

# **WORSHIP AT HOME**

**28th February 2021**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Let's pray Lord, we seek your presence today, Creator God, in all things that have been, are and ever will be.**

**God as Jesus Christ, displaying to your people all the aspects of your being - your love, compassions, faithfulness, mercy, forgiveness, power, gentleness. Lord God we do not need to understand everything, but come to you with our doubt and wonderings, simply believing in your presence. Your Spirit has called us to worship you, here we are AMEN**

## **AND WE SING OR SAY TOGETHER:-**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you,  
Hallelu, hallelujah!

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!**

Man shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God,  
Hallelu, hallelujah!

Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find.  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you,  
Hallelu, hallelujah!

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart,  
He shall direct thy paths,  
In all thy ways acknowledge Him,  
Hallelu, hallelujah!

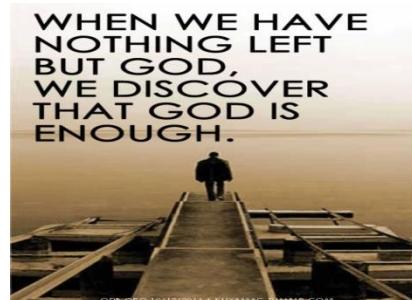
## **Jesus is tempted - Matthew chapter 4**

The Jesus, led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for 40 days and 40 nights Jesus was hungry. The tempter came to him and said "if you are the son of God tell these stones to become bread". Jesus answered "it is written that man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that

comes from the mouth of God". Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the son of God" he said "throw yourself down for it is written He will command his angels concerning you and they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone". Jesus answered him, "it is also written do not put the Lord your God to the test".

Again the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you", he said, "if you will bow down and worship me". Jesus answered "away from me satan, for it is written worship the Lord your God and serve him only"

Then the devil left him and angels came and attended him.



## **REFLECTION**

There has been an advert on TV encouraging us not to ignore or belittle health signs by saying "it's just a rash, it's just a mark" but to take them seriously. We often use the word 'just' in sentences, starting them by saying "I'm just....she's just..... that's just..... it's just..... by using it we're tempted to belittle ourselves as children of God, therefore forgetting what mighty power God is, and how God can do more than we ever ask or imagine. The story below illustrates this brilliantly

Christina Tsai (1890 - 1984) was converted to Christ in a missionary school in China. In 1930 when she was 40 she was stricken with malaria, which left her extremely debilitated. Christina

became so sensitive to light and noise that she remained confined to a dark room from 1931 until she died in 1984.

But amazingly her ministry grew despite her weakness with many people visiting her bedside and finding Christ. She used her bed as a pulpit, and led countless people to accept Christ. Drawn by the Holy Spirit's prompting people travelled from all parts of the world to visit her, she seldom refused to see anyone no matter how she felt.

All of us long for good health, we worry about sickness, and being 'locked in'. Our concern here is totally normal and natural, but it is when we are tempted to give up and adopt the frame of mind which tells us "I'm just useless, I'm just hopeless" that the danger lies.

Jesus was tempted in the desert and yet each time His response was based on what God could do and not what the human Jesus could do. We can be spiritually strong in Christ even though we are physically weak, and restricted. I'm sure Christina Tsai was tempted at times to say "I'm just stuck in bed, I just can't do anything", but she is quoted as saying

**"Clouds may gather over our homes in times of trouble, but the influence of a Christian character shines through the clouds with a golden radiance, bringing a lasting blessing".**

### LET'S PRAY

We pray for the church of God throughout the world.

Let us pray for those who have power and influence, and all those who govern.

We pray for the powerless, for victims of famine and war, for those who strive for justice and peace.

Let us pray for those who are sick, sad, and all those we know who need our prayers

Let us remember before God those who have passed from this life to life eternal....

Help all Lord in sufferings and trials, weaknesses and struggles, to believe that your Ultimate Divine Power is active, and at

work in all, and that you can do more than would ever be asked or imagined. AMEN

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** Our Father.....

***OUR OFFERING** Once again Lord we offer back to you the gifts and resources we have been given. Believing that through your blessing others will be blessed. AMEN*

### LET'S SING OR SAY TOGETHER

(sung to the tune Lord of all hopefulness)

Lord of creation, to you be all praise.

Most mighty your working,  
most wondrous your ways

Your glory and might are beyond us to tell  
And yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,  
In joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil  
Your bondage is freedom' your service is song  
And, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,  
Rich truth that surpasses my knowledge to find  
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard  
Is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart  
I praise and adore you for all you impart  
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide  
Your presence to shield me, whatever betide

Lord of all being, I give you my all  
If e'er I disown you, I stumble and fall  
But, let in your service your word to obey  
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way

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### A BLESSING

Generous God, touch us again with the fire of your Spirit. Renew us by your grace, that our lives may profess the faith, and that we will live in love and unity.

Amen