



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 16th August 2026

compiled by Rev Chris Jackson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pause in silence to give thanks for all that God means to us.

Holy God we thank and praise you for your constant
and eternal presence,
That as we come before you in worship and praise.
We know that you listen and receive our prayers and praise.
Open our hearts and minds and ears to receive from you today.
We praise you Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN

HYMN - StF 277

1] My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me:
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2] He came from His blessed throne,
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend.

3] Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.

4] They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay,
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.

5] In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was His home;
And mine the tomb wherein He lay.

6] Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (c. 1624-1683)

PRAYER

As we've assembled with others across the world in your name
we have come to sing your praises.
May everything we say and do bring honour to your name,
as by your Holy Spirit, you make us one in Christ.

How can we not praise you
for you are the Lord of life and the King of the Kingdom.
How can we not worship you sovereign over all things.
Lord of time and of history and of eternity
how can we not praise you for all you have done for us.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour. Amen

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING - Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

HYMN - STF 611

1] 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.

2] We are pilgrims on a journey,
We're together on this road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

3] 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.

4] 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.

5] 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.

6] 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 A. M. Gillard (b.1953)

REFLECTION

Many years ago I taught myself to play the organ. To be honest I did not grow up in a musical home, but something always attracted me to music...maybe it was my Welsh heritage, who knows. What I do remember was one of the first pieces of music that I learnt, it was an old chorus from the book *Sound of Living Waters*.

The song was written by Kathleen Thomerson in 1971 (you can tell this was a while ago as I had the songbook when it was new). It became my signature tune for a number of years and I wrote a particular arrangement with some very cheesy drum beats on an old EKO Tivoli 18A Combo organ (for the music nerds amongst us). The song was essentially the words of Psalm 133. It began a young boy's fascination with music that has continued to this day, and in some ways also introduced me to the book of Psalms in the Bible.

Psalm 133, although one of the later Psalms, is actually a good starting point anyway. It speaks of simple, unadulterated worship of God. Of people coming together in praise focussed entirely on the creator God. The whole tenure of the Psalm is that blessings come downwards from God. Using the analogies of oil running down from the head onto Aaron's beard and dew falling onto the tall mount Hermon and following downwards. God blesses, we receive that blessing and pass it on to others.

To return to our musical analogy, the Hebrew in verse one, rather than simply talking about unity, renders this as 'together in harmony'. Harmony is something that is produced when different voices come together with different notes to form something beautiful. As I have often said, unity is not about conformity, it is about the beautiful working together of variety for God's purposes and for the blessing of others.

Psalm 133 is a short and beautiful song with a powerful message for us today. A message of harmony and unity, togetherness and oneness in our praise and work of God. Diversity coming together in a wonderful creative environment that is open to all people to join in and become part of the glorious Kingdom of God.

I've come a long way from that young child with stubby fingers trying to knock out a tune...but I have never forgotten the truths that I learnt from Psalm 133. AMEN

PRAYERS

God our Father,
grant us the help of your Spirit
in our prayers for the salvation of all people.

We pray for the Church throughout the world for this church and all its members that in faith and unity
we may be constantly renewed by your Holy Spirit,
for mission and service.

We pray for the peoples of the world, for the leaders of the nations that they may seek justice, freedom
and peace for all.

We pray for our country
for those who have authority and influence,
that all may serve one another
in wisdom, honesty and compassion.

We pray for those among whom we live and work for all our neighbours that we may so use your gifts
that together we may find joy in your creation.

We pray for all in sorrow, need, anxiety or sickness that in their weakness they may know your strength,
and in despair find hope.

In you, Father,
we are one family on earth and in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen

HYMN - 416

1] There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.

2] There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

3] There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.

4] For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

5] But we make His love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify His strictness
With a zeal He will not own.

6] If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

BLESSING

Let us continue to hold before God
the things we care about deeply,
asking for his Spirit's wisdom and guidance
as we act and respond
with generosity and love. **Amen**

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