

Worship at Home service Sunday 30th June 2024 with Revd Ian Forsyth

A call to worship: Come, bring your praises and your pains. Come, bring your joys and your sorrows. Come, bring your thanks and your regrets. Come, bring your hopes and your fears. Come, bring all you are to God, and find blessing. **Amen.**

A gathering prayer God of each day and each moment, you call us to our Lord Jesus, 'man of sorrows', you know what it is to be full of sadness.

Lord Jesus, friend of sinners, you love us in all our brokenness.

Lord Jesus, like a mother, you care for us and soothe our pain.

As we worship you today, touch us in our need, and help us to love and care for one another. **Amen.**

How Great is Our God

The splendour of a King, clothed in majesty. Let all the Earth rejoice, all the Earth rejoice.

He wraps himself in light. And darkness tries to hide, And trembles at His voice. Trembles at His voice.

How great is our God, sing with me.

How great is our God, and all will see

How great, how great is our God.

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands, (Beginning and the end x 2).

The Godhead Three in One, Father Spirit Son (The Lion and the Lamb x2)

How great is our God, sing with me. How great is our God, and all will see. How great, how great is our God.

Name above all names (how great is our God, sing with me)

Worthy of our praise (how great is our God, and all will see)

My heart will sing, how great is our God.

You're the name above all names (how great is our God, sing with me)

You are worthy of our praise (how great is our God, and all will see),

And my heart will sing. How great is our God.

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God.

Repeat x 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ut5LBsi-YGE>

Bible readings Psalm 130; Mark 5.21-43

Reflection:

Today's reflection is from Psalm 130 and follows on from the Bible month studies from the book of Genesis. This reminded me of a hymn written by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend, Jordan Kauflin and Matthew Sherman Merker, which helps us reflect and meditate on the Bible.

Out of the depths, I cry to You. In darkest places, I will call. Incline Your ear to me anew

And hear my cry for mercy, Lord

Were you to count my sinful ways

How could I come before Your throne?

Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze

I stand redeemed by grace alone.

I will wait for You, I will wait for You

On Your Word, I will rely. I will wait for You, surely wait for You. Til my soul is satisfied.

We are called to live, serve in response to God's unfailing love. Psalm 130 starts with a cry of despair, and ends in a new place, where we can say we have an assurance of God's unfailing love. Prayer is never more real and acceptable than when it rises out of the difficult places. Deep places, produce deep devotions as we reflect on our own lives, when we see no answer to our prayers, deep prayer gives God the glory. Someone once said, 'if you pray in the depths, you will not sink out of God's everlasting love'.

In our worship service we pray the Lord's prayer when we say forgive us our trespasses and help us to forgive those who trespass against us. In different seasons of life, many of us may have cried tears, when things have been overwhelming.

This Psalm could be called a weeping prayer and in John 11:35, the shortest verse in the Bible says, 'Jesus wept'. This moment speaks to His humanity, and His ability to sympathise with our pain and suffering.

The fact that Jesus weeps in this situation brings perspective to human pain and suffering.

In this Psalm David comes to the place where he seeks God's forgiveness. In verse 4 God has the power to forgive permanently, His forgiveness is ready right now to grant us a pardon. In this Psalm of a verse in Romans 3 v 12 says, 'All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one'.

At the start of our Bible month looking at Genesis, I asked a Bible study group what music comes to their minds, when we looked at the creation story at the beginning of Genesis Chapter 1. It was interesting to hear that several people thought of Beethoven's overture, 'Gustov Holts Planets'.

At the conclusion of this year's Bible month, I am reminded of the question in the Bible study notes, that may help us to ask ourselves the following question in the future, 'Where is the good news for people and communities of faith today?'. To close a quote from the booklet. 'Let's attune ourselves to the invitation to live and learn attentively as God shows us who he is, what he is doing, and why he does it. In turn, we will discover who we are, what we are doing and why'.

Prayers of intercession

Lord, as we come to you today, we think of different changes that have happened in our lives – those that have had positive effects on us and those that were very hard. We know that you were with us through all the changes, even when we couldn't immediately see you at work. As we focus on the coming few days and weeks, give us the confidence to know that you are still with us, always with us, through change and when everything stays the same. Changeless God, we come to you.

Help us to know you are near.

We pray for those facing difficult changes in their lives: perhaps through ill health, bereavement, unemployment or separation from loved ones. Lord, we name anyone known to us who is struggling in this way We ask that your peace and comfort be upon them. Reassure them that, although their circumstances may change, you do not.

Give them the courage to face their future knowing that you are holding their hand. Changeless God, we come to you. **Help us to know you are near.**

Goodness of God

I love You, Lord. Oh, your mercy never failed me. All my days, I've been held in your hands. From the moment that I wake up. Until I lay my head. Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God. And all my life you have been faithful. And all my life you have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love your voice; you have led me through the fire. And in darkest night you are close like no other. I've known you as a Father

I've known you as a Friend

And I have lived in the goodness of God, yeah.

And all my life you have been faithful, oh-oh-oh. And all my life you have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God, yeah.

Cause your goodness is running after, it's running after me. Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now. I give you everything. Cause your goodness is running after, it's running after me, oh-oh

Cause your goodness is running after, it's running after me. Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now. I give you everything. Cause your goodness is running after, it keeps running after me

And all my life you have been faithful. And all my life you have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able. Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God. I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna sing.

(Repeat the 1st 4 lines above)

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4>

A sending out prayer:

Lord, be with us on our journeys with others and open our eyes to you. **Amen.**