

Worship at Home Sunday 15th August 2021 with Erica Gassor

Call to worship:

1 Chronicles 16: 11-12

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows

HYMN: "Be though my vision"

(link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs>)

1. 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
2. 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
3. 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
4. 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
Amen

PRAYERS:

O God, your Word became flesh and lived among us.
Thank you that you moved into our World,
That you are present with us right now,
Dwelling in our hearts and homes.
Holy God, you are worthy to be praised,
Holy Spirit, we worship you.
Living bread, we adore you!

Lord, when we are not as hospitable as you were, forgive us Lord, we pray
When we drain life out of people, rather than life giving, forgive us Lord, we pray
When we damage relationships rather than repair them, forgive us Lord, we pray
When we seek 'self' first and don't share who we are, forgive us Lord, Make us whole today

Thank you God, you always open your loving arms and welcome us. You go ahead of us in all that we do. Thank you that we can spend time closely with you, thank

you that nothing is too much for you. You paid the price that we might live, we praise you – our friend and saviour.

Amen

Let us join together in the **Lord's Prayer**

READING; Psalm 34 : 9-14

Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.
The Lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing,

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord
Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,
Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.
Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

HYMN: "Breath on me breath of God"

(Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5keJHZdWYM>)

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

READING: John 6: 51-58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live for ever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

Jesus said to them 'Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.'

Talk:

I love food - almost any sort - especially puddings! Hence I have fought with weight gain since I was in my early teens. Eton mess, pavlova, trifle, profiteroles, cheesecake, coffee cake, Dairy milk chocolate - I love them all. Why? The delicious satisfaction to my taste buds, the feeling of being content.....and then I get on the scales!

I also find that they are very filling and you think you will not want to eat again for at least a day or so but, no, I am hungry again at the next mealtime.

Food is wonderful and I love cooking, but it is not permanently satisfying and comforting - it is a fleeting satisfaction.

The reading from John 6 talks about a very different type of 'food' - the 'Living Bread' of Jesus which satisfies eternally, as we draw nearer to Him and take Communion - feeding on Him in our hearts.

Although we may not consider ourselves worthy to feed on that living bread, we know that Jesus sacrificed himself for our sins and we can rest assured that our Saviour has paid the price for us.

I love the Prayer of Humble Access that we say during the Communion Service..... let us read these words slowly, contemplating on how true they are!

Lord, we come to your table, trusting in your mercy and not in any goodness of our own.

We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your table, but it is your nature always to have mercy, and on that we depend.

So feed us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your Son, that we may for ever live in him and he in us.

So how do we feed on the living bread? How does it satisfy us permanently?

As we read His words, pray and wait for His response to our prayers, we come closer and when we come closer to Him we find that security and affirmation of His love that brings the peace and comfort that we all need as we move forward in our daily lives, living in Him and He in us.

Most importantly this is not temporary, it is permanent..... for now and eternity!

- By putting our trust in Jesus we have comfort, peace, security and the knowledge that we are loved and have His assurance for the future.
- Living with Jesus in our hearts and lives gives us the confidence that not everything is down to us - there is a far greater power with us, showing us the way and guiding our actions and thoughts so that we go forward in the right way.
- Living in Christ means we are never alone - in our problems and difficulties - and in the good times! No one can take away the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit - it is there for you and me always, in all situations

Let us feed on him in our hearts and find that eternal peace!

Amen

SONG: "I am feeding in the living bread"

(link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_4a7vzGTUk)

I am feeding on the living bread,
I am drinking at the fountain head;
And who so drinketh, Jesus said,
Shall never, never thirst again.

What never thirst again,
No! never thirst again,
What, never thirst again,
No! never thirst again,
And whoso drinketh, Jesus said,
Shall never, never thirst again

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

We come once again in prayer with prayers for the World in which we live.

Prayers for our brothers and sisters who live in fear in war torn countries - wrap them in your love and bring them peace.

We pray for those in Greece who are in fear of losing their homes and lives to fire and for the brave fire fighters who battle each day.

We pray for all refugees - those who have no homes or future - those who are escaping violence and poverty - bring them peace and security for the future – show them the way to a new life.

We pray for our own country - those who are struggling with unemployment, poverty and need – those who are suffering physically or mentally.

Lastly we pray for ourselves - give us wisdom and compassion so that we can work for you in this World, bringing others close to you so that they too can know that eternal love and peace

Amen

HYMN: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God”

(link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iScHgIPSIFl>)

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!
2. Many shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God
Hallelu, Hallelujah!
3. Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!
4. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

THE BLESSING:

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, this day and forever more Amen