

ORDER OF SERVICE – Worship at Home 03/10/21
A service prepared by Marilyn Britt for use at home

Call to Worship: 1 John 3:1 ¹

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 24 – Brian Doerksen ²

Come now is the time to worship,
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship,
Come, just as you are before Your God.
Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now.

Prayer of praise (*attributed to St Francis of Assisi*)

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who is, who was and who is to come.
I praise and glorify Him for ever.

You are worthy, Lord our God
To receive praise and glory, honour and blessing.
I praise and glorify Him for ever.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive divine power,
wisdom and strength, honour, glory and blessing.
I praise and glorify Him for ever.

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.
Praise our God all you His servants, honour Him, you who fear God, small and great.
I praise and glorify Him for ever.

Let heaven and earth praise your glory:
All creatures in heaven, on earth and under the earth, the sea and everything in it.
I praise and glorify Him for ever. Amen

Prayer of Confession (*from Nick Fawcett – Prayer for all seasons*).

Almighty God, as I remember Your faithfulness, so I am made more conscious of my faithlessness. Forgive me O Lord.
Forgive me for the smallness of my vision – my failure to worship You as You deserve, my carelessness in discipleship.
Forgive my faults and failings – my failure to learn from past mistakes and preferring my way to Yours.

Forgive me all the opportunities to serve You I have missed – all I could have done but failed to do, all the chances to advance Your kingdom I have wasted.

Almighty God, I bring my confession with sorrow and shame, but also with confidence, For I know You are a gracious God,

O God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Assure me now, I pray, of Your continued forgiveness, and help me to amend my life, through Christ my Lord. Amen.

Reading Psalm 8¹

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is humankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

New Testament Reading Mark 10: 13–16¹

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Reflection

Our Call to Worship from **1 John 3:1** reads as follows:

‘See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!’

As believers, our self-worth is based on the fact that God loves us and calls us His children. We are His children now, not just sometime in the distant future. Knowing that we are His children should encourage us to live as Jesus did. Verse 1 tells us who we are – members of God’s family. The next verse tells us who we are becoming – reflections of God and the rest of the chapter tells us what we have as we grow to resemble God: victory over sin, love for others and confidence before God.

In the Mark 10 reading, Jesus is in Judea and crowds are following Jesus who, as usual, is teaching them. Jesus was often seen talking to the wrong people, tax collectors, sinners and children. People wanted to bring their children for Jesus to bless and touch them. In the same way they had brought people who were ill to ask Jesus to heal them. But the disciples didn’t think Jesus should be bothered by children and wanted to send them away, but how wrong the disciples were. Jesus rebukes and says “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Adults are not as trusting as little children. To feel secure, all children need is a loving look and gentle touch from someone who cares. Complete intellectual understanding is not one of their requirements. They believe us if they trust us. Jesus said that people should believe in Him with this kind of childlike faith. We should not have to understand all the mysteries of the universe; it should be enough to know that God loves us and provides forgiveness for our sin. This doesn't mean that we should be childish or immature but we should trust God with a child's simplicity and receptivity.

Maybe the disciples wanted to protect Jesus from threats and wanted to protect Him being troubled and distracted by lesser concerns. Some including the disciples thought Jesus should be spending time with important leaders and the devout, because this was the way to improve His position and to avoid criticism. But Jesus didn't need to improve His position. He was God, and He wanted to speak to those who needed Him most.

Psalm 8 starts 'Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.' God is there at the beginning in the story of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 but David in Psalm 8 writes of the greatness of God assuring us of the worth of humankind. God has created all things and in creating people gave them the authority over everything 'under His feet.' And God the all-powerful Creator cares for His most valuable creation – people.

Hymn Singing the Faith 503 – (Charles Wesley (1707-1788))

Love Divine, all loves excelling,	Come, Almighty to deliver,
Joy of heaven to earth come down!	Let us all Thy grace receive
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,	Suddenly return, and never,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.	Never more Thy temples leave.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,	Thee we would be always blessing,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;	Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Visit us with Thy salvation,	Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Enter every trembling heart.	Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in Thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place;
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

Prayers of intercession

Almighty God I thank You for all You give me - for my family and friends, food and shelter, health and happiness and for the gifts and talents that You have given me to share. I look around me, watch my television screen and know there is much else to pray for.

I pray for the healing of all nations where conflict is real, where people are persecuted, and huge numbers want to escape the controlling power of dictatorship.

I pray for the relief of those recovering from natural disasters – that the emergency supplies of shelter, food and to rebuild may reach the places they are most needed.

And I pray for refugees; for those who are escaping the country they have known and have lived in – moving from despair to hope and a peacefulness not known before. I pray that they will be welcomed into their new communities and be given access to all they need to help them settle. I pray for people in my community and beyond who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time, and especially for those who are unable to afford enough to eat. I pray for supportive relationships practical provision and real hope.

Thank You that You call me to play my part, working with You and with others to bring about change. Thank You for those who are serving and caring for others, in churches, in charities, and public services, in my neighbourhood, in my home and in many other contexts. I ask that You will give them strength, rest and perseverance as they work to support others, I ask that they too would receive all they need to thrive

Guide the way as I walk with You, lead me towards justice and show me the path of abundant love. Set my feet on the road towards Your Kingdom and turn my heart outwards as I follow Your example. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Say the Lord's Prayer out loud, knowing you share these words with many others today.

Hymn: Hymns and Psalms 687 (John Henry Sammis (1846-1919))

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| 1 When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
<i>Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.</i> | 2 Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss,
Not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.
<i>Trust and obey, for there's no other way</i> |
| 3 But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favour He shows,
For the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.
<i>Trust and obey, for there's no other way</i> | 4 Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.
<i>Trust and obey, for there's no other way</i> |

Blessing using words from Singing the Faith 510

Lord Jesus, I have gathered round to hear You teach Your friends

The truths about the love You bring, that love that never ends.

I look to children in our midst, for they have much and more to say

And join with them to follow You, to live and walk Your way.

And may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with me and all those I love and remain with me for ever. **Amen**

Acknowledgements

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