

## **Worship@Home 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Seventh Sunday of Easter: With Revd Dr Samantha Gillard**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Living and faithful Spirit,  
the God in whom we live and move and have our being, the God who is  
made known in Christ Jesus, bless us one and all as we wait on you this  
day.

Please remove from our minds and hearts  
whatever impediments hinder worship or dampen our joy. Increase within  
us that holy longing for closeness which can open our lives to fuller  
delight and to a deeper commitment.

May our hymns and prayers,  
our searching thoughts, and our hearing of the Scriptures, be an exercise  
in the holiest love making.

By you, with you and for you, may our lives publish your praise. In the  
name of Christ Jesus.

**Amen!**

written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on [Bruce Prewer's Homepage](http://www.bruceprewer.com/). <http://www.bruceprewer.com/> Reposted on RE: Worship: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/06/call-to-worship-prayer-proper-8-b.html>

### ***STF 24 Come, now is the time to Worship***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPWq8eM4lu8>

#### **Chorus**

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God,  
Come.

One day every tongue will confess, you are God  
One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose You now

#### **Chorus**

One day every tongue will confess, you are God  
One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose You now.

One day every tongue will confess, you are God  
One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose You now.

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives. Willingly our knees will bow  
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We gladly choose you now.

### **Chorus**

By Brian Doerksen Words & Music © 2005 Thankyou Music & Integrity Music. Admin by worshiptogether.com  
CCL: Song Number: 4662491

### **Please read: Psalm 1:**

<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=200568068>

### **Time to Reflect**

Life has been expressed by many as being like a 'tapestry' in which the intertwining threads are created through our experiences; some filled with joy, others with sorrow and others with the ordinary rhythms of life. The different seasons of life is a metaphor also used to express that life is never static, instead it changes depending on life experiences and events.

In the month of May we begin to look forward to the warmer weather of summer, even though we are still in the season of spring. All around us are green shoots of life and the trees that were once bare, have green leaves and buds on. The bare trees of winter are no more. Instead, we are surrounded by different shades of green, with the different varieties of trees that are all around. Take a moment to reflect on the beauty of God's creation that surrounds us.

Life as a tapestry which reflects the seasons of life is poetically captured throughout the 150 Psalms, which are written in response to different life events and experiences. There are Psalms of; praise and wonder, cries of help and laments, each of which reveals the depth of God's grace and love. Our Bible reading today is Psalm one. A Psalm which encourages us to reflect on how we approach the reading of the scriptures and whether God is the director and source of life through all the seasons.

Psalm 1: verses 2-3:

*"... but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.*

*<sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruits in season and whose leaf does not wither whatever they do prospers."*

The streams of waters that nourish the different trees; words that are echoed in Psalm 23 verse 2, where God leads us “beside quiet waters” refreshing our souls. Also in John Chapter 15 verse 1, where Jesus talks about the Vine and the branches. “I am the vine, and my Father is the gardener.” God enables us to grow, brings refreshment through which we flourish, as we rest in streams of living water.

The beauty of the psalmist use of the metaphor of people being like trees, is that it reflects our individual nature by not naming a particular tree. It instead paints a rich tapestry of the diversity of human life, as we imagine all the different varieties of trees.

Psalm one’s message is that the source of life is God. It calls us to reflect on whether we delight in God’s scriptures daily to nourish us and trust in God’s love to guide us through life’s challenges. If, however, we forsake God in our daily lives Isaiah 1 verse 30 says “You will be like an oak with fading leaves, like a garden without water”. It maybe that today you are feeling dry and/or are seeking direction from God on a particular issue. The invitation is to rest in God’s streams of living water through the Holy Spirit. If that is you, Jesus says to you “Come to me, all you are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

In sitting by the still waters and receiving refreshment we meet God, who is trustworthy. There we can release our desire to self-direct our lives and trust in God’s guidance. A place that is captured in Psalm 52 verse 8, who uses the imagery of an Olive tree. “But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God’s unfailing love for ever and ever”. Amen.

## **Prayer of Intercession**

You are invited to pray silently for:  
The needs of the world...  
The Church and its calling...  
Loved ones going through difficult times...  
For peace, justice, and reconciliation...  
In Jesus name. **Amen.**

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven...

## ***StF 530 To be in your presence***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mr-mjERm0eo>

To be in your presence, to sit at your feet  
When your love surrounds me, and makes me complete.

### ***Refrain***

This is my desire, o Lord, this is my desire.  
This is my desire, o Lord, this is my desire.

To rest in your presence, not rushing away, to cherish each moment -  
Here I would stay.

### ***Refrain***

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### **Final Prayer: Prayer for Grace.**

Lord, help us welcome you and all who come in your name. **Give us a deep love for your living word and for all our brothers and sisters.** Help us to avoid slander and deceit in all our dealings. **Guide us, O God, by the law given by your Spirit that our way may be blameless and pure.**

Help us to always seek to please you  
rather than the favour of others.

**Make us gentle and compassionate, humble, and forgiving, just, and holy in all our relationships.**

Help us be like Christ in whom we believe.

Help us to meditate on his word and his example day and night.

**Lord, help us not only to share the good news of your love with all we meet, but also to share our very selves.**

Prayer based on based on Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-40) Copyright © Rev. Richard J. Fairchild. Posted on [Kir-Shalom](#) website. Reposted on RE: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/prayer-for-grace.html>