



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 16th November 2025

compiled by Alison Morgan - Local Preacher

In this day of new beginnings be the focus of our worship:
The Father who loves us, the Son who hears us, the Spirit within us,
The unity between us, the life we live.

Hymn - MP 624

1] Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2] Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3] Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

4] Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt use.

5] Take my will, and make it Thine;
it shall be no longer mine:
take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6] Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at Thy feet its treasure store:
take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all, for Thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)

Let us pray

In our journeying with you there is a destination.
Some travel light, unencumbered by life's baggage, hands free to serve and help along the road.
Some travel slowly, overburdened by all they carry, and needing some assistance with their load.

So it is, as travellers, we meet along the way, and take, or lend a hand.
There is a destination toward which we walk - into your presence where, with the angels, we shall worship
you each day.

Keep us close, we pray.
Be the one to whom we turn when faced with fear, uncertainty and questioning.
Be the rock on which we stand, the truth we hold to and the certainty to which we cling.
Be the Father in whose arms we gladly fall, the security in our journeying.
Keep us close, we pray.

When we walk with you in the light of your love, it is your glory seen, not ours.
When we talk of you to those whom we meet, it is your words that speak, not ours.
It is your hands that heal, not ours.

Thank you, Lord God, that when we worship you and offer our lives, your name is glorified always. Amen

Hymn - MP 664

1.The Spirit lives to set us free,
Walk, walk in the light;
He binds us all in unity,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.

2.Jesus promised life to all,
Walk, walk in the light;
The dead were wakened by His call,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light

3.He died in pain on Calvary,
Walk, walk in the light;
To save the lost like you and me,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light

4.We know His death was not the end,
Walk, walk in the light
He gave His Spirit to be our friend,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light

5.By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
Walk, walk in the light;
The Father's kindness is revealed,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light

6.The Spirit lives in you and me,
Walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light

Damien Lundy (1944-1997)

Reading: Luke 21 vs. 5-19

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

Signs and Persecutions

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place? And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. but not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Reflection

Our passage begins with the disciples staring up at the incredibly large imposing building that is the Temple, covering some 35 acres. Built by Herod the Great, it was famous throughout the ancient world and was a stunning piece of architecture. You can imagine the disciples standing and pointing in awe of this building. This Temple, the symbol of Jewish nationalism, must have given them a sense of identity and security. A vast, indestructible huge building, a key part of their lives. Can you imagine their dismay and shock when Jesus says to them, 'not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down'?

Jesus' prediction is either a prophecy of the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple, in AD70, or Luke's reflection on the theological meaning of this catastrophic event after it had happened. Either way, the question remains the same: when all is in turmoil and confusion, where are we to look for our security and identity? Jesus' words concerning the fate of the Temple make clear the fact that ultimately it was the wrong source of identity and security. The Temple was replaced by the ancient world's equivalent of Ground Zero (the point on the earth's surface directly above or below an exploding nuclear bomb).

Perhaps the people asked themselves, 'Now where are we to look for our sense of security and identity?' Jesus' response to the disciples' questions concerning the timing of the destruction of the Temple gives us an insight into how we can approach the question of our ultimate security and identity. This passage guides us to raise our sights, looking above and beyond the secular and religious 'temples' of our day.

Against a backdrop of national and international conflict, of environmental catastrophe, of betrayal between friends and relatives, violence, persecution, even death, Jesus urges his disciples to stand firm. He promises his presence, the inspiration of his Spirit, enabling his people to speak his wisdom in word and action. And he urges his followers to shift their perspective.

And he then says that 'not a hair of your head will perish'.

Now given those odds, surely the disciples are going to then think, all this talk of war and disaster, death and generalized mayhem is very alarming, even scary, even if you have complete faith in Jesus.

I wonder how Christ responds to the uncertainty and insecurity, which I guess most of us can own. In our own thoughts we say, 'how am I supposed to avoid alarm and fear? We live in alarming and fearful times. We can't pay our bills, our city is being bombed, we fled our home country and lost relatives when the boat sank, my partner hits me, I can't feed my children, I'm ill and afraid and can't get a doctor's appointment, my mental health is broken, the river rose and our home is flooded.'

The force of the passage suggests that Christ's response might read, 'Hold on to me in the chaos and uncertainty in the pain and fear. By my side you will find security and identity. I am with you. Preach my gospel of love in action and in word, and stay close to me in prayer, in worship, in the mess and muddle of life. I am your security and identity - not your political alliances - personal, national and international, not the changeable things of fickle humanity, not even your physical life. Your source of security and identity lies in my permanence and steadfastness, in the constancy and reliability of my love which breathes through and transcends time and space. Here is your security and identity.

Here I am - with you. Trust me.

Hymn - MP 825

Faithful One, so unchanging;
Ageless One, You're my rock of peace.
Lord of all, I depend on You,
I call out to You again and again,
I call out to You again and again.
You are my rock in times of trouble,
You lift me up when I fall down;
All through the storm
Your love is the anchor –
My hope is in You alone.

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

Let us pray

Infinite God, we give thanks and praise that we can glimpse you in the beauty of the Temple or church,
in the glitz, sparkle and beauty of fine things.
Thank you that we can be transported in our minds by your Holy Spirit to see beyond this moment and this
place,
To see your purpose and meaning, to know your desires for us.
Thank you that we can see you in the midst of confusion and anguish,
When Your Spirit lights the way and calms our fears.
Thank you that we can know you in rest and busyness, in work and play, in solitude and community.
Thank you for helping us to know how we should live now,
To the glory of your great name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
us all evermore. Amen

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