

Camel-Allen Churches
Sunday Morning Prayer at Home

Sunday 13th June 2021

Welcome as we worship
our Living Lord together.



WE PREPARE

Let us come to the Lord Jesus.
Let us seek his rest.

We come before you,
with all our cares and worries,
laying them down before you.
We come before you,
setting aside this time to worship,
opening up ourselves to you.

We come before you,
in the expectation that you will take and transform us,
before we return to the world once again,
ready to face all that comes our way.

We trust in you and in your promises,
for you are gentle and humble in heart,
your yoke is easy and the burden you place upon us is light.
And you grant us rest. **Amen.**

Hymn

1 God is working his purpose out,
as year succeeds to year;
God is working his purpose out,
and the day is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be:
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

2 From the east to the utmost west,
wherever foot has trod,
through the mouths of his messengers
echoes forth the voice of God:
“Listen to me, ye continents,
ye islands, give ear to me,
that the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.”

3 How can we do the work of God,
how prosper and increase
harmony in the human race
and the reign of perfect peace?
What can we do to urge the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

4 March we forth in the strength of God,
his banner is unfurled,

let the light of the gospel shine
in the darkness of the world.
Strengthen the weary, heal the sick
and set every captive free,
that the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

5 All our efforts are nothing worth
unless God bless the deed.
Vain our hopes for the harvest-tide
till he brings to life to the seed.
Yet ever nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

We say, 'Sorry' ... and seek God's loving forgiveness

Dear Lord, it doesn't always sink in
just who I am talking to when I come before you.
I don't fully get it,
that I'm in the presence of such a mighty God.

Please, Lord, forgive me for the times
when my picture and understanding of you are far too small;
when I try to fit you into that tiny box
that I think I can cope with;
when I'm frightened to let your power loose in my life.

Forgive me, Lord, and make me whole. **Amen.**

Bible Readings Ezekiel 17.22-end, Psalm 9.1-4,12-end
2 Cor. 5:6-10,14-17

Gospel Reading Mark 4.26-34

He (Jesus) also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.



Song

I am a new creation,
no more in condemnation,
here in the grace of God I stand.

My heart is overflowing,
my love just keeps on growing,
here in the grace of God I stand.

And I will praise you, Lord,
yes I will praise you, Lord,
and I will sing of all that you have done.

A joy that knows no limit,
a lightness in my spirit
here in the grace of God I stand.

Reflection

It was a lovely spring morning when I walked into the classroom where a group of children was busy at work with their support teacher. “What are you doing?” was my first, and, as it happened, my only question. It was answered with a chorus of, “We’re growing birds!” One of the girls explained, “When we planted flower seeds flowers grew in the pots, so today we are planting birdseed so we can grow some birds!” “We are writing about it,” added a boy with mucky hands, “and drawing pictures of what happens!”

Oh, the joys of teaching!



Jesus would have enjoyed that story, apart from the fact that he was there. He was a man of seeds, he knew about them, he planted them in his teaching, knowing that they would receive all their nutrients from our very beings. Tiny, seemingly insignificant seeds of the Kingdom planted deep in within us, germinating and flourishing, so that God’s Kingdom grows ever bigger like the huge bird-perch growing from the mustard seed.

Don’t you wish you could have been one of the disciples for the private times when Mark says Jesus, “explained everything” to them? Wouldn’t we all love to get that commentary. If we could have access to the private explanations Jesus gave to his disciples, surely there would be less confusion and more understanding. Since we don’t have access to those private meetings where Jesus “explained everything” we do have the help of the Holy Spirit! Pentecost suggests to us that the Holy Spirit is active and present in our world. God does not abandon God’s people, and the Holy Spirit is always available to us. May the God-planted seeds within us grow to be fruitful and sustainable.

What would you ask those birdseed-planting children?

Song 1 When the music fades
all is stripped away
and I simply come;
longing just to bring
something that's of worth
that will bless Your heart.
I'll bring you more than a song,
for a song in itself
is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within
through the way things appear,
You're looking into my heart.

Chorus *I'm coming back to the heart of worship
and it's all about you, all about you, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the things I've made it
when it's all about you, all about you, Jesus.*

2 King of endless worth,
no-one could express
how much You deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor,
all I have is Yours,
every single breath.
I'll bring you more than a song
for a song in itself
is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within
through the way things appear,
You're looking into my heart.

Keri Jones / Dave Matthews

WE MAKE OUR RESPONSE

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

[cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7]

WE PRAY TOGETHER

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for all in authority, that they will be respectfully
conscious of the weight on their shoulders,
and that they will act responsibly for the people they serve.
We pray for them in their personal lives, with the worries and
cares that only they see.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls.

We pray for our friends, family, colleagues.

We pray that as we walk alongside them, you will use us to

bring them close to you, and they will learn of your love.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls.

We pray that we might be sensitive to the needs of those around us – the people we see every day, perhaps as fleetingly as at the shops, or in the bus queue.

We have no idea what burdens they are carrying, or if they need a kind word from you that only we can give.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls.

We pray that we will see the positive in people, even when it's hard, and reach out to encourage them.

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls. Amen.

A Reflective Prayer

Lord, sometimes I feel as if I'm on a fast train.

Life rushes by and I don't have time to pause.

Lord, I want to take time to see the view

that your wisdom, through Jesus, gives me;

to come to you in prayer,

expecting far more than I could ever believe possible.

Bless me with your presence, Lord. **Amen.**

The [alternative] Collect for today

Gracious Father,

by the obedience of Jesus

you brought salvation to our wayward world:

draw us into harmony with your will,

that we may find all things restored in him,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Hymn

And can it be that I should gain

An interest in the Saviour's blood?

Died He for me, who caused His pain,

For me, who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be,

That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies:

Who can explore His strange design?

In vain the firstborn seraph tries

To sound the depths of love divine.

'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,

Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace,
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Jesus has called us to come to him
and blessed us with his richness.
Now, with seeds sown, he sends us out into his world,
to make sure people see him,
and listen to him, through us.

What a responsibility, what a joy, what a privilege.
We are yours, Lord. Use us as you will. **Amen.**



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