



**Staying Connected 8
Worship and
Pastoral Resources
Week Beginning
Sunday 10th May 2020**

Gathering words of praise

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open
before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God all my life long.

STF 51 Great is thy faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy had hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Chorus

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

We confess to God the sins and shortcomings of
ourselves and of the world. Hold moments of
silence in order to reflect and speak to God. You
may want to add to the words below:

Of the world we confess
pride
selfishness.....
greed
evil intentions
divisions
hatreds

Of ourselves we confess
our share in what is wrong
our failure and frailty to seek and establish the
peace which God wills for all his children.....

Most merciful God, we thank you for the words of
grace that we hear and the forgiveness that we
now receive:
“Our sins are forgiven.”

We delight in you, we praise you, we thank you
for all that you are, for all that you give, for your
perfect love, Holy, Three in One.

We join our voices with the psalmist and the
myriad of voices of the past who have declared
their trust in you as we say together:

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 A Prayer of Trust in God^[a]

31 I come to you, LORD, for protection;
never let me be defeated.

You are a righteous God;
save me, I pray!

² Hear me! Save me now!
Be my refuge to protect me;
my defence to save me.

³ You are my refuge and defence;
guide me and lead me as you have promised.

⁴ Keep me safe from the trap that has been set for
me;

shelter me from danger.

⁵ I place myself in your care.

You will save me, LORD;
you are a faithful God.

¹⁵ I am always in your care;
save me from my enemies,
from those who persecute me.

¹⁶ Look on your servant with kindness;
save me in your constant love.

Collect:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father

14 "Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe^[a] in God and believe also in me.

² There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so.^[b] ³ And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

⁴ You know the way that leads to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?"

⁶ Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. ⁷ Now that you have known me," he said to them, "you will know^[c] my Father also, and from

now on you do know him and you have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need."

⁹ Jesus answered, "For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you," Jesus said to his disciples, "do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do. ¹² I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do—yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[d] for anything in my name, I will do it.

Reflection

Jesus uses the language used by a man as he is engaged to his future wife. The man will go away and build their house which will be attached to his father's house. He is going to prepare for their future. Jesus is saying that he is going to prepare the way for all of humanity's future, here on earth as well as in heaven which we know he did on the cross. St Peter (1 Peter 2:2-10) reminds us that for the future here to be fruitful, we build on the firm foundation of Jesus and keep things simple – make sure we are like babies receiving a mother's milk and feed on the spiritual food of the Father.

As we have been forced into living life simply, we too have an opportunity to prepare for the future generations. As Church we would do well to reflect in this time. Are we keeping things simple for instance? In this time of deep uncertainty, many people are seeking to fulfil that spiritual need within them but sadly look to many places other than Christians for help. As we give thanks and remember sacrifices laid down, pray that we,

the Church of today, may realise the sacrifices we need to lay down for the sake of future generations. Perhaps, as a statement of intent, you would join me in saying these words of re-dedication:

Act of Rededication

Imagine a Veteran of the Second World War making and asking these statements and questions of you.

We fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction. Will you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

With the help of God, we will.

We fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies. Will you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?

With the help of God, we will.

We struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom. Will you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?

With the help of God, we will.

STF 712 Put peace into each other's hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBgD3Rfut6l>

Put peace into each other's hands
and like treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle-flame,
with tenderness enfold.

Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;

look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

As at Communion, shape your hands
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, revere,
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance,
and share it like a treasure.

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us;
let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others;
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression;
let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust;
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between

them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace;
let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served;
Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

A Prayer as we battle an unseen foe

Loving God
if we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired
fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious
help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders!
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story
and our hearts on your grace.
Help us always to hold fast to the good and see the good in others.
And remember there is just one world, one hope, one everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
in whom we trust, these days and all days.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

STF 696 For the healing of the nations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0la0LEw-1o>

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release;

that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let us from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny many find.

Blessing "Go peaceful" (Paul Field)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUr9-MkDqBU>

Go peaceful in gentleness
through the violence of these days.
Give freely.
Show tenderness in all your ways.
Through darkness, in troubled times
let holiness be your aim.
Seek wisdom.
Let faithfulness burn like a flame.
God speed you! God lead you,
and keep you wrapped around His heart!
May you be known by love.
Be righteous.
Speak truthfully in a world of greed and lies.
Show kindness.
See everyone through heaven's eyes.
God hold you, enfold you,
and keep you wrapped around His heart.
May you be known by love.

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