

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
Nor for ease that prayer shall be,  
But for strength, that we may ever  
Live our lives courageously.

Not forever in green pastures  
Do we ask our way to be,  
But the steep and rugged pathway  
May we tread rejoicingly.

Not forever by still waters  
Would we idly, quiet stay;  
But would smite the living fountains  
From the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
In our wanderings be our Guide;  
Through endeavor, failure, danger,  
Father, be Thou at our side.

StF 518      Love Maria Willis

## The Cotteridge Church

**Proper 12**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022



## **Bible Readings**

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

## **Collect for Proper 12**

Creator God,  
you made us all in your image:  
may we discern you in all that we see,  
and serve you in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## **Proper 12**

A mother sent her fifth grade boy up to bed. In a few minutes she went to make sure that he was getting in bed. When she stuck her head into his room, she saw that he was kneeling beside his bed in prayer.

Pausing to listen to his prayers, she heard her son praying over and over again. "Let it be Tokyo! Please dear God, let it be Tokyo!"

When he finished his prayers, she asked him, "What did you mean, 'Let it be Tokyo'?"

"Oh," the boy said with embarrassment, "we had our geography exam today and I was praying that God would make Tokyo the capital of France."

Prayer is not a magical means by which we get God to do what we want. Prayer is an inner openness to God which allows his divine power to be released in us. Ultimately, the power of prayer is not that we succeed in changing God, but that God succeeds in changing us.

1.

Take my gifts and let me love you,