Worship@Home 25th October 2026 led by Revd David Speirs

Opening Prayer:

God of love, we come to you as we are. Quiet our hearts, open our minds to your word, and draw us more deeply into the life of your kingdom. Through your Holy Spirit, teach us to love you with all that we are and to love our neighbours with generous and practical care. Fix our eyes on Jesus, that our worship and our lives may honour him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

StF 436 – What shall I do my God to love

https://youtu.be/U4VUgDQFIXw?si=Ch4B2p59SGDZD9Wm

What shall I do my God to love, my loving God to praise?
The length, and breadth, and height to prove, and depth of sovereign grace?

Your sovereign grace to all extends, immense and unconfined;
from age to age it never ends; enfolds all humankind.

Throughout the world its breadth is known, wide as infinity;
so wide it never passed by one, or it had passed by me.

My trespass was grown up to heaven; but, far above the skies,
in Christ abundantly forgiven, I see your mercies rise.

The depth of all-redeeming love what angel tongue can tell?
O may I to the utmost prove the gift unspeakable!

Come quickly, gracious Lord, and take possession of your own;
my longing heart vouchsafe to make your everlasting throne.
Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Please read:

Matthew 22: 34-46 https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=466477807

Time to Reflect

Have you ever been asked a question by someone more interested in catching you out than hearing your answer? In today's Gospel, the religious leaders test Jesus, hoping to expose a weakness in his teaching. Yet his answer reaches beyond their question and reveals what matters most to God.

A teacher of the law asks which commandment is greatest. Jesus brings faith into focus with two life-changing instructions: love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. At the heart of faith is love; not merely a feeling or words spoken, but love that shapes our priorities, relationships and daily choices.

First and foremost, Jesus calls us to love God wholeheartedly, not reserving faith for Sunday worship or occasional prayer. Loving God with heart, soul and mind means allowing faith to influence our decisions, attitudes and relationships. Although we may not always feel close to God, loving God means trusting him through joy and uncertainty, seeking his guidance and making room for his presence each day.

For many of us, our love for God has grown through years of worship, prayer and fellowship. We may remember times when God sustained us through difficulties, brought comfort through a familiar hymn or made his presence known through another person's kindness. Such experiences remind us that our love for God begins with God's love for us. We do not have to earn that love or prove ourselves worthy of it. Christ has done everything for us through the cross and resurrection. We are invited to respond to the love and grace we have already received.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Loving God cannot be separated from loving others. We cannot claim to love the God we worship while remaining indifferent to those around us. But who is our neighbour? Not simply the person next door, a friend who shares our interests or someone who agrees with us. Our neighbour may be someone who is lonely, whose opinions challenge our own or whose experiences differ from ours. It may be a family member needing patience, a friend needing someone to listen, or a stranger who would appreciate kindness. It may be someone with whom we profoundly disagree.

Sometimes, we become so absorbed in our own concerns that we fail to notice others' needs. Loving our neighbour begins with paying attention: noticing who might be struggling, making time for someone who feels forgotten, offering forgiveness or finding a practical way to help.

Across Northampton and the village communities, we may not solve every problem,
but we can make a difference in the lives of those God places before us.

Jesus challenges the leaders to think more deeply about the Messiah. He is David's descendant, yet also David's Lord; a claim that goes far beyond their expectations. Jesus is not merely a teacher who tells us how to love, but our Saviour and Lord, revealing God's generous, forgiving and faithful love through his life, death and resurrection. Through the Holy Spirit, God's presence within and among us, we grow in Christlike love.

So, as we reflect today, let us ask ourselves: Am I making room for God in my daily life? Who might need my love, patience or attention today? What small, practical act of kindness could I offer?

We may not change the whole world, but we can allow God's love to transform the part entrusted to us. This may begin with an unhurried conversation, a thoughtful message, a willingness to listen before speaking or a quiet decision to forgive. Such actions may seem small, yet in God's hands they become signs of his kingdom, offering hope and helping others know they are seen, valued and loved.

As disciples of Jesus, may our faith be seen not only in our worship and fellowship, but in lives shaped by practical love: loving God wholeheartedly, loving our neighbours generously and following Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. 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…
Peace, justice and reconciliation…
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven…

StF 407 – Hear the call of the Kingdom

https://youtu.be/890lp_P0Ffs?si=wCXdPGOd7AGsXJ97

Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King;
let his song rise within you as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ;
walking justly before him, loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the kingdom to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come:
let the nations put their trust in him.

Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963) © 2006 Thankyou Music Ltd. CCLI Song Number: 4930752

Final Prayer

Loving God, thank you for meeting us in worship and for showing us your perfect love in Jesus Christ. Send us out to love you with heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbours in word and action. By your Holy Spirit, make us attentive to need, courageous in justice, patient in service and faithful in hope, so that our lives may bear witness to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.