



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 31st May 2026

compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship

Jesus calls us to meet with him today,
to recognise his resurrection life
and to hear again our commission:
To go and make disciples of all nations.
Let us come and worship him,
Our Lord and our King.

HYMN

1] Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee:
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2] Holy, holy, holy!
all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who were, and are, and ever more shall be.

3] Holy, holy, holy!
though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

4] Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that you are with us always,
to the very end of the age.
You gave all your disciples authority to spread your word.
Thank you that we are your disciples also,
and you do the same for us.
May we praise you with our words and actions,
as we seek first your kingdom in our lives.
Thank you, Lord. **Amen**

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING *Matthew 28:16–20*

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

HYMN

1] God of justice, Saviour to all,
Came to rescue the weak and the poor;
Chose to serve and not be served.
Jesus, You have called us.
Freely we’ve received, now freely we will give.

*We must go,
Live to feed the hungry,
Stand beside the broken.
We must go.
Stepping forward
Keep us from just singing,
Move us into action,
We must go.*

2] To act justly every day,
Loving mercy in every way,
Walking humbly before You, God.
You have shown us what You require.
Freely we’ve received, now freely we will give.

3] Fill us up and send us out.
Fill us up and send us out.
Fill us up and send us out, Lord.

(Repeat)

Tim Hughes (b. 1977)

REFLECTION

I don’t know whether you’ve ever stood on top of a mountain. I have been up a few...not very high ones admittedly...but still mountains. I find them places of calm and yet also breathless in the sense of what you can see stretching out into the distance of the horizon before you. They are times when I have sensed God with a clarity rarely felt at other times. It is not for nothing that we sometimes use the phrase, “a mountain top experience”.

Perhaps it is not surprising then that Jesus gathers his disciples on top of a mountain in order to both say goodbye, and to commission them for the purpose to which Jesus had called them. This was a big moment in their lives. They had walked this earth with Jesus, seen amazing things, heard astonishing, life changing teaching, witnessed Jesus’ arrest, trial and crucifixion, and then experienced the joy of his resurrection. And now on top of a mountain here was that same Jesus, friend, teacher, saviour, giving them some final instructions.

And yet...

They still doubted.

I don't want to judge them at all, as I'm not quite sure what my feelings would have been. There is a sense of them looking out to the horizon, into the unknown and wondering what was going to happen next. Perhaps some were thinking, "it's back to the day job now" ... but Jesus had not chosen this group of people to simply get on with their lives as though nothing had really happened. Everything had changed. Salvation had been brought to the whole world, and that message needed to be told to everyone, and for this they had been chosen. And it is here on this mountain top in Galilee, two thousand years ago, that Jesus commissioned his people to proclaim the good news. "Make disciples of ALL nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you". Amazing words, and yet simple. Go and tell people, baptise them, make them into my disciples...this was the commission given to them all those years ago...and it has not changed. This is our commission today.

But we do not do it alone. Jesus did not leave us at all. Because Jesus is with us as the Holy Spirit, a constant guide and companion, honouring his promise to "be with us always, to the end of the age".

Our task in Christ is one of joy, to simply share the Good News of Jesus in our thoughts, our words and our actions, in whatever context we find ourselves in. Our world today needs the message and teaching of Jesus and we are called to come down the mountain and share that message with all who will listen.

AMEN

PRAYERS

Ask God, our heavenly Father, to make the presence of the Holy Spirit real to you now.

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray.

SILENCE

Remember before God your local church and all its people. Give thanks that its mission to preach the Good News continues. Pray that the Holy Spirit may direct its work and strengthen all its members in the tasks to which they are called. Pray for the wider church that by word and action it may proclaim to the world God's love in Jesus Christ.

SILENCE

Remember before God our world and its leaders. Pray for peace, for a just and sustainable use of its resources and for greater recognition of our responsibility to care for all creation.

SILENCE

Give thanks for those who work to combat disease; for scientists, doctors, nurses and all who care for the sick, the aged and the vulnerable. Ask God to bless and strengthen them.

SILENCE

Remember before God people you know who particularly need your prayers at this time: family members, friends, neighbours, fellow church members. Think of those who are ill, or anxious, or grieving. Pray that the presence and power of the Holy Spirit may surround and sustain them.

SILENCE

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can be part of the answer to your prayers. Maybe someone you have prayed for would love to receive a phone call from you.

As God blesses you, so may you be a blessing to others in Jesus' name.

SILENCE

May we show the power and presence of your love in our church, our community and our world – for Jesus' sake. **Amen**

HYMN

1] I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry;
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

If You lead me;

I will hold Your people in my heart.

2] I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them –
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone;
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

3] I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them –
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied;
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)

BLESSING

Jesus, thank you for trusting us to go out with your message.
Thank you that as we go, we are filled with your Holy Spirit
and can know you with us, strengthening and helping us.
Lead us to those who are open to becoming learners of you
and give us the words to share. **Amen**