



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 26th July 2026

Compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-4

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

HYMN – StF 77

1] Give thanks to the lord,
Our God and King:
His love endures forever.
For He is good, He is above all things.
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

2] With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn.
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.

*Forever God is faithful,
Forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us,
Forever.*

3] From the rising to the setting sun,
His love endures forever.
By the grace of God, we will carry on.
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.

Chris Tomlin (b. 1972)

PRAYER

Let us remember the presence of God with us now
And lift up your hearts to God the Father to whom we pray.
God the Son through whom we pray.
God the Holy Spirit in whom we pray.

Lift up our souls O Lord
to the pure serene light of your presence
that there we may breathe freely,
there rest in your love,
there we may be at rest for all that troubles us
and from their return filled with your peace
to do what pleases you,
for your holy name's sake. Amen

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING Matthew 13:31-32

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Hymn - StF 407

1] Hear the call of the kingdom,
Lift your eyes to the King.
Let His song rise within you
As a fragrant offering
Of how God, rich in mercy,
Came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace.

2] Hear the call of the kingdom
To be children of light,
With the mercy of heaven,
The humility of Christ.
Walking justly before Him,
Loving all that is right,
That the life of Christ may shine through us.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call;
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name.*

3] Hear the call of the kingdom
To reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion,
In the wonder of the cross,
Bringing peace and forgiveness
And a hope yet to come;
Let the nations put their trust in Him.

*Keith Getty (b.1974)
Kristyn Getty (b.1980)
Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

Reflection

Small is beautiful, good things come in small packages, quality not quantity, true worth can be found in the smallest forms...I think you get the point. We can be forgiven in thinking that the best things are the most expensive, the loudest, or the showiest. We can tend to overlook the simple things, or the smallest and dismiss them as insignificant.

Today we have had a very short reading...only two verses...but they are full of meaning and are part of a much larger group of parables that Jesus spoke in order to explain the nature of the Kingdom of God (or Heaven, in the Gospels these terms are interchangeable).

A mustard seed is tiny. Really small for anyone that has tried to pick a single one up. So small that it can slip between your fingers.

Faith starts small, it begins with a decision to consider something that piques our curiosity. The more we discover, the more faith is enlarged in our hearts. Faith grows and evolves into something so precious that it becomes the thing that informs everything that we do. Faith in Jesus is something that grows in all that choose to become a disciple. Like a plant, it is to be watered, fed and tendered. And it grows and grows. However, the opposite can also be true, if it is not fed or attended to, it shrivels and dies.

John Wesley spoke of the 'means of grace', originally referring to Reading of the Bible, prayer and attendance at Communion. Considered as basic expectations of disciples in the outworking of their faith in order to grow. These were considered ways in which The Holy Spirit directly worked in the lives of believers. Carrying out

the process of growth to grow faith from that small seed into the great tree that constantly sustains the Christian life of a believer.

It is a starting point that leads the believer into service and calling of God's work (Missio Dei). These means of grace are attended to in order to prepare us for being sent by God as missionaries into our communities. The Kingdom of God is not static - it continually grows, both spiritually and physically. It is the cause to which we are called, continuing to build upon what Jesus begun all those years ago, to come to the fulfilment at the end of days when the Kingdom of God shall inhabit all the earth when heaven comes down.

So embrace the small, the tiny, the insignificant. Seek it out and nurture it...remember the mustard seed!
AMEN

Prayers

Lord, we pray for homes that have become a battlefield
and for relationships that are in danger of falling apart;
for places where there are endless arguments
and where trust has been broken and forgiveness is forgotten.

Come Lord and plant the seed of your Kingdom.

The Lord hears our prayer - thanks be to God.

Lord, we pray for those whose choices have led them to a prison cell
and for those who seem unable to do the right thing;
for those who have turned to crime to fund their addiction
and those who have no conscience as to whom they are hurting.

Come Lord and plant the seed of your Kingdom.

The Lord hears our prayer - thanks be to God.

Lord, we pray for those who once walked faithfully with Christ,
but who have long ago left behind the faith they once had;
for those who no longer meet for worship and fellowship;
for those who long for someone to invite them to come home.

Come Lord and plant the seed of your Kingdom.

The Lord hears our prayer - thanks be to God.

Lord, we pray for those facing times of ill health and of weakness;
for those whose days are filled with pain and discomfort;
for those whose eyesight, strength and mobility are failing;
for those mourning the loss of someone they loved;
for those whom the feeling of aloneness is hard;
for those unable to leave the home unaided
and for those who resent losing their independence.

Come Lord and plant the seed of your Kingdom

The Lord hears our prayer - thanks be to God.

Lord, we pray for ourselves and those known to us
as we seek your blessing on those in great need
for a new realisation that you have planted gifts in our lives
and for a willingness to use them in the service of your Kingdom.

Come Lord and plant the seed of your Kingdom

The Lord hears our prayer - thanks be to God.

We bring our prayers in the name of Jesus
who is the king of the Kingdom of God. AMEN

HYMN – StF 545

1] Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2] Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word,
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3] Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole armour, be Thou my true might;
Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower:
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

4] Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise:
Be Thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

5] High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish 8th Century Translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1889-1931)

Versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935)

Blessing

Glory be to you O God our creator.

Glory be to you O Jesus our Redeemer.

Glory be to you O Holy Spirit our sanctifier.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
both now and forevermore. Amen