



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 20th September 2026

compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship - Psalm 105:1-5

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered.
AMEN

HYMN - StF 530

1] To be in your presence,
To sit at Your feet,
Where Your love surrounds me,
And makes me complete.

*This is my desire, O Lord,
This is my desire.
This is my desire, O Lord,
This is my desire.*

2] To rest in Your presence,
Not rushing away;
To cherish each moment,
Here I would stay.

Noel Richards (b.1955)

PRAYER

As we gather together today
Whether we are alone or with others
Enable us to feel connected to our wider church community
Worshipping together for the Glory of God.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Open our hearts and minds to receive from you today
To be transformed inwardly for the work you call us to do for your purpose and your kingdom. AMEN

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING - Exodus 16:1-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him - what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.' " And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' "

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Hymn - StF 455

1] All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.

2] Human pride and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray our trust;
What with care and toil we fashion,
Tower and temple, fall to dust
But God's power,
Hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.

3] God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.

4] Daily doth th'Almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.

5] Still from earth to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Reflection

There are some people in this world that I always feel sorry for. Probably top of that list was Moses. Reluctant leader of the people of Israel. God had a tough time convincing him to take the lead. After much ducking and diving, God persuaded the reluctant prophet to take the helm. We pick up the story not long after they had escaped Egypt. The relief of their divine deliverance, still ringing in their ears, the celebrations of the defeat of their oppressors a recent memory, and yet...

When they meet a new hurdle, the whinging starts and poor Moses must be confused and rather annoyed. And more than a little fed up with both God and his people.

So what changed the mood so quickly?

On this occasion it was food! They were hungry, and they blamed Moses and his brother Aaron.

The passage is focused more on the providence of God towards the people. Despite their complaining (and it was a lot as their journey progressed), God kept to the promise that was made to Moses in their encounter at the burning bush (Exodus 3), to save them from slavery and to bring them to the promised land. God always made good on this promise...despite the complaints and the disobedience.

God is faithful even when people are not. God keeps promises even when people doubt. We pray often, in fact we have done earlier in our service, "give this day our daily bread". The manna provided was for daily use, not to be hoarded or kept in storage, but to be enough for that day to sustain and to satisfy. Perhaps sometimes we are tempted to seek after more than we need. Living in the providence of God is to trust in God for what we need in the here and now.

I think there is an inherent fear of the unknown in many people. Just like the people of Israel wondering through the desert, they look back with thankfulness about what has already been achieved, but when they turn the other way looking into the unknown future, it is easier to see stumbling blocks rather than to put their hands in the hand of God who invites us all to trust in what comes next, and to rely on God's providence, no matter what the challenge that lies ahead of us. AMEN

Prayers

Holy God,

We pray for your providence for people in the world today...

For those with not enough food to sustain them...

For those stuck in the cycle of addiction...

For those who fear death daily in the arenas of war...

For those that suffer at home and in hospital through illness...

For those grieving the death of a loved one...

For those whose freedom is curtailed and are oppressed by tyrannical political leaders...

For those who desperately need someone to talk to and are constantly alone...

For those who do not know where they are going to sleep tonight...

For those who suffer daily from the effects of climate change...

Our list goes on and we spend some time in silence lifting others specific to ourselves before God...

We thank you God for all you provide for us, let us trust in you as we face the unknown of tomorrow, but also that you give us the courage to support others in their needs.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

HYMN - StF 475

1] God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed,
who through this weary pilgrimage
hast all our forebears led;

2] Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
of their succeeding race.

3] Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.

4] O spread thy covering wings around
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

5] To thee as to our Covenant God
We'll our whole selves resign
And this not as a tithe alone
For all we have is thine

Philip Dodderidge (1702-1751)

Blessing

As we finish our service, may God bless you with wisdom, courage, and perseverance to live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ as you work, rest, play, and strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Amen

Amen

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