

Worship at Home service for Sunday 19th February 2023 with Revd Ian Forsyth

A gathering prayer:

Lord, our God, let us see your glory.
Help us to lift our eyes to you, open our ears
to hear your voice. You gave your message to
prophets throughout history; you give us your
Holy Spirit for the present. And you have given
us Jesus, your Son, to lead us into eternity
with you. Lord, we see, we hear, we believe,
and we come to worship.

Amen.

StF 362 - Meekness and Majesty

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gtt52JEW_Zo

Meekness and majesty,
Manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony -
The Man who is God

Lord of eternity,
Dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility
and washes our feet.

Oh what a mystery -
Meekness and majesty:
Bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
This is your God!

Father's pure radiance,
Perfect in innocence,
yet loves obedience
to death on a cross:

Suffering to give us life,
conquering through sacrifice -
And as they crucify, prays 'Father, forgive.'

Oh what a mystery -
Meekness and majesty:
Bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
This is your God!

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
in frailty appears:

Lord of infinity,
stopping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.

Oh what a mystery -
Meekness and majesty:
Bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
This is your God,
This is your God!

Bible readings

Psalm 119 v 1 - 8 NIV

Matthew 5 v 38 - 48 NIV

Prayers:

Sarah Crosby, Methodist Preacher (1729–1804)

Most of us don't like change, Lord Jesus! We
are comfortable in the rut we have carved out
for ourselves, the way we see things, the way
we act, the familiar pattern of the
everyday. And then you step into our lives,
Lord, you disrupt our thoughts, you challenge
us to look at the world, those around us,
differently, you invade our plans, you make us
question our values! But it's not your fault,
Lord, for I invited you in. I was challenged by
the way you lived, overwhelmed by the way
you loved, moved by the sacrifice you were
prepared to make for the world – for me! And
so there was no alternative, Lord, and now
you are changing me – I'm sure it's for the
better, but it's not easy, as you know! **Amen**

Too long have I worried about so many things
yet my Lord few are needed.

May I today live more simply – like the bread.

May I live more clearly – like the water.

May I live today, be more selfless – like Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Time to reflect:

During the last few weeks, we have been
looking at the Sermon on the Mount.

In Matthew, Jesus' teaching as recorded is all
about our Christian character.

It is not a set of instructions on how we are to behave but it is all about discovering the Living God in the loving and dying Jesus. We are continuously learning to reflect on that love, that the world and those around us needs so greatly.

Here are three examples that may help us in our walk with God today. The first one is turning the other cheek when someone strikes us. Our first reaction may be to hit back verbally, it may be tempting to do so, but somehow it continues to keep evil in circulation. In Biblical times if you were offering the other cheek, you are saying we are now equal and there is no one who is more superior than the other. In our society it is about welcoming all. The Bible says there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The second example asks us to imagine us in a court room when we have been asked to pay a fine, we just cannot pay. In the days of Jesus nearly everyone only had two coats and the offer of just one coat shows that someone has nothing else to give. To give away your second coat you were showing you were poor and being shamed publicly, this was the end of the line, there was nowhere else to go financially. Sometimes we may feel that we have little to offer to God but wants to be generous to those around us sharing all that we have to bless those around us.

In the third example the Roman authorities had laws to force people to carry military equipment for just one mile, it was forbidden for them to go further. However, Jesus encouraged people to not get angry but to volunteer to go further. To offer to go the second mile would alarm the roman soldiers as you are showing a different way of being caring. Do we go the extra mile for God?

I can remember my grandfather who fought in World War One once said to me 'violence is never the answer'. Jesus opened a new way for all, Jesus showed us how to react by his responses, he was mocked and did not respond. When they struck him, he took the pain and when they gave him the cross beam on his shoulders walking through the streets of Jerusalem to his place of crucifixion, Jesus did that for you and me.

In Jesus we see Emmanuel God with us, but it is all about discovering the Living God in the loving and dying Jesus.

StF 20 - Be still for the presence of the Lord.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOCfPjLOvC4>

Be still for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy one is here;
Come bow before him now
in reverence and fear:
In Him no sin is found -
We stand on Holy ground.
Be still
for the presence of the Lord
the Holy one, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with Holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned:
How awesome is the sight -
Our radiant King of light!
Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal
to minister His grace:
No work too hard for Him -
In faith receive from Him.
Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

A sending out prayer:

Awesome God, your glory shines all around us. Help us to use all our senses to know how close you are. Give us words to tell everyone that you are there for them too. **Amen.**

May the God who knows where you come from and where you should be going, go with you. May the God who knows your hopes and dreams, bless you – and others through you – more than you can possibly imagine. May the God who was with Joseph and Mary in all that they faced, be known to you as Immanuel – God with you. **Amen.**