



## AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025

*compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson*

### **Call to Worship**

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise

Pause and reflect on your week. Where did we experience the work of God in our lives.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise

### **HYMN STF 1**

1] All people that on earth do dwell,

Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;

Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell,

Come ye before Him and rejoice.

2] The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,

Without our aid He did us make:

We are His flock, He doth us feed,

And for His sheep He doth us take.

3] O enter then His gates with praise,

Approach with joy His courts unto:

Praise, laud, and bless His name always,

For it is seemly so to do.

4] For why, the Lord our God is good;

His mercy is forever sure;

His truth at all times firmly stood,

And shall from age to age endure.

5] To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,

The God whom earth and heaven adore,

From earth and from the angel host;

Be praise and glory evermore.

*William Kethe (d.1594)*

### **PRAYER**

Holy God, we praise and thank you

For you are holy, you are our creator, you are divine.

We worship you today, only you.

Bless us as we join with the global Christian community

In hearing your word and singing your praise

Joining together as we share your gospel across our world

We praise you for the awesome

God that you are

And our worship springs from our desire to follow and honour you

You rule over all that you

Have lovingly designed

Enable us to hear your words and to obey your commands

In all we do and say. AMEN

## LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

### **READING** – 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen

### **Hymn - STF 78**

Give thanks with a grateful heart.  
Give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.  
(Repeat)

And now let the weak say 'I am strong,'  
Let the poor say 'I am rich,'  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
(Repeat)  
(Last time) Give thanks.

*Henry Smith (b. 1952)*

### **Reflection**

I have recently been reflecting on my time in ministry and I reminded myself of that moment in my ordination service in Chesterfield when the President says to the gathered congregation, "Do you believe and trust that they are, by God's grace, worthy to be ordained?"....the congregation quite literally shout back "They are worthy"... I remember being utterly floored by this. All kinds of emotions welled up inside of me and tears trickled down my cheeks. I had to gather myself quickly as I then had to make all my promises as a presbyter.

It makes me very aware that many of us feel unworthy to do the job that God has called us to do.

In our reading we have Paul writing to a young church leader called Timothy. He shares his thanks for God entrusting him with his ministry...especially knowing that Paul was once a "blasphemer, a persecutor and a man of violence". He had a lot to be thankful to God for...but above all, he wanted to share with Timothy that if God had called you in the work of the Kingdom, he was not alone. Both God and his fellow followers were a strong support group.

Sometimes in our lives and our work we can feel very alone, as though we are the only ones doing stuff !!! The reality is that we are never alone. Paul says that the, "grace of our Lord overflowed for me..." wow...I'll take some of that any day.

Timothy was a young man, new to responsibility. My remembrance of facing all those people at my ordination shout, "they are worthy" still fills me with emotion, because so many times I do not feel worthy, or capable or strong...what I remember is that I am never alone, that people have promised to support me and uphold me and pray for me.

I suppose one of our strengths as a community of faith in Jesus, is that is not about ourselves on our own, but it is a 'community'. We look out for each other and help each other when needed, we worship together, we bless each other, we learn and serve together. All through a faith in Jesus Christ.

But it is more than simply being nice to each other. Sometimes we can be criticized for this or challenged for that...but it is a strength. Christianity can be perceived as weak and foolish by many, because of our understanding of love. But Paul says, *'but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.'*

Let us uphold one another in love as through that love others will see God through us and want to know more of this God for themselves. AMEN

### **Prayers**

Let us pause in silence  
as we approach God with our intercessions:

#### **Let us hold before God our world**

The place and people that are caught in war zones.

Especially Gaza and Ukraine

Holy God we ask that you bring peace to the regions of our world  
That government leaders may be driven  
by the desire for peace rather than greed or ego or self-power.

#### **Let us hold before God those in our lives who are sick, suffering, lonely or bereaved**

Comforting God come close to those that need healing and comfort,  
Let them know your presence beside them, wrapped in your arms and embraced in your love.

#### **Let us hold before God the young people in our society**

Loving God as our young people face more and more pressures in our world  
We ask for your protection and your Spirit to guide them in their decisions  
And actions and words that they become shining lights for you in our world.  
We pray for all those that work with them, bless them in all they do for you.

#### **Let us hold ourselves before God**

We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit  
That we may not lose our way on the journey  
And that by God's grace we may live  
Always to bring glory to God's name.

Lord in your mercy  
Hear our prayer AMEN

### **HYMN – STF 507**

1] O for a heart to praise my God,  
A heart from sin set free;  
A heart that always feels Thy blood  
So freely shed for me;

2] A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
My great Redeemer's throne,  
Where only Christ is heard to speak,  
Where Jesus reigns alone;

3] A humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
Believing, true, and clean;  
Which neither life nor death can part  
From Him who dwells within;

4] A heart in every thought renewed,  
And full of love divine;  
Perfect and right, and pure, and good:  
A copy, Lord, of Thine.

5] Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart;  
Come quickly from above;  
Write Thy new name upon my heart,  
Thy new best name of love.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### **Blessing**

The Lord says go!  
This is not end but the beginning.  
This is not the conclusion  
But the launch of a life of  
Praise and thanksgiving.  
In the name of Jesus Christ  
Our Lord and Saviour,  
Today and always. AMEN