



~AT HOME WORSHIP~



Fifth Sunday in Lent

3rd April 2022

Theme: It just pours out

Preparation

Waking up this morning,
we see a new day has dawned.
Let us raise our hands in thanksgiving
for the wonders of being alive,
for the 24 brand-new hours in which we are now living,
and the possibility of so many, many more.

Be still and quiet for a while. Consciously notice your own breathing and as you do, allow each breath to bring God closer to you, to encircle you, to seep into your heart and dwell there.

A gathering prayer

Wonderful God,
thank you for the sensations of sacred breath,
your miraculous gift of life to each one of us.
We lift our hearts to you.
Our souls sing with joy.
May we know your presence in all our challenges,
and may our thankfulness pour out of our lives.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Hymn/Song – Be Thou My Vision

<https://youtu.be/jlMhshpf0Y4>

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 need not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

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.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joy, bright heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

A prayer of adoration

**Creator God, loving Saviour, living Spirit,
we celebrate your generosity
in receiving all that we would give you.
We rejoice in your generosity
as you pour out your blessing on all you have made.
We commit ourselves to reflecting your generosity in our lives,
by giving the best of all we have and are wherever there is need.
Amen.**

Prayer for the Day

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saying Sorry

Please, forgive us, faithful God,
when we fill the rooms we enter with negativity, not warmth.
Forgive us, and bless us with love like that of Mary.
Forgive us when we justify our reluctance to give and share.
Forgive us, and bless us with love like that of Mary.
Forgive us when we are slow to express gratitude,
and take what we have for granted.
Forgive us, and bless us with love like that of Mary.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Ever-giving God,
we sometimes close our hearts to you and to others;
but your heart is always open,
pouring out your grace and love,
filling our lives with the fragrance of forgiveness and friendship,
wiping away our fears and our regrets,
and receiving the thanks we would offer you.
May the trickle of our praise become a torrent,
and may the whole world be filled with your truth.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

BIBLE READING



Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSV)

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading – John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

Mary Anoints Jesus

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

REFLECTION TIME



Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication

Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet

A well-known folktale tells the story of a young couple that had little money to buy each other a Christmas present. Della's crowning glory is her beautiful long golden hair. She goes out on Christmas Eve and sells it to buy a watch chain for her husband, Jim. When Jim comes home that evening, Della admits to him that she has sold her hair to buy him the chain. Jim gives Della her present, which he has bought by selling his watch: a set of ornamental combs that she will now be unable to use until her hair grows back out. Although the gifts can't be used, in these once-in-a-lifetime gifts the couple recognises the preciousness of their relationship.

Mary of Bethany pours onto Jesus' feet fragrant oil worth an annual wage. It is a once-in-a-lifetime action to express overwhelming gratitude for the restoration to life of her brother Lazarus, but also expresses thankfulness for her own friendship with Jesus. It costs a great deal in terms of its money value, but also in terms of the courage needed to do it in front of all the male disciples, and in the personal cost of making herself vulnerable with such an intimate gesture of love.

Thanksgiving has always held a central place in the Hebrew and Christian Scripture and traditions. In America, thanksgiving is an important festival day. In the UK, we often have celebrations for important family and personal events. We bring friends and relatives together to enjoy food and festivities. It usually costs, sometimes a lot! Celebration is a way of saying a big thank you for a blessing we don't want to take for granted.

Saying grace before a meal is a smaller, and for some people daily, ritual of thanksgiving, a pause in the daily routine to say thank you to God for the means of life. And, as we do this, we often use words that make us mindful of those who go hungry and we renew our intention to share our own blessings.

The point is, being thankful, giving thanks and praying blessings – and in a manner that might inspire others to do the same – is a good and Godly way to live your life!



Family Song – If I were a butterfly

<https://youtu.be/KaLzudhlxxk>

Reflection Song before Prayers – Give thanks with a grateful heart

<https://youtu.be/2inhx3kytGQ>

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.
(repeat)

And now let the weak say,
"I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord
Has done for us."
(Repeat)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.
(Repeat)

And now let the weak say,
"I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord
Has done for us."
(Repeat)
Give thanks

Time for Prayer

Let us pray for all who serve their neighbours:
we remember those who put their lives at risk in providing emergency services –
ambulance, fire brigade, police, coastguard, medical, and others.
Uphold and strengthen them, loving Lord.

Let us pray for all who serve their neighbours:
we remember those so often taken for granted –
those working in shops, cafes and restaurants.
May they know that they are honoured and valued, generous God.

Let us pray for all who serve their neighbours:
we remember those who travel overseas to work for aid agencies and charities.
Today we especially pray for all who call Ukraine their neighbour because of their hearts and
not their geographical position.
Give them wisdom and compassion, gracious God.

Let us pray for all who serve their neighbours:
we remember those whom you call to serve you in the Church.
May they be sustained by your unending love, anointing Lord.

Hear our prayers, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as 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.**

Hymn/Song – Now thank we all our God

<https://youtu.be/5GvSMerBDUc>

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With every joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given;
The Son, and Him Who reigns
With Them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.
Amen!

*Words: Martin Rinkart (c.1636)
translated from German to English: Catherine Winkworth (1856)*

Closing Prayer

**Amazing God,
we are so thankful for the gift of being alive!
May our thankfulness to you pour out in our actions,
in our choices, in our dealings with other people,
in all that we do.
Amen.**

Dismissal

Christ Jesus has made you his own.
Forget what lies behind
and strain forward to what lies ahead.
Press on towards the goal
for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

God bless you now and always



All music and digital material covered by the following licences:
HTS – CCL & MRL 21033, Streaming 930014, CVL 640919, PPL 1641113, CLA 640902, PRS 640892
SMLT – CCL & MRL 42256, Streaming 930111, PPL 1660620, CLA 2119754, PRS 148198

Prayers and reflections © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2021. Reproduced with permission.