

Worship@Home 16th March 2025.
2nd Sunday in Lent: with
Revd Dr Samantha Gillard

Call to worship:

Give us this day our daily bread to shelter our soul.

As bricks and mortar give our bodies shelter, shelter our being, our souls, with your spirit.
Give us this day our daily bread to shelter our soul.

As houses protect and keep safe our physical being, hold us in the shelter and safety of your Word. **Give us this day our daily bread to shelter our soul.**

As an umbrella holds back the rain and the storms, so Lord be our umbrella, our tent, our shelter in life's uncertain times.

O Lord our God, on this Lenten journey, shelter us in the struggling world's uncertainties. **Amen** <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/worship-resource-pack/lent-2-soulshelter/>

Opening Prayer, inspired by Psalm 27.

O God, you promise to hide me in your shelter in the day of trouble, and to conceal me in the corner of your tent. When I am overwhelmed by my own needs and the needs of the world, I know that I can come and hide with you. When changing the world seems too much and the needs of others weigh upon me, I know that you will give me space to think and rest. When life just feels too much and the anxiety in me is great, you offer me solace and a space to be.

And when you make me ready, I will follow you.
When you gather my courage, I will go where you lead me.
With your love inspiring me, I will speak and act in your name.

Amen.

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/01/prayer-psalm-27.html>
written by Susan Durber, and posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

STF 545 Be thou my vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me,

save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night.
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true Word;
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, thy child let me be
Be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee. .

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower;
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

Please read: Luke 13: verses 31-35

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

Time to Reflect

On this second week of Lent we continue to draw from the Methodist Church Lent 2025; Soul Food resources. Over the Lenten period we are encouraged to reflect and to be nourished and refreshed as we cherish how much we are loved and accepted by God. This week the theme is Soul Shelter; it is a gift to be nourished by being in a safe home, however for so many this is not the case.

The suggested object this week to reflect on, is an umbrella or some kind of tent. An object that speaks of a temporary shelter or maybe reminds us of the reality that all earthly homes are temporary. Our Psalm for today, 27 reminds us in verse 5 of where our true and everlasting home is: *“For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;*

he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock". Our soul nourishment therefore starts with cherishing our dwelling place in the Lord. A rich place that grows through drawing on Jesus's teaching on the wise builder, who builds a house on the word of God, which is a rock of firm foundation (Matthew 7: 24-27).

The temporary nature of a tent also speaks into the reality faced by so many people both here in Northamptonshire, across the UK and the world. The social housing crisis is rising across Northamptonshire, with a doubling of the requests received each month to the councils, in the last year. A place to live is a basic human need, but the sad reality is that, according to the UN, around 1.6 billion people don't have access to adequate housing (<https://www3.rics.org/uk/en/modus/built-environment/homes-and-communities/president-column-tina-paillet-june-2024.html>).

In our Luke reading from Chapter 13, we read how Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Jesus's weeping reveals his compassion and love, especially through his words of **longing** to gather; 'as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings'. Jesus teaches us here that to lament over a situation, is a place of compassion and of action. During Lent we so often focus on fasting, of giving up certain things, but Jesus led by the spirit in the wilderness for forty days wrestled with temptations (Mark 1:13). Jesus' lamenting over Jerusalem and wrestling with temptations suggest to me that this Lenten period is about holding in tension; being a period of reflection and spiritual nourishment, alongside lamenting and seeking God's guidance as to the action God is asking of us to reflect God's love as Jesus did. Therefore, let us follow Jesus' example to prayerfully lament and have compassion on the need for safe houses for so many, not to linger in the lament but to seek God as to the action we might take to change this reality. 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 706 Longing for light,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04ulOM>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus: Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. **Chorus**

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. **Chorus**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. **Chorus**

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **Chorus**
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CCLI Song Number: 121074

Final Prayer:

Go now and continue to offer prayers and thanksgiving for everyone.
Be shrewd in dealing with the world around you but do not be seduced into serving wealth.
Weep for those who suffer and share faith and truth with all.

And may God welcome you with love;
May Christ Jesus give you knowledge of the truth; And may the Holy Spirit lead you into all godliness and dignity.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...In the name of Christ. Amen
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/08/benediction-proper-20-c.html> Copyright © 2001 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net