



Chet Valley Churches
Last Sunday Praise
28 May 2021



Welcome

Welcome to Last Sunday Praise. In this file you will find links to the songs we have chosen for our worship. Click on the links to take you to each song.

Introduction

Today is Trinity Sunday, when we recognise that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Sundays that follow Trinity Sunday are known in the Anglican church as Ordinary Time. This month our theme for Last Sunday Praise is 'God of the ordinary' because not only is God almighty and awesome, he is also close by us day by day. So this is a chance to think about some of the life events that happen to us, and to thank God that he cares about us in all our joys and sorrows. Our first song of praise is one that was recorded for YouTube by a church in Hong Kong.

♪♪ All the songs link to YouTube. Just click with your mouse on the link, which will take you to a song with on-screen words. You may have to skip a few YouTube adverts if we have chosen songs that are not currently on the Chet Valley Churches YouTube channel.

♪♪ **An army of ordinary people**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57vZbh_zChc

♪♪ **Come, now is the time to worship**

<https://youtu.be/lvLajUBOUfE>

♪♪ **From everlasting to everlasting**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJh-vMQ5I_w

Pause for thought, and prayer...

We are used to singing songs of praise to our holy and majestic God because no matter how deeply we worship him, he is worthy of more. Trinity Sunday reminds us that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which is very hard for the human mind to comprehend fully, And yet at the same time God is interested in our lives – because if he is God of the big things, he is also God of the small ones.

The Collect is a special prayer written for each day. Perhaps you might read the prayer aloud, line by line, stopping to think about each line as you do so.

The Collect—A Special Prayer for the Day

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

♪♪ Faithful One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxviwvjyglw>

♪♪ Let the weak say I am strong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OULfj6gYD0s>

♪♪ Lord of all hopefulness

<https://youtu.be/M3bsgoPjcg4>

Pause for thought, and prayer...

Our God who is faithful and unchanging is the basis of our hope. We cannot see God, but we can feel the breath of his Spirit giving life to our faith and worship. But it is also wonderfully comforting also to know that God walks beside us day by day and that he knows and loves us. Of course we praise him for his greatness, but we can also thank him that he cares about all the sad or happy, successful or stupid things that happen to us. Realising that God cares about small things doesn't mean that we think God is small – rather that we believe he is a loving Father as well as a mighty king.

Perhaps you might like to ponder the following prayer.

A prayer for our lives

Heavenly Father,

Forgive us for the times when we grumble because we think you don't understand our hardships,

forgive us for the times when we are self centred,

forgive us for the fears and troubles that eat away at us, yet we sometimes fail to bring to you,

forgive us for forgetting how much you've done for us.

Help us to worship you in our lives as well as our praises, and to live in the knowledge that you are with us always,

♪♪ O breath of life come sweeping through us

<https://youtu.be/M3bsgoPjcg4>

🎵 All to Jesus I surrender

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW8EA7DEQ2M>

Bible Reading

Luke 12 verses 22-31

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Talk

David Owen has written this reflection.

When I was ordained a priest in Worcester Cathedral dear friends of mine gave me a lovely little book entitled "The practice of the presence of God" which was published in 1692, a

year after its author died. Its author is Brother Lawrence. In a way the words on the back of the book give much away yet there is a lot more within its covers to reflect and ponder upon.

"Full of joy, faith and love, this unique collection of the conversations and letters of the seventeenth-century Carmelite Friar, Brother Lawrence, records the simple wisdom of a man who felt God's constant companionship. Laying claim to no special gifts he endeavoured constantly to 'walk in His presence', whether he was working in his kitchen or worshipping in church."

Nicholas Herman of Lorraine was born in 1611. First serving as a soldier, then as a footman to a noble family - annoying his masters by breaking everything, at the age of 55 he entered the Carmelite Order in Paris as a lay brother, where he became a cook, adopting the name of Brother Lawrence, and immersed himself in the devotional life. For him there was no distinction between 'the time of business' and 'the time of prayer'. He died at the age of 80 in 1691.

In his conversations and letters he repeatedly demonstrates the ordinariness of his life and how that is used by God in whatever way is appropriate.

So often we tend to make much of how extra-ordinary God is and in so doing we neglect the ordinary. Most of us live ordinary lives. Not that one would think so if one lives on a diet of celebrity revelations in magazines, newspapers or social media channels!

The problem with always seeking to encounter God in the extra-ordinary is that we will therefore be seeking spiritual highs rather than allowing ourselves to be aware of God's presence with us 24/7. In the chorus of the old hymn by Annie Hawks written in 1872 ... "I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Every hour I

need Thee; Oh, bless me now, my Saviour, I come to Thee." Yes we need God to be interested in the mundane, in the ordinary as much if not more than in the extra-ordinary since that is exactly where most people find themselves most of their life.

The great joy is that God is indeed interested in the mundane and ordinary! Why? Because God, having made us, is interested in us as a person in our entirety. And we too can see God's hand in everything; in the world around us, in the great and the good; in the small and unassuming. Whether like Brother Lawrence we are washing dishes or going about our daily tasks God is there and wants to share that task, share our life, with us. That is the reason for the coming of Jesus, it is the reason for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. Because God is the God of the Ordinary. As Jesus tells us in Luke 12 - he is concerned for all that we go through not just the Extra-ordinary things.

🎵 **Give thanks with a grateful heart**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2inhx3kytGQ>

Time for prayer...

Let's take time to pray for:

- The people we live amongst – family, neighbours, friends far or near, acquaintances
- Our national leaders who are still trying to find ways to rebuild society after the pandemic
- Members of church congregations tackling their own decisions about life and faith, and those who have found church online to be their way forward

- People who are ill, or who have lost touch with society following isolation and are afraid to venture out
- Those who are fearful of the future
- Ourselves, that we might be brave enough to stand out as people of faith

And a prayer about ordinariness:

Father, thank you that you never leave us,
even when life seems ordinary and maybe dull.
Thank you that you are still working
in and through our lives of teabags and domestic bills.
Help us to see your grace in every aspect of our lives.
We are so thankful for the opportunity to praise you,
Help us to share this with the people around us.

Amen.

You might want to pray aloud the prayer that Jesus taught his first disciples. Use whatever version or language you wish!

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

♪ O praise the name of the Lord our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=kImHjYjFUx4>

♪ Today I choose to follow you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=ANAOglrnTAo>

♪ Teach me to dance

<https://youtu.be/iMeAyiZIniE>

A blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Amen