

**Worship at Home Service Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 with Revd Ian Forsyth**

**A Call to Worship:**

The grace, love, and fellowship of God surrounds us today and always. So, come, let us journey together in the wonderful adventure of worshipping God, the holy 'three in one'.

**Amen**

**StF 82 – O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder**

[https://www.google.com/search?q=o+lord+when+i+in+awesome+wonder&rlz=1C1ONGR\\_en-GBGB1058GB1058&source=lnms&tbn=vid&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjhuvzel4v\\_AhUCZsAKHd\\_sAIMQ\\_AUoAXoECAIQAw&cshid=1684836238655455&biw=1024&bih=710&dpr=1.25#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:03f918f6\\_vid:USM71JqV30o](https://www.google.com/search?q=o+lord+when+i+in+awesome+wonder&rlz=1C1ONGR_en-GBGB1058GB1058&source=lnms&tbn=vid&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjhuvzel4v_AhUCZsAKHd_sAIMQ_AUoAXoECAIQAw&cshid=1684836238655455&biw=1024&bih=710&dpr=1.25#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:03f918f6_vid:USM71JqV30o)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the works thy hands hath made;  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

2 When through the woods and forest glades I  
wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain  
grandeur,  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle  
breeze:  
*Refrain*

3 And when I think how God, his Son not  
sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burdens gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin:  
*Refrain*

4 When Christ shall come with shouts of  
acclamation,  
To take me home, what joy will fill my heart!  
Then I will bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou  
art!  
*Refrain*

**Bible readings**

**Trinity Sunday:** Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31; Psalm 8; Matthew 7 v 21 - 29 Psalm 31 NIV

**Prayers of adoration**

On this Trinity Sunday, O God the Holy Trinity, we worship you – even though sometimes we have doubts and fears. You are the one we adore, without whom life has no purpose. You, O Holy Trinity, meet us and greet us, support and uphold us, provide for us and equip us, wherever we are on our journey in life. We adventure with you, into the known and unknown, but believing that you will always be with us, to the end of the age. You are the one we adore. **Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession**

Where there is conflict between nations and within nations; where people live in fear of the bullet and the bomb; when parents weep for children who have been killed: God of peace, **may your peace be known.**

In homes filled with anger, cruelty and neglect; where there are no safe places; where poverty and addiction bring suffering and pain: God of peace, **may your peace be known.**

To those whose minds are tormented by depression; to those whose hold on life is fragile; to those whose lives are filled with stress: God of peace, **may your peace be known.**

To those who are nearing the end of life; to those who love and care for them: God of peace, **may your peace be known.**

May your peace be known to us, and may we be bearers of your peace in our world.  
**Amen.**

**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:**

Jesus talks to the crowd and shares a parable about a builder. In this story we often focus on the builder, yet Jesus says right at the start, the wise person who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice, is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

All through life people feel battered by the storms and the place of refuge for all of us is knowing God's love in difficult times. In Psalm 46 David says God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

When I was at Bible College we lived in Belfast and one evening while we were sitting in our home the windows and doors began to shake before we were plunged into darkness for an hour or so. My uncle was staying with us at the time, and he was surprised at our calmness, it was nothing new to us, it meant another bomb had exploded in the city. The next morning, I went into the city centre and saw that the theatre walls were blown in and there was a burnt-out car and there was cladding and debris on the ground outside the Europa hotel. In all the buildings around, the foundations were shaken, and some walls had crumbled.

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus shares a parable about having a firm foundation. The wise builder who had built his house on a rock withstood all the storms, but the house the foolish builder built on the sand, did not survive.

I remember as a young boy building sandcastles with my grandpa and then later with our three boys putting a wall around a sandcastle trying to battle the tides. We had hours of fun; however, the incoming tide and the sweeping waves always won the battle. As the tide retreated it left a sandy beach and its golden sands, all level and smooth, as though nothing had happened previously.

Over the years I have had different jobs and one of them was working in an architectural company, working on the Cromwell Hospital in London. The foundations were so deep, we had to work with the London underground as the piles needed to be drilled safely to miss the tube network below ground.

In the church we have had an ancient hymn with a verse that says

The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy Bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

As we consider our faith, we can live our lives with confidence when we live according to the word of God. God wants us listen to His word and take action.

### **StF 707 – Make me a channel of your peace.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8eorCEMIK4>

Make me a channel of your peace:  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*O Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

2 Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light:  
and where there's sadness, ever joy:  
*Refrain*

3 Make me a channel of your peace:  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving unto all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

### **Closing Prayer for all ages:**

God of adventure, thank you that no matter where the journey may take us, you will always be by our side, giving us renewed strength, vision, and hope. **Amen.**