

Worship@Home 16th February 2025

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

With Revd Dr Samantha Gillard

Call to worship Opening Prayer:

I tell you this: It is a wonderful thing when members of the family live together in love and peace. They shall be like trees planted beside flowing rivers.

May the church be one, just as Christ and God are one, that Christ may be glorified in us. They shall yield good fruit in its season, and their leaf shall never wither.

Opening Prayer:

You, loving God, are the ground of our being and the river of life; you both steady our roots and draw them to seek the living waters.

You are like the sunlight enticing us taller
and like the breeze rustling our leaves.

You are with us through hard seasons of summer heat,
and in the nights when winter's frost ice the landscape
your love warms and sustains us.

You are everything to us.

O let our gratitude be great,
let our praise be plentiful,
let our worship be wonderful!

Through Christ Jesus your ever-living Son. **Amen**

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/04/call-to-worship-prayer-easter-7b.html> Inspired by Psalm 1 written by Bruce Prewer and posted on **Bruce Prewer's Homepage**. <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

STF 455 All my hope in God is founded <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DohxO6ytsaU>

All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew.

Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true. God unknown,
he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth, tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth, deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him, beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the Almighty giver bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth, pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

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

Please read: Jeremiah 17: 5-10

<https://bible.oremus.org/beta>

Time to Reflect

As I walk my dog Lily, it is lovely to see that the season is beginning to change, the snow drops are up, and buds are on the trees, even if the weather is still cold.

A familiar Psalm to us all is Psalm 23, which speaks of God leading us beside quiet waters to be refreshed. However, God also encourages us to root ourselves in the living water of God, to be sustained and refreshed.

Our reading today from Jeremiah chapter 17 verse 7-8 says: *“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream”*.

Trees get their strength and nourishment from their roots.

Tree roots are strong, apparently over time they can even grow through rock to reach water! The deeper the roots grow, the stronger the tree is and their ability to weather life storms increases. Trees also gather strength from other trees around them, especially if the same species of tree is planted close, therefore you could say that ‘in a community’ trees nourish each other.

Jeremiah the prophet in chapter 17 is speaking to the Israelites, about God’s desire to be in relationship with them. A relationship of the heart, that is built on trust and confidence in God.

Jeremiah uses the metaphor of a tree planted beside water, to convey to the people, what life is like when we trust in the Lord. As trees receive their nourishment from water, so can we receive our spiritual nourishment from God.

Jesus picks up this theme with the Samaritan woman in John chapter 4. In a conversation with the Samaritan woman, who is at the well for water. He speaks to her of his 'living water' which quenches all thirst and never runs dry. Verse 14, "*but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst*".

Drawing from Jeremiah's and Jesus's narratives and their metaphor of the roots of trees; the question is how are your roots today? Reflecting, Jeremiah refers to the action of trusting in the Lord, which gives confidence, and Jesus tells us to 'drink' the water. To drink, is to receive the life-giving love of God, which is renewed every day through prayer, meditating on God's word and being in community with each other. Through which our faith and trust in God grows, so that whatever the weather around us, we draw strength from God. Philippians 4:13 reminds us that we '*can do all things in Christ, who gives us strength*'.

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 471 Lord I come to you <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSi-9PPPGnl>

Lord, I come to You. Let my heart be changed, renewed

Flowing from the grace

That I found in You. And Lord, I've come to know

The weaknesses I see in me

Will be stripped away. By the power of Your love.

Chorus

*Hold me close, Let Your love surround me;
Bring me near,
Draw me to Your side. And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle,
And I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes, Let me see You face to face,
The knowledge of Your love. As You live in me.
Lord renew my mind,

As Your will unfolds in my life. In living every day
by the power of Your love.

And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Noel Richards. © 1986 Thankyou Music. Admin: Integrity Music. CCLI Song Number:
121074

Final Prayer:

May God protect you through your time of trial.

May the love of Christ, seen in what he did, and heard in what he said, fill
you with joy and hope.

May the Holy Spirit advocate for you,
leading into all truth, lighting the way of faith, and strengthening you to
follow Jesus, so that you will become like a strong, young tree,
growing deep and bearing much fruit.

Amen.

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/04/benediction-easter-7-b.html> written by Peter L. Haynes, and posted on
the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website. <http://rockhay.tripod.com/>