



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 5th October 2025

compiled by Angela Banfield - Lay Assistant

Welcome to our service

Wherever you are and whatever the hour, know that you are amongst people from all over our world, worshipping, praising, and seeking our wonderful God as he seeks us.

'As o'er each continent and island the dawn brings on another day the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the sound of praise away.' And so we play our small part in this worldwide offering of thanksgiving, petition, and praise.

We pray, Wonderful and Holy God, enable us by your spirit to worship you today. Thank you that Jesus has shown us clearly the heights and depths, the breadth and length, of the divine love that pours from your being. Father, Son and Spirit, we come.

Hymn - 56 STF

1] King of Glory King of Peace, I will love thee;
and that love may never cease I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

2] Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone when they replied, thou didst hear me.

3] Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:
e'en eternities too short to extol thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

We Pray

Our Father God, you are the almighty power for good upon which we rely. We are able to come to you, because in Jesus, your goodness is shown clearly to us: firstly, as an example of how we should live, and then, as a true picture of what you are like. In Jesus we see infinite power and love nailed to a cross and buried in a tomb, yet know of his resurrection, because of his presence here with us all today. We thank you that through Jesus our sins are forgiven and we wear his righteousness with gratitude and hope. We ask that we can serve you in our world, true witnesses of Christ and filled with your Holy Spirit. We ask our prayers in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray together:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the Kingdom the Power and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen

Just a thought!

I wonder how many people in the world were saying the Lord's Prayer at the same time that you were?

Our reading is 2 Timothy: 1 - 14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God - whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did - when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; **for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.** This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Reflection

This is rather a personal and sad letter, if we understand that Paul is writing to encourage Timothy to continue sharing the gospel he had known all his life, if he Paul, had died before they could meet again.

Paul's own execution is drawing near. There is no doubt that at that time, living in a world largely dominated by a cruel and despotic Roman Empire, headed by Emperor Nero, Christians suffered frequent persecution, torture and death. In the last verses of chapter 4, Paul says he was, "rescued from the Lion's mouth". How literally we can take that, I'm not sure, but it is a clear illustration of the kind of torment Christians might expect if they refused to bow down and worship Nero.

In our reading we hear Paul say that, "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of love and power and self-discipline". If the scriptures are to be trusted, this message holds true for us today and is both comforting and challenging at the same time.

The Christians, when Paul was writing to Timothy, would certainly know the perils of their bravery, but the blessings as well. They also needed to practice love, and power and self-discipline and we can believe these Godly attitudes were sometimes as much a struggle for them, as they are for us.

I'm not sure which of the above 'traits' I exhibited today when my car broke down. Driving from my home onto Dartmoor, which is just about half a mile, there was suddenly a loud noise from the engine which sounded like birch twigs flailing against a shed, this was accompanied by a very loud rattle so I pulled in as quickly as possible and checked I hadn't collected debris from the road. Opening the bonnet, I could instantly see wire and a twisted auxiliary timing belt so called the RAC straight away.

Lesson one - the parable of the foolish virgins has far-reaching advice that goes beyond its original and undoubtably profound meaning. My mobile phone was not charged and almost instantly registered 4% with a low battery warning. The RAC promised to keep in contact but I was wondering how!

Blessing one - I have a friend staying with me and she had come for a ride. She produced her fully charged mobile phone and I sent her no. to the RAC.

Blessings two to infinity - the sun was shining, we were parked safely, we were kept entertained by a constant flow of unusual vehicles transporting grass for, we decided, silage making. We had the most beautiful view of the trees and ponies with their still pretty foals, and I could walk Kai, my dog, all around the car parking area whilst waiting for an update on our rescue. After 3 hours the cavalry/ RAC arrived and it was decided to send for a trailer to take the car to our garage. We hid the keys and walked home, which was all downhill.

Unfortunately, the above hold-up rather altered my plans for the day, but on the scale of inconveniences, and definitely compared to the daily challenges Christians around our world face today, it was a mere inconvenience. Frustrating, but not devastating. It seems appropriate to mention it though, as Paul said, we have been given a spirit of love and self-discipline, and it's best to try these gifts out on cheerful RAC mechanics who are grateful you are not angry with them for taking so long to arrive.

I know that many of you are facing struggles and sadnesses that are very challenging. Perhaps reading Paul's letter to Timothy, and hearing of my escapade today, will encourage you to trust and be greatly blessed in the knowledge that God has given you the spirit of power and love and self-discipline you will definitely need. This is a gift, given to you by God! Along with many blessings and other gifts that will help you not only to keep going, but will guard you, just as they did Timothy.

Blessings and love to all of you. Amen

Hymn - 713 STF (can be sung to the tune Abbots Leigh)

1] Show me how to stand for justice: how to work for what is right,
how to challenge false assumptions, how to walk within the light.
May I learn to share more freely in a world so full of greed,
showing your immense compassion by the life I choose to lead.

2] Teach my heart to treasure mercy, whether given or received —
for my need has not diminished since the day I first believed:
let me seek no satisfaction boasting of what I have done,
but rejoice that I am pardoned and accepted in your Son.

3] Gladly I embrace a lifestyle modelled on your living word,
in humility submitting to the truth which I have heard.
Make me conscious of your presence every day in all I do:
by your Spirit's gracious prompting may I learn to walk with you.

Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly Father **we pray** for those who need our help today, and ask that we have opportunity and grace to be the people you want us to be.

We pray for a world broken by war and injustice, help us to bravely speak up for those who have no voice. Those who have no homes. For those who have no hope.

We pray Dear God for all the charities and people working to help others in need. Please bless each one of them with strength and peace, may they know your encouragement and see the light of Christ in what they do.

And **we pray** Dear God for ourselves, for each other, for those we love and for those who love us. We place ourselves into your hands with trust and peace, for we do so in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our Saviour. Amen

Hymn - 638 STF

1] Through all the changing scenes of life,
in troubles and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

2] Of his deliverance I will boast,
till all that are distressed
from my example comfort take,
and charm their griefs to rest.

3] O magnify the Lord with me,
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.

4] The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliverance he affords to all
who to his rescue came.

5] O make but trial of his love;
experience will decide
how blest are they, and only they,
who in his truth confide.

6] Fear him, you saints, and you will then
have nothing left to fear;
make you his service your delight,
your wants shall be his care.

*Nahum Tate (1652 - 1715)
and Nicholas Brady (1659 - 1726)
Based on Psalm 34*

Blessing

May you know the love of our Father in everything you do,
May you know the presence of the Living Lord, this day and forever.
May you be filled and overflowing with God the Holy Spirit's power.
So, live in peace and serve the Lord with gladness. Amen