

Worship@Home 12th 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/> 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:I 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.*

³ *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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CCLI Song Number: 121074

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>