognised by some, worship by some, but still loving everything and everyone.

Jesus Christ, our earthly image of God's grace. Consistent in your concern for those others ignored and pushed aside, consistent in your desire to show love, consistent in your offer forgiveness, and in

your healing without the demand for anything in return.

Jesus Christ who never backed-down from the ways of God and who died to show us that all your ways and teaching and Grace were right.

Resurrected Jesus Christ seen by hundreds, still working, still changing lives, still directing, 2,000 years ago just as you do now.

For Your Holy Spirit God is here now, working in this world of trouble, tragedy. Your Holy Spirit consistently with all those hurting, devastated, abused, lonely, angry, lost, grieving, sick and dying.

We cannot always understand the ways of the world, or even your ways in the world, but give us faith enough to trust in your presence Lord, and may your presence be sufficient.

In Jesus name we pray, AMEN.

Matthew 6 vs 25-27 and 33-34

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? Vs 33 ..but seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

A REFLECTION When my children were young I used to ask them to tidy their bedrooms. One of my daughters wouldn't just tidy, she would empty the whole wardrobe, tidy every drawer, take all the books off the bookshelf, even sort under her bed. If I happened to go into her room while she was in mid-flow the room would be an absolute mess and I'd say "I thought I asked you to tidy your room", and she's answer "but I am", then she would look at her room and simply say "oh". Bless her! She had taken too much on - at which point I would step in and help.

Some of us may be taking on too much in our heads. We're beginning to be 'released from our lockdown 'retreat', we're talking about all sorts of things. Are the shops safe? is the beach safe? Can I go to the bank? Can I meet a friend. When will my family be able to visit? Will I ever be able to do the things I used to? We're also talking about whether our churches will open, when that will be,

and whether to wait longer, we are asking all sorts of questions of ourselves and having chats with others. We're thinking about which building we will worship in (the building we live in as home, or the one we call our church building). We may be worried about if it is safe to go to a medical appointment, and as we watch the news feel extremely concerned about the unrest and sadness throughout the world.

At times it feels as if folk are wading through a web of doubts, hopes, uncertainties, questions, disappointments, fears and yes worries. This is happening to me on a daily basis, you're not alone. Through these restrictions and changes when my mind has filled with questions about tomorrow and the next day I have said 9 words - "faithful to the day Frances, faithful to the day". I cannot take on the burdens and worries of tomorrow and Jesus asks us not to. Worry itself is defined as "the state of being anxious and troubled over actual or potential problems".

We are all human, and if anyone said they never worry I would be surprised, and Jesus does forgive us for it, but when this happens whether it's hourly, daily or more, a great tool to use is contemplation. Last week we thought about taking time during this 'enforced retreat' to pause, be still, and silently and prayerfully contemplate, to physically think about breathing the Spirit of God in to our bodies as we take an intake of breath. We don't necessarily need words, just the stillness and bringing to mind the presence of God with us where we are at that moment, and as we do we can sense the Peace of God as He fills not just our minds but our hearts.

**LET'S SIT QUIETLY, PRAYERFULLY
CONTEMPLATING GOD'S PRESENCE, AND WHEN
YOU ARE READY SING THIS BEAUTIFUL HYMN**

Be still for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

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Prayers of intercession

We pray God, that your presence will become familiar and Your Grace drawn upon by those faces & places we see on TV representing your troubled world..... (we sit silently)

We pray for

- people whose faith is tested.....
- those working to alleviate pain and suffering.....
- workers in the towns where we live.....
- our families, friends and neighbours.....
- all working in research labs, NHS, & carers.....

Lord our words often don't seem sufficient, hear our empathy, sympathy and longing through our silence. In Jesus name we pray AMEN

Our offering

You are the Great Provider, the giver of all gifts.
Your love is the only true currency.
Thank you for putting money into our hands, we freely offer what we can back to you, for your service. Bless these gifts we lay aside now and those give in other ways. AMEN

LET'S SING OUR PRAISES TO GOD

FATHER GOD, I WONDER how I managed to exist
Without the knowledge of Your parenthood and Your loving care.

But now I am Your child, I am adopted in Your family,
And I can never be alone,
'Cause Father God, You're there beside me.

I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises, Forever more.
I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises, Forever more.

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May *the blessing* of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, with those you love and those you pray for, now and forever more. AMEN