

WORSHIP AT HOME 7th March 2021
3rd Sunday in Lent

Let's pause to be still, think about the many others worshipping with us today. ...

Holy Spirit of God, you meet us where we are, and you draw us into this time of prayer, song, and Word. AMEN

AND WE SING OR SAY....

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Glorious God, your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are your ways our ways. You look at the most damaged soul and see, still unstirred, the wings of an angel. You view time in the context of eternity, and so find a place for waiting, even for suffering. In Jesus You know more than any others, that

one who suffers will eventually be the one who saves, that is why your life on earth was as it was. You nourish us with better food than we could ever purchase; Your Word, Your love, Your inspiration, Your daily bread, and all in the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Thank you for your presence **AMEN**

Lamentations 3 VS 22-23

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness

'Lamentations' is attributed to the prophet Jeremiah, and is a collection of laments (expressions of grief) The destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon in 586bc forms the background to them. The reading above comes about half way through the collection, where it seems Jeremiah saw one ray of hope in all that surrounded him, God's steadfast, never-ending love and faithfulness.

Singer song writer Laura Story, wrestled with her husband's diagnosis of a brain tumour, she prayed for healing, and Laura expressed her prayers to the Lord in her song called "Blessings".

What if Your blessings come through raindrops?

What if Your healing comes through tears?

What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?

What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?"

Laura expresses her search for The presence of God not through the perfect, but through the pain, tears, and sleepless nights.



When we speak to ordinary Christians, they won't say "Jesus was with me when my son passed all his A levels with top grades". They may however say something like, "I sat in the car with tears streaming down my face, feeling desperate, I turned my Cd player on and from it sung out this song.....

***"God will make a way,
where there seems to be no way,
He works in ways I cannot see,
He will make a way for me,
He will be my guide,
hold me closely to His side,
with love and strength for each new day,
He will make a way, He will make a way".***

And as I listened I felt the peace of God come to me, and ease my aching soul. I was still in pain, but I knew God bore it with me.

The Bible, and the last 2,000 years of experience, isn't about comfort and security, it's about the presence, love and faithfulness of God. Family and friends, strangers, the Holy Bible, quiet and contemplation, the sea and the hills, and yes music, can, in our pain, inspire us to sense the tangible Ultimate Divine Power of God, touching our very soul.

WE PRAY THE VERSE OF THIS HYMN

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Our prayers for God's children near and far

Please add your own prayers in the spaces or sit quietly:-

- We pray for the faithful, and those whose faith is being challenged at this time.....
- We pray for our torn and pain stricken world, yearning for peace, desperate for help and healing.....
- We pray for medical staff, carers, emergency services, and scientists throughout the world
- We pray for those who are suffering from any physical or mental illness, for those who watch and wait, for the bereaved.....

-We pray for our loved ones.....

-We pray for ourselves

-We remember with love those who have moved from this life on to eternal life.....
Accept these prayers, in the name of Jesus
AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER - OUR FATHER..

Our offering We could never repay you for your love, but you do not ask us to, just to give what we can, and to love in your name. Bless all that we give. AMEN

Let's sing or say this wonderful hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not thy compassions,
they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

THE BLESSING - May God fill you with His peace, as you lead this life of faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit AMEN

