



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 23rd March 2025, Third Sunday of Lent

*compiled by Michael Winter - Local Preacher &
Anglican Lay Minister*

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same love with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. (Psalm 63: 1).

Hymn STF 20

1] Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear
in him no sin is found
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here.

3] Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace -
no work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

2] Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight
our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

David J. Evans (b.1957)

Prayers

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

May the God of healing restore those whose lives are broken by distress.

May the God of healing restore those whose lives are broken by fear.

May the God of healing restore those whose lives are broken by anger.

May the God of healing restore those whose lives are broken by pain.

May the God of healing restore those whose lives are broken by illness.

May the God of healing restore those whose lives are broken by sin.

God of healing
gently touch our lives
and those for whom we pray this day
with your Spirit.
Bring warmth and comfort, life and wholeness
restoration into fractured lives and souls. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Isaiah 55. 1-9

"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labour on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.
See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.
Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour."

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.
"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Hymn STF 495

1] Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

2] In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

3] O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

4] With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.

5] Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

6] Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Reflection

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Isaiah, like many of the Old Testament prophets, can be a challenging read but the offer of mercy and forgiveness is also there, foreshadowing the forgiveness not only offered by Christ but commanded of us by Christ in our dealings with others.

The first 35 years of the life of Emily Hobhouse were spent as a child of the Rectory at St Ive near Liskeard – teaching in Sunday School, visiting the sick, and latterly looking after her father (the Rector for 50 years); a very conventional Christian life for a young woman of that time. But when her father died, fired by Christian compassion, Emily threw herself into campaigning for welfare and human rights, most notably in South Africa which she visited in 1900 during the Second Boer War. She exposed the appalling conditions and high death rate for Boer women and children incarcerated in concentration camps, an act for which she was vilified in the British press. The Government of the day were none too impressed with her either, although eventually set up a Commission to investigate her claims which corroborated her account of the shocking conditions, but failed to acknowledge Emily for her contribution in their report.

After the war she returned to South Africa and helped with reconstruction initiatives, teaching skills like spinning, weaving and lace making. In 1913 she was invited to speak at the inauguration of the National Women's Monument at Bloemfontein - failing health prevented her from arriving at her destination and her speech was read on her behalf and focused on forgiveness, human rights, and the misuse of power.

Her emphasis on Christian forgiveness and reconciliation was remarkable given both the appalling death count in the camps (26,370 women and children and 1,421 old men) and the way she herself was treated. When she died in 1926, her ashes were taken to Bloemfontein for what was essentially a state funeral.

For all that, she remained little known in Britain, her death not even reported in the Cornish press. Little known until now, that is, because a remarkable new 'attraction', 'The Story of Emily', has been developed at St Ive near Liskeard just an hour or so away from most of us in west Devon. The Rectory at St Ive has been restored and the new War Rooms house an unforgettable experience with animations, film, etc, following

the course of the war and Emily's work, a truly inspiring account of a remarkable Christian woman. Visitors need to book in advance.

The Collect

We beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn STF 563

1] O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Lord, be Thou ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If you are by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If you will be my Guide.

2] O let me feel you near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, now draw nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

3] O let me hear you speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
Lord, speak, and make me listen,
O guardian of my soul.

4] O Jesus, you hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where you are in glory
Your servant shall be too;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow
My Master and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

Prayer

Oh Son of Man, oh Son of God:

In our waking and arising

be the first thought that enters our head.

In our eating and drinking

be the first thought that enters our head.

In our walking and journeying

be the first thought that enters our head.

In our working and serving

be the first thought that enters our head.

In our sowing and harvesting

be the first thought that enters our head.

In our rejoicing and sorrowing

be the first thought that enters our head.

In our resting and sleeping

be the first thought that enters our head.

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst us, and remain with us always. Amen.