

Worship at Home 25th April 2021

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Let's pray



Today Lord I pray that
I may see thee more
clearly, love thee
more dearly, and
follow thee more
nearly day by day.

Amen

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

Our eyes are very important to us. They manage 80% of the information we take in. We are blessed that we can have our sight tested and corrected with glasses, lenses or surgery.

But do we always realise what we see?

Let's read from Luke 24 ...two of them were going to ... Emmaus ... ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked ... Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him ...

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen.

Cleopas and his friend didn't recognise Jesus. Mary didn't recognise Jesus Easter Sunday at His tomb. Others who saw Jesus for themselves saw Him in different lights – King, competitor, provider, threat, good teacher, deliverer. We long for people to see Jesus, to recognise who He is and to truly know Him as Saviour, Lord and friend. Our family, our friends, our colleagues. Not simply knowing about Him, but knowing Him personally. Knowing His love, peace forgiveness and hope, now and for eternity.

We think about those dear to our hearts, and name them now, asking that they will truly see You soon Lord.

We ask that You will give us a fresh revelation of who You are to each of us today.

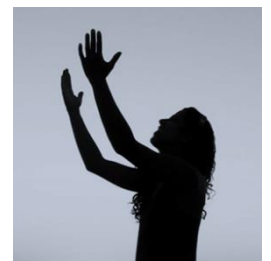
I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people. *Ephesians 1:18*

We sing or say:

Open the eyes of my heart
Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to
see you

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy



Michael W Smith

Mary's sight was blurred by tears at the tomb. Each of our eyes see two slightly different images. Our brain brings them together to give depth and perspective and clarity. Why didn't Cleopas and his friend recognise Jesus? Perhaps they just didn't expect to see Him? Perhaps He looked different? Only in the familiarity of breaking bread, in the whisper of Mary's name was vision restored, and truth revealed.

Do we look for Jesus in the unexpected? Or do we hold on to yesterday's experience and understanding of Jesus, and so miss a new revelation of who He is? Do we miss seeing Jesus because we are comfortable with the familiar and we want to be open to develop our perspective of Jesus?

Lord, help us to let go of any past unhelpful experiences or ways of thinking about You, in order that we might find You in new ways and in new depths of understanding.

We pray: Loving God, we thank you that You have made it possible for us to see You. Please give us the desire to continually seek Your face as we worship and live for You. We pray for our families, friends, neighbours and communities. You know their joys, their struggles, their pain.

Lord, may they see You here with them
We think of those who are suffering physical and mental illness, loss of loved ones, poverty, loneliness, rejection, injustice.

Lord, may they see You here with them
We pray for leaders in world, national and local bodies as they make difficult decisions

Lord, may they see You here with them
We think of our Church family, your family on the island, the UK, the world. As we plan to go forward into a changing future

Lord, may we see You here with us
Expand our vision of You in all we do, so that others see You through our lives lived out in love for You, our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus, in Your name we pray. Amen

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*As soon as Cleopas and his friend realised that they had seen Jesus, they took action and returned to Jerusalem. We may see Jesus in many ways - how people choose to selflessly serve others, to stand up for injustice, to care for this world. We may see Jesus in new ways when we read the Word, when God reveals something new about His love and purposes*

*in scripture. We may see Jesus in the beauty of creation around us.*

*However we see Jesus more clearly, the result is a God given desire to share this revelation with others, to make Him known more and more. There is always a deeper revelation of Jesus awaiting us as we seek Him.*

**Psalm 27:4 One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.**

**We sing or say:**

I see Your face in every sunrise  
The colours of the morning are inside Your eyes  
The world awakens in the light of the day  
I look up to the sky and say  
You're beautiful

I see Your power in the moonlit night  
Where planets are in motion and galaxies are bright  
We are amazed in the light of the stars  
It's all proclaiming who You are  
You're beautiful, You're beautiful

I see You there hanging on a tree  
You bled and then You died and then You rose again for me  
Now You are sitting on Your heavenly throne  
Soon we will be coming home  
You're beautiful, You're beautiful

When we arrive at eternity's shore  
Where death is just a memory and tears are no more  
We'll enter in as the wedding bells ring  
Your bride will come together and we'll sing  
You're beautiful

**Open our eyes that we may see you more clearly, our ears that we may hear you more clearly, our hearts to receive you more fully and our hands to receive all that we need. Then, send us out to bring your joy, peace and hope to those around us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

