



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 17th August 2025

compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship

Today, let us focus on God
Enthroned on high
Ruler of all
Magnificent in splendour
Who judges with equity
Who alone is...
Holy and just and Good
Who alone is worthy of our worship

HYMN - StF 15

1] The splendour of the King,
Clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice,
Let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light,
And darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice,
And trembles at His voice.

*How great is our God, sing with me,
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God.*

2] And age to age He stands,
And time is in His hands;
Beginning and the end,
Beginning and the end.
The Godhead, three in one,
Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb,
The Lion and the Lamb.

PRAYER

As we come before your throne in worship today
We surrender all unto your majesty
As we open our hearts and minds to your Holy Spirit
Fill us with your goodness

3] Name above all names,
Worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing:
How great is our God.
Name above all names,
Worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing:
How great is our God.

*Chris Tomlin (b. 1972) Ed Cash (b.1971) &
Jesse Reeves*

As we look out at the world around us
Rise within us your sense of justice
As we seek to do your will
Enable us to walk in your footsteps
Through our God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
We pray. AMEN

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING - Psalm 82

God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
"How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
I say, "You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like any prince."*
Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you!

Hymn - StF 696

1] 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.

2] Lead us forward 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.

3] All that kills abundant living,
Let it 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.

4] 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 may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Reflection

Imagination is a great thing.

That is a personal statement because I appreciate that for some imagination can be a dangerous thing. So I'd just like to qualify that I'm a visual person, I "see" things best through images, and therefore imagining is an important part of my understanding of life the universe and everything. So I hope you will indulge me in a reflective piece of imagination in regards to Psalm 82.

When we think of God, we often "create God in our own image"... I understand that, as we need to be able to picture God in a way that enables us to respond. As long as we are aware that this is our own imaginings, and that others will "imagine" God differently. None of this is wrong, just helpful in a limited way. I say this as a caveat to my own imaginings with Psalm 82.

Picturing a group of beings in a line... a council sitting at an incredible wooden table (I like wood over metal)... all resplendent in a huge room with a huge ceiling that extends far above those seated. In the midst of this grand gathering is the greatest of all... God, the Father. I imagine a deep frown on the face of God as he looks at each of those other members of the council who flinch as God catches their eye. They see the something in God's face that concerns them. And so they should, because the Psalmist conveys God's words to us... "how long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked".... no beating about the bush there. I can imagine each member of the council trawling through every act of injustice that they have committed. They know that God is never wrong, that God sees and hears all their acts and thoughts and words. They are laid bare before the justness of God.

So who are the members of the council? It is not an exact representation of a heavenly court, it is a prophecy, a vision perhaps even a parable. An image put before us to understand the importance of justice in this world. The responsibility of all people, and in particular, those in leadership roles, however defined. We are called to be a people of justice, to "maintain the right of the lowly and destitute... to rescue the weak and the needy..."

Justice is an oft repeated maxim of the Bible, a thread that runs through from Genesis to Revelation. We see in our world today what happens when people make judgements based upon their own needs, desires and greed. The catastrophic effect on people across the world. The economic and ecological disasters that are facing us.

Our image in this passage is that of God judging those that judge at the expense of those in the most need. We are called to be the champions of those in need, those that are suffering, the poor, the homeless, the refugee, the hungry.

Another image that I am now drawn to is Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats... a similar "judgment" of God. To those that looked after those in need, even though they did it subconsciously and perhaps out of pure humanitarianism, it is these that God welcomed and saw the purity of their faith in action.

Read the Psalm again and perhaps ask God's forgiveness for when we have supported injustice over God's goodness.

AMEN

Prayers

For our intercessions I invite you to spend a moment to think of areas and situations in the world where injustice prevails. Focus on one or two situations or places and bring them to the throne of our just God.

A TIME OF SILENCE

Let us say together Psalm 82 verse 8

“Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you!”

AMEN

HYMN - StF 333

Majesty, worship His majesty,
Unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne unto His own,
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

Jack Hayford (1934-2023)

Blessing

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as you would see it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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