



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 23rd November 2025

compiled by Dean James - Worship Leader

Call to worship: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the most high dwells. God is within her, she will not fall, God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Worship song: The Goodness of God

1] I love You Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay down my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

*All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

'Cause Your goodness is running,
it's running after me
Your goodness is running,
it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered
now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running,
it keeps running after me
All my life

2] I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God
And all my life

*Ed Cash, Ben Fielding, Jason Ingram
& Brian Johnson*

Prayers

Confession: Loving God, in the stillness of Your presence today, we see more clearly where we have chosen the way of the world rather than the way of Christ. We have compromised when we should have stood firm, and judged others by standards to which we rarely hold ourselves. We have been quick to anger and slow to love. We have not always lived as people who know the kingdom of God is among us. You have given us confidence to turn back to You as forgiven people, through the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus. In the stillness of Your presence, may we know ourselves as loved and accepted and forgiven in Him.

Thanks: In Jesus, we see the image of the invisible God. We give You thanks, Father God, in Him we know You in Your fullness, as loving and compassionate, as creator of all, as reconciler of things which are far apart, and broken. Thank You for Jesus' message of hope. His Spirit, which draws us into new communities of compassion and healing. We thank You for human companionship. We thank You for people around us who show us the way of the kingdom of God. For those whose work is to provide us with what we need, who care for us when we are sick and bring us joy in so many ways by being just who they are. For the random meetings of strangers who turn the ordinary into a moment of joy and meaning. We thank You for the blessing that lift mind, body and soul. For colour and beauty in nature, and things we see and hear and feel which bring us pleasure, make us stop for a moment and want to share and enjoy everything around us. This day and every day, thank You, Lord God. Amen

Hymn

1] All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2] Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

3] God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

4] Daily doth the almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5] Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Robert Bridges (1844-1930) based on
Joachim Neander (1650-1680)*

Reading: Colossians 1:9-20

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Reflection

Paul says Christ, "is the image of the invisible God" (v.15). Paul is of course not thinking of Christ's physical appearance, but to His character and nature. Genesis 1 says, "God made man in his image, to reflect His character and nature to the world". But sin ruined God's intentions for man. Sin affects not only our relationship with God, but also with others and ourselves. The consequences of sin are spiritual, emotional, relational, and even physical. But when God's Son, Jesus entered the world, He perfectly revealed God's character and glory. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross paid the penalty for sin once and for all. Through Christ's death and resurrection, believers are freed from the power of sin. Paul prays for Church in Colossi that they may have spiritual wisdom and understanding to see things as God sees them. In Christ, believers are forgiven and no longer condemned. We are given a new nature that desires to follow God, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, believers can overcome sin in their lives. Spiritual wisdom comes through a revelation of Jesus Christ – in him are hidden "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge". But what is the difference between knowledge, understanding and wisdom? The source of all three come from the Lord. "For the Lord gives wisdom. From his mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Prov. 2:6). Knowledge is the possession of information; understanding is the way we interpret that information; and wisdom is the ability to use that information to make good decisions and sound judgments. In letters to other Churches Paul says, "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Php. 1:27), and "walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called" (Eph. 4:1). He is saying, "Don't act like the unbeliever you used to be, but walk as children of God. Our choices matter to God because we matter to Him. When God sees his children growing in faith, it brings him pleasure. God has given us a new life so that we can know him and enjoy his love. It delights him to see us walking in his love and grace in every aspect of our life, inside and outside of church. But more than this, God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. So with the psalmist we can say;" Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging" and "Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress". When we live in the knowledge of what Christ has done for the whole world, we can have the assurance that He is over all things. Proverbs 3 vs 5-6 are verses I often think of. They say this: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.' To me, this sums up how we should live as believers in Christ. Trusting in all that He has done, is doing and will do for us. Trying to look at everything from a God point of view and not a worldly one and being guided by and having strength in His spirit in all that we do. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Prayer

Loving God, help us by your spirit to seek knowledge and understanding, and then to live in the wisdom of your presence guiding us in our daily lives. To your glory. Amen

Hymn

There is power in the name of Jesus
We believe in his name.
We have called on the name of Jesus;
We are saved, We are saved!
At his name, the demons flee.
At his name, captives are freed.
For there is no other name
That is higher than Jesus!

There is power in the name of Jesus,
Like a sword in our hands.
We declare in the name of Jesus,
we shall stand, we shall stand!
At His name, God's enemies
shall be crushed beneath our feet.
For there is no other name
That is higher than Jesus!

Noel Richards (b.1955)

Prayer of Intercession

Dear Lord, in a world filled with chaos and conflict, We pray for Your peace to reign. Bring harmony to troubled hearts and calm anxious minds. Let Your love overcome hatred. We pray for those who work to be Your presence, bringing Your understanding to worldly situations. Grant strength to those who feel weak and weary. Renew their energy and fill them with courage to face every challenge. Let them find confidence in You, knowing You are their stronghold. Uplift their spirit and give them perseverance to keep going through difficult times.

Lord, we lift up those who are sick and suffering, asking for Your healing touch. Restore their strength and heal body, soul and mind. Let Your power flow through them, bringing comfort and fill them with peace and faith as they trust in You. We name those known to us.

Be near those who are grieving. Wrap them in Your unfailing love and bring them peace in their sorrow. Wipe away their tears and remind them that You are always with them. Let them find hope and refuge in Your presence, knowing they are not alone. We name those known to us.

Lord, we pray for those in danger from natural disasters. Especially those effected by recent hurricanes. We lift to you all who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. We pray for those who are bringing relief in these situations. Provide for those in need, whether it be food, shelter, or financial help. Supply all their needs according to Your riches. Let Your presence be their shield, bringing them peace and security in every situation.

Lord, hear our prayers. In Jesus name. Amen

Hymn

1] May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

2] May the Word of Christ dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
only through His pow'r.

3] May the peace of Christ my Saviour
rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

4] May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self abasing,
this is victory.

5] May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)

Blessing

May our God who is able to bless us abundantly,
so that in all things at all times, having all that we need,
help us to abound in every good work to his glory. Amen