

Sunday 8th August 2021

We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Living One, as we turn our thoughts to you we acknowledge you as the source of life; we bless you for your goodness; and give thanks for your love. As we come to you in worship, lift our eyes from the horizon of our lives, and guide our thoughts and prayers that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, today and every day. Amen.

Hymn: STF 34 – O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words

[O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness \(YouTube\)](#)

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of
lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for you,
comfort your sorrows, and answer your
prayerfulness,
showing the pathway your feet should pursue.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth you would count as your
own;
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of
tearfulness,

trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of
lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Mansell (1811-1875)

Let us pray together;

Eternal One, we lift our voices in praise as we
remember your holiness and your
faithfulness.

Beyond anything that we can imagine and yet
present with us and around us, we know you
to be full of grace and forgiveness. We bring
our lives before you and ask that you show us
where we need to change and that you enable
those changes in us which bring us closer to
you. If there is anything we are particularly
aware of that we need to confess we do so
now in the knowledge of your all embracing
love for each one of us as shown to us in
Jesus. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Epistle:

Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Today's Gospel Reading: John 6: 35, 41-51

Time to Reflect

To be a Christian is to live in relationship with
God through Jesus and with each other. This is
the message that comes across in our
readings today.

The Gospel reading is part of the discussion
between Jesus and the crowd in which Jesus
describes himself as the Bread of Life. In the
wilderness the Israelites had to put their trust
in God to provide the physical food to sustain

them day by day on their journey and in this part of the discussion Jesus is saying, 'take me into your very being, make me the foundation of your life, put your trust in me and I will provide the spiritual food you need to sustain you on your journey to eternal life.'

The reading from the letter to the Ephesians gives some rules for living and ends with the command to be imitators of God, as beloved children, and to live in love, as Christ loved us. We are made in the image of God ... children of God ... and we are being called to be true to that image ... to love God and our neighbour ... for when you look at the reasons for the rules they are all about relationship. Speak the truth for we are members of one another; don't live by stealing from others but work honestly so as to have something to share with the needy; don't speak evil with your mouth but use your words to build one another up and give grace to those who hear; forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving One, we lift our world to you.

We lift to you all those places where natural forces have caused devastation and hardship. Give wisdom, humility and courage to those in leadership as they seek to find solutions to the issues facing us and teach each one of us how we too can help.

We lift to you all those places where greed, lust for power and prejudice have been allowed to take root. Raise up leaders to fight injustice and hatred and teach each one of us how we too can help.

We lift to you all those who have suffered as a result of this pandemic both directly and indirectly. Give strength and understanding to all those working to combat it and teach each one of us how we too can help.

We lift to you all those known to us who are sick

or in need, naming them here ...
May they know your healing in their lives and teach each one of us how we too can help.

We bring all these our prayers in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to STF 50 - *Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise* or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

[Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise - YouTube](#)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,
the city of our God, the holy place,
the joy of the whole earth.

Great is the Lord in whom we have the
victory,

he aids us against the enemy,
we bow down on our knees.

And Lord, we want to lift your name on high,
and Lord, we want to thank you,
for the works you've done in our lives;
and Lord, we trust in your unfailing love,
for you alone are God eternal,
throughout earth and heaven above.

Steve McEwan

A prayer of blessing

(Sung by Jonathan Veira)

Original Materials by Mary G Elms

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Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2 (ERV)

²⁵ So you must stop telling lies. “You must always speak the truth to each other,”^[a] because we all belong to each other in the same body. ²⁶ “When you are angry, don’t let that anger make you sin,”^[a] and don’t stay angry all day. ²⁷ Don’t give the devil a way to defeat you. ²⁸ Whoever has been stealing must stop it and start working. They must use their hands for doing something good. Then they will have something to share with those who are poor.

²⁹ When you talk, don’t say anything bad. But say the good things that people need—whatever will help them grow stronger. Then what you say will be a blessing to those who hear you. ³⁰ And don’t make the Holy Spirit sad. God gave you his Spirit as proof that you belong to him and that he will keep you safe until the day he makes you free. ³¹ Never be bitter, angry, or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. ³² Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other the same as God forgave you through Christ.

5 You are God’s dear children, so try to be like him. ² Live a life of love. Love others just as Christ loved us. He gave himself for us—a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.

John 6:35, 41-51 (ERV)

³⁵ Then Jesus said, “I am the bread that gives life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who believes in me will ever be thirsty. ⁴¹ Some Jews began to complain about Jesus because he said, “I am the bread that comes down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “This is Jesus. We know his father and mother. He is only Joseph’s son. How can he say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

⁴³ But Jesus said, “Stop complaining to each other. ⁴⁴ The Father is the one who sent me, and he is the one who brings people to me. I will raise them up on the last day. Anyone the Father does not bring to me cannot come to me. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets: ‘God will teach them all.’^[a] People listen to the Father and learn from him. They are the ones who come to me. ⁴⁶ I don’t mean that there is anyone who has seen the Father. The only one who has ever seen the Father is the one who came from God. He has seen the Father.

⁴⁷ “I can assure you that anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread that gives life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna God gave them in the desert, but it didn’t keep them from dying. ⁵⁰ Here is the bread that comes down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will never die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my body. I will give my body so that the people in the world can have life.”