



Worship@Home 11th October 2026 with Melvina Brown

Opening Prayer

Our heavenly Lord, today we give you honour and praise; and we thank you for being with us in every place. As we worship in our homes, we pray that you will meet with us, speak to us and fill our hearts with your peace.

As we sing, may our hearts be filled with hope, joy and admiration; and as we reflect on your words, may our hearts and minds be opened to the prompting and working of your Spirit. This we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

STF 526 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

https://youtu.be/gTDmsQsLpeg?si=f1QiVFloRjAE_lhi

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace.
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

Jan Struther (b1931) Words by permission of Oxford University Press.

Bible reading: Philippians 4:1-9

<https://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Philippians+4:1-9&version=nrsv>

Time to Reflect

In today's reading, Paul speaks to the Philippians, addressing a breakdown in a relationship between two women, Euodia and Syntyche.

Something has happened which has caused disunity between these two women. Most likely, this was having a negative impact on the people around them, as Paul addresses it openly in front of everyone.

Unfortunately, negativity and ill feelings can often spread a lot quicker than good news and positive feelings, so there is an urgency in his message. He encourages them to address this situation promptly, and he even encourages others to help with reconciliation.

I am sure we all can recall instances or seasons where we have had a breakdown in a relationship. Whether it be a relationship with a family member or a friend; or as in the case of Euodia and Syntyche someone with whom we fellowship. All relationship breakdowns are disappointing and disheartening, but there is something very sorrowful about a breakdown with a brother or sister, with whom we fellowship especially when it is left unattended.

The impact of this doesn't just remain between two people but it's impact can spread to other individuals and groups. Impacting how we worship together, serve each other, serve others, and even our witness of Jesus as Lord. The impact on our testimony and the message of disunity that this may convey to people who are not of faith, can have a lasting impact on their openness to God. We can learn from Paul's passion and urgent plea, by not ignoring issues when they arise; paying attention to disunity and negativity; and by doing all that we can to heal rifts and breakdowns in relationships.

The chapter then addresses our relationships with God. One which should be based on trust, confidence and assurance in every situation, which is much easier said than done! "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Is it even humanly possible not to worry about anything? Never to be concerned? Disturbed? Anxious or distressed?

We are designed to feel stress and anxiety when under threat, in danger or facing uncertainty. Our hearts start racing, our palms become sweaty and our minds go into over-drive.

These reactions are a part of being human. Scripture is not saying that we won't experience worry, anxiety, stress or even depression; difficult times come to us all. We are encouraged however, to put our trust and confidence in God during these times, as He is willing and ready to guide us through every situation.

Peace is prayer's companion. Whatever the problem, circumstance or the situation, we can take it to the Lord in prayer. The friendship and fellowship we can have with our Lord will help us to face any situation with the assurance, that He is a 'God of all hopefulness and our Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy'. From our fellowship and friendship with Jesus, we can learn how to love, care and live in unity the people around us.

And finally, we are encouraged to have a healthy relationship with ourselves, filling our minds with good things, thinking the best, not the worst; dwelling on things that are beautiful, not the ugly; things that are celebratory and worthy of praise. And every good thing that we have learnt we should put it into practice, so that God will be pleased with who we are, and how we live our lives.

By having fellowship with each other, companionship with God and an honest and positive relationship with ourselves, we will be more able to live lives that are not plagued with worry or stress, but live lives which are filled with joy, contentment and peace. **Amen**

Prayer of Intercession

You are invited to pray silently for:

Our society where worry and anxiety affects people of all ages.

For friends and loved ones whom you know of who are experiencing worrying and difficult times.

For God's peace to reign in our hearts, so that together we can share His peace with others.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven...

STF 531 What a friend we have in Jesus

<https://youtu.be/-2skxuowcaY?si=SwUvq5NPmEhpgvm>

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1855) *Worship and Rejoice*, 2003

Blessing (based on Philippians 4:4-7)

Go now and rejoice in the Lord always.

Do not be afraid or worried about anything,
but in everything trust God and pray.

Bear fruits worthy of repentance,
sharing what you have and being gentle with all.

And may God rejoice over you with gladness;

May Christ Jesus renew you in his love;

and may the Holy Spirit give you peace beyond understanding to guard
your hearts and minds in Christ. We go in peace to love and serve the

Lord, In the name of Christ. Amen.

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