

Worship at Home 14th February 2021

As we still ourselves at the start of worship this morning, we think of our Church family, wherever they are today.

And we pray - Almighty God, you have blessed us with this new day and all it holds.

Accept, we pray, this our offering of praise and love for You. Thank you for Your gracious provision and mercy freely given to each of us, through your precious Son, Jesus. Amen

Let's sing or say:

Jesus shall take the highest honour
Jesus shall take the highest praise
Let all earth join heaven in exalting
The Name which is above all other names
Let's bow the knee in humble adoration
For at His name every knee must bow
Let every tongue confess He is Christ,
God's only Son
Sovereign Lord, we give You glory now

For all honour and blessing and power
Belongs to You, belongs to You
All honour and blessing and power
Belongs to You, belongs to You
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God
Chris Bowater

Life for each of us continues to throw out challenges. Let's listen to Jesus' words as He speaks life to each of us

John 10:7-11 (Passion translation)

"I speak to you eternal truth: I am the Gate for the flock. All those who broke in before me are thieves who came to steal, but the sheep never listened to them. I am the Gateway. To enter through me is to experience life, freedom, and satisfaction. A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to *give you everything in abundance, more than you expect*—life in its fullness until you overflow! I am the Good Shepherd who lays down my life as a sacrifice for the sheep."



*I came that
you may have and enjoy life
and have it in abundance,
until it
overflows.
John 10:10*

Reflection

I have been gifted a book where the main character gets the chance to experience different lives that she could have lived if she had chosen alternative paths throughout her life. Whichever life thread she experiences, there may be positive aspects, but she is often left not feeling satisfied, still yearning to live life another way. She has regrets. In reality, we have just one life. God wants our life to be the best it can be, not by our own striving and manipulation, but by relying on His grace and forgiveness and mercy. Life will always bring difficulties and problems.

As Jesus says in John 16:33, 'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.'

When we encounter Jesus for ourselves, just like Matthew the tax collector did, the whole focus of our life changes. Matthew gave up a lucrative job to follow Jesus. He was materially poorer, but in Jesus, he gained a new identity, purpose, and a different kind of wealth. Jesus is the gate to the Father. The way to knowing God is through Jesus. Through Jesus we can enjoy a relationship with that brings peace, forgiveness, and purpose. We become more aware of small things in life where we see God's provision, because we are living in relationship with Him.

We find security, knowing that we are a child of God, perfectly loved and accepted. We know that He sees beyond our mistakes and promises to clothe us in robes of righteousness. Knowing Him and living for Him, opens the way to truly experience the fullness of life which is available to everyone.

Let us pray

Thank you, Lord that you love us so much that you laid down your life for me. Thank you that You give me life and life in all its fullness. Loving God, remind me who I am and whose I am. If I have wandered away from you and your good plans for me, would you set my head, heart, and my feet towards You. Amen

We share this song:

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His word
What a glory He sheds on our way
While we do His good will
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey

***Trust and obey, For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey***

But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay
For the favour He shows
For the joy He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet
Or we'll walk by His side in the way
What He says we will do
Where He sends, we will go
Never fear, only trust and obey

Let's pray

We think now of those who are suffering around the world today. Those who are ill, bereaved, alone, rejected, persecuted, suffering injustice or brokenness. Lord we ask You to bring your love, hope and healing.

We think of those serving others through Health, Care and Emergency Services, who are giving so much of themselves to others. Lord we ask You to bring them your love, hope and healing.

We think of local and national governments in the difficult decisions they make. Lord, please inspire them with your love, hope and healing.

We think of family and friends. Of people in our communities. Those struggling financially

and emotionally. Lord we ask You to bring your love, hope and healing.

We think of our Church family. Inspire us and empower us by Your Spirit to share Your love, hope and healing as we reach out and care for those around us today.

We bring our prayers in Your precious name, Jesus. Amen

We say the Lord's Prayer – Our Father

And we make our offering

We offer our gifts, those laid aside, and ourselves too. Please bless our offerings and use them for your purposes. Amen

LET'S SING OR SAY

Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I've found in You
Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love

Hold me close Let Your love surround me
Bring me near Draw me to Your side
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
By the power of Your love

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day
By the power of Your love

Blessing from Numbers 22:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face towards you
and give you peace. Amen*

