



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 30th August 2026

compiled by Dean James - Worship Leader

Call to Worship: from Exodus 3

Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up."

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

God said to Moses, "I AM who I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

We come today to the same God who called Moses, who says "I AM who I AM."

Let us take a moment to say, "Here I am."

Hymn

1] God is working this purpose out,
as year succeeds to year;
God is working this purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be:
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

2] From utmost east to utmost west,
wherever man has trod,
by the mouth of many messengers
rings out the voice of God:
Listen to me, you continents,
you islands, look to me,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea."

3] We shall march in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world.
Let us all fight with sorrow and sin
to set their captives free,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

4] All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed.
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed.
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919)

Prayers based on Psalm 105: 1-9

Lord, we give you praise and proclaim your name; We make known among the nations what you have done. We sing to you, sing praise to you and tell of all your wonderful acts. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Lord, help us look to you for strength and seek his face always. We remember the wonders you have done, your miracles, and the judgments you pronounced. We are your people, the descendants of Abraham, your chosen ones, the children of Jacob. You are the Lord our God; You remember your covenant forever, the promise you made, for a thousand generations, the covenant you made with Abraham, the oath you swore to Isaac. We give you thanks as your people of promise.

1] Glory to you,
Lord God of our fathers;
you are worthy of praise;
glory to you.

2] Glory to you
for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you
and highly exalt you for ever.

3] Glory to you
in the splendour of your temple;
on the throne of your majesty,
glory to you.

4] Glory to you,
seated between the cherubim;
we will praise you
and highly exalt you for ever.

5] Glory to you,
beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven,
glory to you.

6] Glory to you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you
and highly exalt you for ever.

John Rutter (b.1945)

The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

"Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Sing or read this worship song and then read the words from Matthew's Gospel again.

Lord you have my heart and I will search for yours
Jesus take my life and lead me on.
Lord you have my heart and I will search for yours

Let me be to you a sacrifice.
And I will praise you Lord.
And I will sing of love come down.
And as you show your face,
We'll see your glory here.

Martin Smith (b.1970)

Reflect

Peter had recognised who Jesus is. In Matthew's Gospel, just a few verses before we read: When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus had Peter's heart, but Peter still needed to understand the full extent of what Jesus was going to do and what that would mean for him and all who would call themselves disciples of Jesus. In our human understanding we can sometimes get in the way of what God is doing. Let us always seek the heart of God as we walk with Him.

Paul gives us some instruction of what it means to know God's heart for everyone and what we should be doing in serving others in His name in another set reading for today.

Reading: Romans 12: 9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

In Romans 12:1-8 Paul appeals to Roman Christians "to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God" He says, "Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind". He tells them "not to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think; but to think reasonably". Paul is telling them and us what Christian discipleship requires. In verses 9-21, he goes into detail regarding specific attitudes and actions that must grow in us as we search God's heart and perfect will for us. In the verses from Exodus in our call to worship we hear of the calling of Moses to give his life to serving God in leading the people of Israel out of captivity. He wasn't sure that he had what it would take to do it, but he let God work in and through him to achieve God's plan. When Peter finally got the full picture of what God had done in the death and resurrection of Christ he gave his life to proclaiming the good news to all people. Are we prepared to deny ourselves and take up the cross of Jesus, whatever that means for us? For each of us this looks different, but the core of what it means is contained in Paul's words above. Read them again. Amen

Prayer

Lord God, we come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your guidance to cultivate a spirit of service within us. Help us to embrace opportunities to serve others with love and compassion.
May our heart be open and ready to respond to the needs around me, reflecting Your grace and kindness in all I do. Amen

Prayers of intercession

Lord God, we pray that the Church may bring Christ's healing to all peoples, crossing every boundary to offer God's mercy without exception.

Pray for those on your heart today.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord God, we pray that leaders of nations may care for those who are excluded and forgotten, hearing their cry as you hear them.

Pray for peoples on your heart today

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord God, we pray for our world; for peace and harmony between people, an end to war, inequality and oppression; for aid and support for the starving, the war torn, the refugee, the marginalised and those affected by natural disaster.

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord God, we pray for our community; for families, friends, neighbours and those we share our lives with; for mutual respect and love for one another, for reconciliation where there is hurt and for our homes to be places of love and welcome.

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord God, we pray for ourselves and your church, that lives are transfigured that we may turn away from self towards others around us; that we may be channels for God's grace by our words and actions.

We offer all our prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen

Hymn

1] Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2] We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3] I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4] I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5] When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6] Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Blessing

Ephesians 3:20-22

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

May He work in and through us to fulfil His purposes.