



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 25th October 2026

Compiled by Barbara Dalton - Local Preacher in Training

Call to worship *Based on Psalm 90*

Before the earth was formed, God was.

For all time, God will be.

Through the generations, God is our refuge and strength.

This is God, to whom we come now in awe and worship.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we come before you today with thankful hearts.

Thank you for those who have gone before us,

for the people who have taught us, encouraged us and helped us on our journey of faith.

Like Moses, help us to trust you even when we cannot see what lies ahead.

Teach us, as Jesus taught us, to love you with all that we are

and to show that love by caring for those around us.

May our worship honour you and may our lives reflect your love. Amen

Hymn - 449 Mission Praise

1] Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2] Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find thy promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3] Come, Almighty to deliver;
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy host above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

4] Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 NRSV

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain - that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees - as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, "I will give it to your descendants"; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over

there.’ Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Poem by Emily Dickenson - It Always Felt to Me a Wrong

It always felt to me a wrong
To that Old Moses done
To let him see the Canaan
Without the entering

And tho' in soberer moments
No Moses there can be
I'm satisfied the Romance
In point of injury

Surpasses sharper stated
Of Stephen or of Paul
For these were only put to death
While God's adroiter will

On Moses seemed to fasten
With tantalizing Play
As Boy should deal with lesser Boy
To prove ability.

The fault was doubtless Israel's
Myself had banned the Tribes
And ushered Grand Old Moses
In Pentateuchal Robes

Upon the Broad Possession
'Twas little But titled Him to see
Old Man on Nebo! Late as this
My justice bleeds for Thee!

Emily Dickinson was moved by Moses’ death and wrote about it in her poem *It always felt to me – a wrong*. She questions why Moses was allowed to see the Promised Land but not enter it, describing God’s decision as a kind of “tantalizing play.” Moses had asked to enter the land (Deuteronomy 3:25), but in the end he accepts that he must die. Although Moses does not enter the land, his work and legacy continue with the Israelites.

Matthew 22: 34-46 NRVs

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

The Question about David’s Son

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’”?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Reflection

There is something quite moving about the picture of Moses at the end of his life. In Deuteronomy, Moses climbs Mount Nebo and God allows him to see the Promised Land. Moses has travelled a long way with God's people. He has led them, taught them and faithfully served God. But he does not enter the Promised Land himself.

It reminds me that sometimes we begin something that someone else will finish. We may plant a seed, but someone else may see the tree. We may teach someone something, but another person may help them take it further. For example, think of a teacher who has encouraged a child who lacks confidence. The teacher may never know how that child eventually develops. Years later, that child might become a nurse, a teacher or someone who makes a real difference to other people's lives. The teacher's work continues through the person they helped.

"Who has planted something in your life that someone else helped to grow?"

Moses' work was not wasted. Although his own journey came to an end, God's purposes continued through Joshua and the people of Israel.

Then, in Matthew's Gospel, we meet Jesus being questioned about the Law. Someone asks him, "Which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus answers very simply: 'love God with all that you are, and love your neighbour as yourself.'

This is significant because Moses represents the Law, but Jesus brings us to the heart of the Law. All the rules and commandments ultimately point towards a relationship of love – love for God and love for other people.

Then Jesus asks a question about the Messiah. He challenges the people to see that the Messiah is not simply another teacher like Moses. Jesus is the one who fulfils God's purposes in a new and greater way.

I can see a movement between these two readings: Moses faithfully serves God and brings God's people as far as he can; Jesus comes to take God's purposes further. And perhaps that speaks to us today. We do not always get to see the results of everything we do for God. We may pray for someone without seeing the answer. We may encourage someone without knowing what difference it makes. We may serve faithfully without seeing the full picture. But we can trust that God's work does not depend entirely upon us. Moses' story ended, but God's story continued. And the heart of that story, Jesus reminds us, is love: love God and love your neighbour.

So perhaps our calling is not to see everything completed. It is simply to be faithful with what God has placed before us today, trusting that God will continue the work tomorrow.

"What is one small thing you could do this week to show love to your neighbour?"

"We may never know what our small act of kindness will lead to. But God can take what we offer and use it in ways we cannot see."

Intercessions

Lord God,

we thank you for those who have gone before us,

for people who have taught us, encouraged us and shown us the way.

We remember those whose work continues to bear fruit, even though they may no longer be with us.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

We pray for your Church throughout the world.

Give wisdom and courage to those who lead, and help each of us to be faithful in the part you have given us.

When we cannot see the results of our work, help us to trust that you are still at work.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is to **love God and love our neighbour**.

We pray for our communities, especially where there is loneliness, poverty, conflict or division.

Help us to notice those who are overlooked and to respond with practical love and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are beginning new journeys in life,
and for those who are coming to the end of a particular chapter.

Give them courage for what lies ahead

and help them to know that they do not have to see the whole journey to know that you are with them.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

We remember those who have influenced our own lives:

teachers, parents, friends, colleagues and those who have quietly encouraged us.

We give thanks for what they have planted in us.

Help us to pass that encouragement and love on to others.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.

Finally, Lord, we bring before you the people and situations that are particularly on our hearts today.

We name them silently before you now.

Silence

Loving God,

help us to love you with all that we are
and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Give us faith to do what we can,
and trust you with what we cannot do.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: 201 Mission Praise

1] Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim though this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

2] Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer,
be thou still my Strength and Shield.

3] When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

Closing Prayer

Loving God,

thank you for being with me in this time of worship.

As I return to my everyday life, help me to remember your call to love you and to love those around me.

When I cannot see what lies ahead, help me to trust you and to take each step with faith.

May I carry your love with me today and be a blessing to those I meet. Amen

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