

# Camel-Allen Churches

## Sunday Morning Prayer at Home

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Welcome to our service, on this Father's Day; we worship in the name of our Loving, Heavenly Father Lord.



### WE PREPARE

We meet in the presence of God,  
**who knows our needs, hears our cries,  
feels our pain, heals our wounds.**

### Hymn

#### FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH,

for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies;  
Father, unto You we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light;  
Father, unto You we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of love from God,  
that we share on earth below;  
for our friends and family,

and the love that they can show;  
Father, unto You we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift divine  
to our race so freely given,  
thank You Lord that they are mine,  
here on earth as gifts from heaven;  
Father, unto You we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

Foliott Pierpoint / altered by Peter Horrobin & Greg Leavers

### We say, 'Sorry'....

God, our Father, Creator and Healer,  
we confess that we have sinned;  
we have used creation, not cherished it;  
we have lived selfishly, not watched the balance of life;  
we have been greedy, not sharing the earth's gifts;  
our footprints are heavy, not gentle.  
Lord have mercy; **Lord have mercy.**

Forgive us the damage that disturbs our planet.  
Grant us the grace to live for the world's healing, and our own.  
Christ have mercy; **Christ have mercy.**

Bless the seasons of the year –  
may they be restored to your design.  
Lord have mercy; **Lord have mercy.**

### ...and receive God's loving forgiveness



May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us to live in the power of his Spirit all our days.  
**Amen**

## A prayer of thanksgiving

Sovereign God, creator of the heavens and earth,  
ruler over space and time,  
we praise you that we can respond to you as a father;  
that we can approach you as your children,  
assured of your love and secure in your purpose.  
We come to you this Father's Day,  
rejoicing, above all, in your fatherly care for all.  
With grateful hearts we bring you praise  
and commit ourselves again to your service.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Song

### ABBA FATHER, LET ME BE

Yours and Yours alone.  
May my will for ever be  
evermore Your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
never let me go,  
Abba Father, let me be  
Yours and Yours alone.

Dave Bilbrough

## A Collect for today

Lord Jesus Christ, everlasting Son of the Father  
who for our sakes humbled yourself,  
help us to heed your call.  
give us a spirit of humble service  
that we may reach out to others in love,  
Christ our Lord, who with the Father and the Spirit  
lives and reigns for evermore. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:  
**Our Father, ....**



### Bible readings:

## THE WORD OF GOD

Jeremiah 20; 7 – 13  
Psalm 69; 7-10, 16-18  
Romans 6; 1b-11

### Gospel:

Matthew 10; 24 – 39

*Jesus is speaking with his 12 disciples before sending them to the Jewish people, to tell them the 'Kingdom of God is near'. They are to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and drive out demons. They are to take nothing with them. He says.....*

<sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant<sup>[a]</sup> above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign<sup>[a]</sup> those of his household.

### Have No Fear

<sup>26</sup> "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. <sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?<sup>[a]</sup> And not

one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

### **Not Peace, but a Sword**

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

### **Setting the scene**

*I invite you to take a moment to ponder how you feel – just now / during these past months of lockdown / generally about things in life. At times these can be difficult thoughts; often easier to avoid and carry on. Yet this is a safe space, so please linger as long as you need....*

*Humanity can be double-edged; we are made in God's image, yet that image is damaged by our words and deeds.*

*Some people are glass half full, others half empty. Some see themselves as superior, others inferior; nowadays, the second is likely the more common feeling. Especially if we have been alone for weeks now; missing those we love, the hugs and quality time with them. We may, understandably, be feeling low.*

### **Song** *[which may take you back a few years!]*



### **THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF SPARROWS, THOUSANDS, MILLIONS,**

They're two a penny, far too many there must be;  
There are hundreds and thousands, millions of sparrows,  
But God knows every one and God knows me.

There are hundreds of flowers, thousands, millions,  
And flowers fair the meadows wear for all to see;  
There are hundreds and thousands, millions of flowers,  
But God knows every one and God knows me.

There are hundreds of planets, thousands, millions,  
Way out in space each has a place by God's decree;  
There are hundreds and thousands, millions of planets,  
But God knows every one and God knows me.

*John Gowans*

## Reflection

*During a recent 'phone call with my Mum, I watched the birds in the vege-garden, surrounded by shrubs and trees, with feeders and the bird table. As we chatted, visitors included robins, doves, various tits, finches of all shades, the new siskin family, wren, starlings teaching their brood how to rule the food table, blackbirds and by far the most prevalent, sparrows. Occupying every nest box, coming in from all directions, they are of course welcome; but not overly interesting with their boring, brown/grey plumage and tuneless chirp. And I have to protect vegetable sowings from their dust bathing, then seedlings from their nibbling.*

*Whatever our view, Jesus is positive; sparrows are cherished and protected by God. In Jesus' time they were so numerous as to be a nuisance, sold as cheap food for the poor, according to Matthew two for one coin, while Luke records Jesus saying five for two coins – a price reduction for quantity; yet even the 'free' one known by God.*

*In the midst of this alarming passage, Jesus reminds us of our Heavenly Father's feelings for us, 'You are of more value than many sparrows'. Made in His likeness, He knows all the hairs on our heads [on average 100,000, apparently]. Jesus reminds us of the most frequent command in the Bible, 'Fear not'.*

*When sending out the disciples to share the news of God's Kingdom, Jesus says will be like sheep amongst wolves; he says*

*too, whatever happens, they will not be abandoned – He doesn't say they won't have trouble - they will; but they won't be forsaken.*

*As Jesus speaks to them, He speaks to us. 'Do not be afraid', because God takes special care of us. He sees the sparrow when it falls - He numbers the hairs on our heads.*

*Life will not always be good for anyone; we, as perhaps now, won't always feel great. Knowing Jesus doesn't give immunity from sleepless nights, trouble, sickness, suffering, even death. Knowing Jesus does mean we are never alone, abandoned or forsaken; He is in it, whatever 'it' is, with us.*

*Tiny sparrows, seemingly worth so little, yet God cares for each one. We are each worth far more than a host / quarrel / tribe of them, and we know this for Jesus didn't die for sparrows; He died and rose again for us, proving his complete love for us.*

*A love to give us...*

*... confidence in confusion*

*... freedom from fear*

*... hope in sorrow*

*... peace in this world and the next*

*Amen.*



## WE MAKE OUR RESPONSE

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

### Song

**YOUR EYE IS ON THE SPARROW,**  
and Your hand, it comforts me.  
From the ends of the earth  
to the depths of my heart,  
let Your mercy and strength be seen.



You call me to Your purpose,  
as angels understand.  
For Your glory may You draw all men,  
as Your love and grace demands.

*And I will run to You,  
to Your words of truth,  
not by might, not by power  
but by the Spirit of God.  
Yes, I will run the race,  
till I see your face.  
Oh, let me live in the glory of Your grace.*

You call me to your purpose . . .

*And I will run to You . . .*

*Darlene Zschech*

## WE PRAY TOGETHER

Father God

we pray today for those entrusted with the responsibility of fatherhood, all who have the duty and privilege of raising children, fashioning their lives, offering a stable and loving environment in which they can grow, leading them along the exciting yet demanding path to adulthood

Grant them love, insight and devotion

Father of all, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for fathers with no sense of responsibility, failing to make time for their children, careless in offering support and guidance, casual in providing discipline, abdicating their parental role

Grant them forgiveness and the opportunity to make amends

Father of all, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for children of broken homes, deprived of a father figure or knowing first one, then another; rarely able to establish a meaningful relationship

Grant them stability, support; may they know they are loved

Father of all, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for children abused by their fathers, emotionally scarred for life, struggling to come to terms with their experience, haunted by an image of fear rather than love

Grant them healing, peace and courage to face the future

Father of all, **hear our prayer.**



And, we pray for those who have lost their fathers, whether as children or adults; for some, their father little more than a name, for others a heart-wrenching memory, but each carrying a sense of loss  
Grant your strength, your comfort and your hope  
Father of all, **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we lift before you today all fathers and their children. Enfold them in your love and surround them with your fatherly care, today and every day  
Father of all, **hear our prayer.**

And for all the prayers we cannot voice because our language is insufficient or our ignorance too great;  
Father of all, **hear our prayer.**

O God our Heavenly Father,  
your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in;  
**grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Hymn

**LORD, FOR THE YEARS YOUR LOVE HAS KEPT AND GUIDED,**  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt You,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us –  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith*

## OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

**In darkness and in light,  
in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father,  
to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose,  
and to praise your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

To God who is higher than our highest thoughts,  
yet closer than our closest friend,  
be thanks and praise, glory and honour,  
this day and for evermore. **Amen**



---

Material for this service is taken from  
New Patterns of Worship [Church House Publishing]  
Bare Feet and Buttercups – Ruth Burgess [Wild Goose Publications]  
Worship Through the Seasons - Nick Fawcett [Kevin Mayhew]

Hymns & Songs CCL#999402

Service and reflection prepared by Claire Salzmann