

Camel-Allen Churches

Sunday Prayer at Home

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Welcome! We worship together, in the name of our risen, living Lord.

WE PREPARE

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you. **Amen.**

Song

I WILL OFFER UP MY LIFE

in spirit and truth
pouring out the oil of love
as my worship to You.
In surrender I must give
my every part;
Lord, receive the sacrifice
of a broken heart.

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
to so faithful a friend, to so loving a king?
Saviour, what can be said?
What can be sung as a praise of Your name
for the things You have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part,
of the debt of love that is owed
by this thankful heart.*

You deserve my every breath,
for You've paid the great cost;
giving up Your life to death,
even death on a cross.
You took all my shame away,
there defeated my sin,
opened up the gates of heaven
and have beckoned me in.

Jesus, what can I give . . .

Words and music by Matt Redman

A Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Beatitudes

We pray our Lord's blessings on all who follow him;
Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We say, 'Sorry'....

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

...and receive God's loving forgiveness

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 13
You may choose to read this now

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I have called to you,
Lord.

Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

My hope is in God's word.

If you recorded all our sins
who could come before you?

My hope is in God's word.

There is forgiveness with you:
therefore you shall be feared.

My hope is in God's word.

THE WORD OF GOD



My soul is longing for the Lord,
more than those who watch for daybreak.

My hope is in God's word.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy.

My hope is in God's word.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

My hope is in God's word.

Gospel reading – Matthew 5; 1 – 16

This reading is taken from 'The Message', the Bible in contemporary language. It includes 'The Beatitudes', Jesus' words of hope, spoken during his sermon on the Mount, which we prayed earlier. Reading them again, in this version [slowly and perhaps out loud] might enable us to understand a little more of what Jesus is saying in and through them....

You're Blessed

5 ¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

3 "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

4 "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

5 "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

6 "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

7 "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

8 "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

9 "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

10 "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

11-12 "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Salt and Light

13 "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your

saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

14-16 "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Song

BROTHER, SISTER, LET ME SERVE YOU,

let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard

WE PRAY TOGETHER



The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.....**

A collect for today

**Holy Father, grant us pardon and peace,
cleanse us from all sin,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in peace and life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore, God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.**

Song

KING OF KINGS, MAJESTY,
God of heaven living in me,
gentle Saviour, closest friend,
strong deliverer, beginning and end,
all within me falls at Your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow.
I lay my all before You now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your majesty.*

Earth and heaven worship You,
love eternal, faithful and true,
who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
brought this sinner near to Your throne;
all within me cries out in praise.

*Your majesty, I can but bow.
I lay my all before You now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your majesty,
I live to serve Your majesty.*

Words and music by Jarrod Cooper

OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

God of compassion,
through your Son Jesus Christ
you have reunited your people to yourself.

As we follow his example of prayer and love,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*A service from New Patterns for Worship.
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