



## AT HOME SERVICE

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

*compiled by Dean James - Worship Leader*

Let us be still for a moment as we draw near to worship God...

Take just a few seconds to remind yourself why we worship today...

Think about what these words mean to you: Forgiven, Comforted, blessed, peace, loved.

But most of all we worship God because He is God.

Listen, God speaks even through the background noise of the world around us...

Lord God, in this time, open our ears and our eyes to see your kingdom and our part within it.

Teach us, hear our prayers and enable us for service wherever and however you use us, to your praise and glory. Amen

### Hymn

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 his 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 the 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)*

*based on Joachim Neander (1650-1680)*

### Prayer

Lord, unclutter our lives. Grant us perspective; to see this world through your eyes and through others' eyes rather than just our own.

Grant us compassion to see where there is need to play our part.

Grant us gratitude for what we have, our daily bread the gift of life.

Unclutter our lives, Lord, give us space, simplicity and thankful hearts.

God of healing, God of wholeness, we bring our brokenness, our sinfulness, our fears and despair, and lay them at your feet.

God of healing, God of wholeness, we hold out hearts and hands, minds and souls to feel your touch, and know the peace that only you can bring.

God of healing, God of wholeness, in this precious moment in your presence and power grant us faith and confidence that here broken lives are made whole.

Thank you, Creator God, for the power of your love. Amen

### Hymn

1] Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to You.

Make us Your own, Your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light,*

*Shine in our hearts,*

*Shine through the darkness*

*Christ, be our light,*

*Shine in Your church gathered today.*

2] Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us Your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light .....*

3] Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making Your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light .....*

*Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)*

### Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 13-20

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him - these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

### Reflection

Some of Paul's Jewish contemporaries would have once considered him wise in the conventional sense of the word. He had been a Jewish scholar. He knew more about the Jewish Scriptures and theology than most. But here he tells the Corinthians in verse 2 that his converted self, "resolved to know nothing while he was with them except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

True wisdom, he suggests, is in knowing that God's ways in the world is based on God's work to save the world through the cross of Jesus Christ. God's ways, in other words, centre on the apparent weakness of His

Son's willing submission to death. This apparent weakness, Paul says, shapes the way he ministers. "I came to you," he tells Corinth's Christians in verse 3, "in weakness and fear, and with much trembling."

Paul was determined, not to display his intellectual, theological or even physical power to the Christians in Corinth. He, instead, displayed the power of the Holy Spirit. Human natures wisdom about how things work in our world thinks that those who have the most power dominate in their corner of the world. Paul rejects such conventional wisdom throughout his epistles. He insists that people who are wise to God's ways in the world understand that God works through human weakness to carry out God's plans and purposes. The powerful work of the Spirit is the key to gaining wisdom. No human wisdom, says Paul, can grasp God's ways and plans for our world and God's people. But Paul says, God has revealed it to those open to the Holy Spirit. In verse 13 Paul says, "We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us."

Isaiah 55: 6-11 says; Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, for he will freely pardon.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Paul contrasts the worlds understanding of wisdom with the wisdom which God reveals in Christ Jesus and him crucified. Paul insists that not all wisdom is true wisdom. It's a good lesson for us as Jesus' followers to remember, particularly in a culture that exalts one form of wisdom over the one that Paul praises.

Conventional wisdom is materialist. Our culture assumes that the only things that are real are those that are quantifiable and provable. If you can't smell, see, hear or feel something, or somehow otherwise prove it, it isn't real. At least some of those who our materialist culture considers wise believe that matter is the only thing that really matters. The special wisdom to which Paul claims access is God's wisdom that leads God's people to glory and is knowable only by the Holy Spirit.

As the people of God, we must try to proclaim His wisdom available to us through the power of the Holy Spirit in all that we do and say, and trust in God's word that promises. "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it". If we live in God's wisdom He will fulfil His purposes through us. "What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God." Amen

### **Prayers of intercession**

God of justice and mercy, hear our prayers.

The news headlines shock us with so much cruelty, tragedy and suffering that we barely know where to begin in our praying for those in need, but we trust in you O God, to hear us as we lift all these places and people to you.....

**God of justice and mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for those who do not know you, who do not know the depths of your love and care, who live with poverty of spirit and understanding, confusion and denial of you. May your Spirit speak to them your wisdom, and let us your people shine with your Spirit for them. God of justice and mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for those who mourn, who have had their lives changed, turned upside down by the death of family friends or neighbours. In their grief comfort to them we pray. Show us when we can be a light to those to whom life seems dark at this time....

**God of justice and mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for our families, our friends, our neighbours, those we know and love and care for who need our prayers especially this day. Those who are sick or troubled in any way. For healing of relationships and forgiveness for wrongs done....

**God of justice and mercy, hear our prayers.**

Hear our words, O God, and hear the yearnings of our hearts that we may walk humbly with you sharing love and generosity wherever we go. In the name and for the sake of Jesus. Amen

**Hymn**

1] Colours of day dawn into the mind,  
The sun has come up, the night is behind.  
Go down in the city, into the street,  
And let's give the message to the people we meet

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,  
Open the door, let Jesus return,  
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,  
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

2] Go through the park, on into the town;  
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.  
The light of the world is risen again;  
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

*So light up the fire.....*

3] Open your eyes, look into the sky,  
The darkness has come, the sun came to die,  
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,  
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

*So light up the fire.....*

*Sue McClellan (b.1951)*

*John Paculabo (1946- 2013)*

*& Keith Ryecroft (b.1949)*

**Blessing**

May the peace of God enfold us,  
The love of God uphold us,  
The wisdom of God control us. Amen