

# PRAYER WEEK 2020 – INTRODUCTION, WELCOME AND ACTIVITIES

## THEME: 'BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD'

### Welcome to our 'Prayer Week'!

Each day we will look at a different way to know God or to come to God:

Creator, Father, Jesus the Son, Redeemer, Saviour, Lord, or the Holy Spirit.

Let us expect to be challenged to grow spiritually this week so that our



faith becomes relevant to every aspect of our daily lives.

There will be a 'Psalm of the day', a daily reflection including prayers, and a variety of activities that you can try out (or not!) over the week – choose what you feel will work for you, but consider trying something that might push you out of your comfort zone – give God every opportunity to work in your life.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August: Creator God – Psalm 8 (Trish Davis)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August: Father God – Psalm 103 (Andy Warren)

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August: Jesus the Son - Psalm 2 (Karen Robinson)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August: Holy Spirit – Psalm 51 (Philip Seaton)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August: Redeemer – Psalm 19 (Pauline Seaton)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August: Saviour – Psalm 146 (Richard Davis) (*in the Good News Bible this Psalm is headed 'In praise of God the Saviour'*)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August: Lord – Psalm 118 (Jan Hayter)

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August: Final Thoughts – Psalm 67 (Trish Davis)

Each day read through the chosen Psalm several times in whatever Bible version you prefer. (You might like to read it in more than one Bible version – that can give you new insights and understandings.) Some hymns/songs are mentioned, some of the words are given in the daily prayer sheet; others are on a separate sheet.

## **Activities you might like to try during the week:**

*(Pick and choose what works for you)*

- Try and find a picture you could colour in during the week (and bring it to church when we are back together to show others).
- Play your favourite worship song/hymn and have a dance if you are able. A good way to praise God and exercise!
- Do your own prayer cross - draw a picture of a cross and fill it with the names of people, situations, thanks, worries, ideas. Add to it each day and use it as a prayer guide.
- Knit some squares (using 45 stitches on 4mm (No 8) needles with double knitting wool) during the week then bring them to church or the next craft morning (at Trinity) when we start meeting again and we can make them into a prayer blanket for someone in need.
- Make yourself or buy a cake. Sit down at coffee time and while you eat & drink think of all the people you would like to be chatting to and pray for them.
- Create something (write a prayer/poem/song, draw, sew, woodwork...!) to express prayer or God's love - maybe we can use it or see it once we are back together.
- Make a 'Jar of Thankfulness' - You need a jar (or clear container) and some strips of paper. On each strip of paper - you write something you are thankful for and place it in the jar. Keep a supply of paper next to the jar so you can add new things as you think of them. Keep the jar somewhere where you can see it to remind you to be thankful. Also, each time you set aside time to pray take a few strips from the jar and include them in your prayers.

**You might like to use this space for recording what God 'says' to you this week:**

(This could be Bible verses that jump out at you; or thoughts you have; or strong feelings that you are being prompted to do something new for God. It is quite rare anyone hears an actual voice. Sometimes a picture or image might come into your mind – God can 'speak' through these; through other people; through books you read, films you watch and more...).



## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August: Creator God – Psalm 8 (Trish Davis)

You might like to use this meditation to prepare yourself for prayer:

### 'Open Hands'

*(Thanks to Sheila Johnson for offering us this – taken from a book called 'With Open Hands' by Henri Nouwen)*



'To pray means to open your hands before God. It means slowly relaxing the tension which squeezes your hands together and accepting your existence with an increasing readiness, not as a possession to defend, but as a gift to receive. Above all, prayer is a way of life which allows you to find a stillness in the midst of the world where you open your hands to God's promises and find hope for yourself, your neighbour and your world. In prayer you encounter God not only in the small voice and the soft breeze, but also in the midst of the turmoil of the world, in the distress and joy of your neighbour and in the loneliness of your own heart.

Prayer leads you to see new paths and to hear new melodies in the air. Prayer is the breath of your life which gives you freedom to go and to stay where you wish and to find the many signs which point out the way to the new land. Praying is not simply some necessary compartment in the daily schedule of a Christian or a source of support in time of need, nor is it restricted to Sunday mornings or mealtimes. Praying is living. It is eating and drinking, action and rest, teaching and learning, playing and working. Praying pervades every aspect of our lives. It is the unceasing recognition that God is wherever we are, always inviting us to come closer and to celebrate the divine gift of being alive.

In the end, a life of prayer is a life with open hands where we are not ashamed of our weakness but realise that it is more perfect for us to be led by the Other than to try to hold everything in our own hands.'

## **Psalm 8**

*LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory in the heavens.*

*<sup>2</sup>Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

*<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

*<sup>4</sup>what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?*

*<sup>5</sup>You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honour.*

*<sup>6</sup>You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:*

*<sup>7</sup>all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,*

*<sup>8</sup>the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.*

*<sup>9</sup>LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Read through Psalm 8 several times in whatever Bible version you prefer. (You might like to read it in more than one Bible version – that can give you new insights and understandings.)

Think of all the amazing things that God has created. Thank God for your favourite animal, bird, insect, flower, tree, sea, river, mountain – picture these in your mind; imagine yourself looking at them. You might like to place yourself somewhere beautiful with Jesus sitting next to you – tell Jesus what you love about God’s created world.

Move on in your thoughts to the harm humankind has done to the environment – tell Jesus what you hate the most about the this. Say how sorry you are that this is happening.

Listen out for God’s words to you. Maybe you will sense that Jesus is engaging you in conversation as you sit by him... Jot down anything you think you ‘hear’. Consider whether you are being challenged to change any of the ways you effect creation – by what you eat, what you buy, where you travel, how you engage with the natural world.

You might find you would like to read/sing or pray a hymn now... like ‘O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder.’ Or even ‘All things bright and beautiful’.

I hope you will find your own ways to pray, but here are some prayers written by others that might help you on your way:

**Lord, hear our prayer**

O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of and care for your Creation. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your creatures as signs of your wondrous love. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**The Garden is Rich** *(from the Chinook Psalter)*

The garden is rich with diversity with plants of a hundred families  
in the space between the trees with all the colours and fragrances.  
Basil, Mint and Lavender, Great Mystery keep my remembrance pure,  
Raspberry, Apple, Rose, Great Mystery fill my heart with love,  
Dill, Anise, Tansy, Holy winds blow in me.  
Rhododendron, Zinnia, may my prayer be beautiful.  
May my remembrance O Great Mystery be as incense to thee  
in the sacred grove of eternity as I smell and remember  
the ancient forests of earth.

**The Beauty of Nature** *(By Walter Rauschenbusch)*

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;  
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
For the salt sea and the running water,  
For the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds,  
For trees and the common grass underfoot.  
We thank you for our senses  
By which we hear the songs of birds,  
And see the splendour of the summer fields,  
And taste of the autumn fruits,  
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,  
And smell the breath of the spring.  
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;  
And save our souls from being so blind  
That we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush  
Is aflame with your glory,  
O God our creator,  
Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August: Father God - Psalm 103 (Andy Warren)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits -

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever;

<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; <sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. <sup>15</sup> The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; <sup>16</sup> the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—

<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

<sup>19</sup> The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup> Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

<sup>21</sup> Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

<sup>22</sup> Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

There are many occasions when I find myself talking to .... myself? Mostly they are 'thought' conversations but occasionally words do break the silence (and not just in my sleep). I am sure that David would have had similar experiences and Psalm 103 was his way of letting God into these thoughts; how he felt about Him. It begins and ends with him encouraging his very soul to bless the Lord.

With all that is going on around us at the moment we can be blinkered to what our loving, caring God is doing for us now, let alone the amazing ways in which he has prepared the ground for our 'now'. And, while we might argue that fact with our memory and current circumstances we live in, David reminds himself (and us) of God's amazing input into his people's lives throughout history:

*The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. (v6-7)*

So today, let's take some time to remind ourselves of what God has done for us.

What has been the most pivotal act(s) in your life...?

We'd be forgiven if we thought that David would hark back to the time when, with a couple of small stones and a sling, he brought down the might of the Philistine army..... but 'no'.... he goes back even further, to a time before he was born - he takes us back to Sinai (*Ex 6:8-9*); to a time when the wonder and the power of God rescued his people out of Egyptian bondage. Understanding that was a 'wow' experience for David.....

Today as some folk prepare to come out of lockdown we can still expect to experience 'wow' moments. Share your own 'wow' moments in your life with God now.

Now re-read Psalm 103 and as you do grab hold of a specific truth about God...David did just that - Having reminded himself of who God is and what he has done in redemptive history, he latches onto v8. *The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

David is quoting one of the Old Testament's favourite quotes. For it seemed, to many, to cover most things – sin, sorrow, pain, you name it. And David, having this in mind begins to unpack it.

*God's anger does not last forever; sin has been cast as far as the east is from the west; God's compassion will not fail because I am his.*

And David, bless him, just can't control himself, his heart explodes with gratitude. He just can't keep it in: "Bless the Lord, O my soul" (20-23)

So when you are talking to yourself how often do you remind yourself of what God has done for you in Christ Jesus?

Do you have specific texts which makes you explode with gratitude?

One of mine is from Romans 8:26-39 – *"nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

"May the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col 3:16)

Share with God what you feel as you slowly read through this verse of hymn 8 in Singing the Faith. *Written by Alan Gaunt*

God with us, Creator, Father,  
bringing everything to birth;  
Mother of the whole creation,  
fire of stars and life of earth;  
down the countless years composing,  
from the earth's evolving night,  
love's response to love, and forming  
mind and soul to seek your light.

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Natural beauty is all around us, even in cracks in paving stones, or on grass verges or wasteland. We need to take time to stop and reflect. This poem 'Wild Flowers' was written by Marjorie Dobson

One simple flower  
can stop you in his tracks,  
break through the barriers of not seeing  
and make you look.

Even a daisy can do it.  
Small, delicate, pink tinged perfection.  
Or a dandelion, brash and showy,  
glaring gloriously from a roadside verge.

Take time to look.  
Examine all the evidence.  
Colour and beauty  
holding such sway in the common place.  
Surely natural selection should have ruled that out.  
Why go to all that trouble to  
design a weed?

“Bless the Lord, O my soul”



## **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August: Jesus the Son – Psalm 2 (Karen Robinson)**

As we begin our day let's still our thoughts and allow them to turn to God.

Approach Him in hope, trusting that He will bless our day with His love And His presence as He does every day if only we will let Him.

The following words are taken from the song '*God of the Moon and Stars*' by Paul Field - Let's pray them together:-



God of the moon and stars,  
God of the near or far, God  
of the fragile hearts we are. I  
come to you.

God of the wounds we bear,  
God of the deepest dreams  
we share,  
God of our unspoken prayer,  
I come to you.

God of a world that's lost,  
God of the lonely cross, God

who has come to us, I come to you.

### **Psalm 2 NLT (New Living Translation)**

<sup>1</sup> *Why are the nations so angry?*

*Why do they waste their time with futile plans?*

<sup>2</sup> *The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one.*

<sup>3</sup> *"Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God."*

<sup>4</sup> *But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them.*

<sup>5</sup> *Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury.*

<sup>6</sup> *For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain."*

*<sup>7</sup> The king proclaims the Lord's decree: "The Lord said to me,  
'You are my son. Today I have become your Father.*

*<sup>8</sup> Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance,  
the whole earth as your possession.*

*<sup>9</sup> You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots."*

*<sup>10</sup> Now then, you kings, act wisely! Be warned, you rulers of the earth!*

*<sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with reverent fear, and rejoice with trembling.*

*<sup>12</sup> Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry,  
and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—  
for his anger flares up in an instant.*

*But what joy for all who take refuge in him!*

The world is a mess. Its leaders ignore God and fight amongst themselves for superiority. They know better. They don't need God. Does this sound familiar? How depressingly relevant this Psalm is to our world today. These words are as important to today's rulers as they have been to those who have gone before. Today's rulers need to look to God for guidance and so do we.

Before we get can get completely depressed though, we are reminded that God laughs at our attempts to rule the world in His place. He knows how ill-equipped we are without Him. He is also angry at our unwillingness to understand. But He has a plan to help us. Jesus, His son. *'The way, the truth and the life', John 14 v6.*

Hebrews 1: 1-6 tells us *'Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honour at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven'.*

God is in control, the earth and everything in it belongs to Him. Psalm 2 tells us that God has given the nations to Jesus as His inheritance. We are called to be disciples of Jesus as He is the world's hope. His ways should be our ways. Where there is injustice and strife in this world, we need to be God's voice, hands and feet. Sometimes the task seems daunting, but we must remember that every journey starts with just one step and we know that Jesus the Son will be with us every step we take. He will guide us, strengthen us, and sustain us in all we do.

*In John 8 v12 Jesus says 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'*

Yes, there is much wrong in this world and Jesus calls us to bring His peace, His compassion and His love wherever we are. Not all us are called to be God's presence in the world of justice, politics and power but we are all called to do something, however small it seems, just where we are. We can start by praying for situations that concern us. Tell God what worries us, what angers us, what makes us sad. Ask Him to show us what we can do to help. Ask Him to show us where we need to make changes in our lives. Ask Him to reveal the areas in our own lives where we disregard His Lordship; where we need His help.

Take some time now to reflect on what God may be trying to saying to you right now .....

Remember the last line of the Psalm: *'But what joy for all who take refuge in him!'*

Jesus came to save us from our sins. He gives us hope. God loves us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His only Son for our sakes. He is so much more that we could ever dream of. Such joy is ours.

**Let us pray together:**

Lord, we confess that we do not always think and act in the way you would have us do. Forgive us and guide us.

May our thoughts today be guided by You.

May our actions today be guided by You.

We know that the world is broken.  
We look with sadness at the chaos and strife  
Caused by ignorance of You and a craving for power.  
We ask your blessing and peace on those areas of the world  
Where suffering and war seem never-ending.

We pray for the leaders of the world  
That they may know You and allow You to guide them.

We pray for those who are imprisoned or persecuted.  
For the guards and the persecutors.  
May they know Your love and Your presence.

We pray for those who hunger and thirst  
That there may be an end to their suffering.

We pray for those who are sick  
Bring them healing and peace.

Jesus, Son of God, walk with us today.  
Jesus, light of the world, shine on us and from us.  
Jesus, the way, give us strength to follow you.  
Jesus, the truth, give us the words to praise you.  
Jesus, the life, fill us with Your joy.

Jesus, Saviour, Shepherd and Friend  
We ask these things in Your name and in Your hope  
Hear us we pray  
Amen

Now, if you are able to: - watch, listen to, sing or read the words of  
'Crown Him' by 'I Am They' or the hymn: 'Crown Him with Many  
Crowns'.

God's blessing be with us all  
This day  
And every day.

## Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August: The Holy Spirit - Psalm 51 (Philip Seaton)

### Psalm 51

*Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love.*

*Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins!*

<sup>2</sup> *Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin!*

<sup>3</sup> *I recognize my faults; I am always conscious of my sins.*

<sup>4</sup> *I have sinned against you—only against you— and done what you consider evil. So you are right in judging me; you are justified in condemning me.* <sup>5</sup> *I have been evil from the day I was born; from the time I was conceived, I have been sinful.*

<sup>6</sup> *Sincerity and truth are what you require; fill my mind with your wisdom.*

<sup>7</sup> *Remove my sin, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.* <sup>8</sup> *Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; and though you have crushed me and broken me, I will be happy once again.*

<sup>9</sup> *Close your eyes to my sins and wipe out all my evil.*

<sup>10</sup> *Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.*

<sup>11</sup> *Do not banish me from your presence; do not take your holy spirit away from me.* <sup>12</sup> *Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.* <sup>13</sup> *Then I will teach sinners your commands, and they will turn back to you.*

<sup>14</sup> *Spare my life, O God, and save me, and I will gladly proclaim your righteousness.* <sup>15</sup> *Help me to speak, Lord, and I will praise you.*

<sup>16</sup> *You do not want sacrifices, or I would offer them; you are not pleased with burnt offerings.* <sup>17</sup> *My sacrifice is a humble spirit, O God; you will not reject a humble and repentant heart.*

<sup>18</sup> *O God, be kind to Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.*

<sup>19</sup> *Then you will be pleased with proper sacrifices and with our burnt offerings; and bulls will be sacrificed on your altar.*

The Good News Bible entitles this Psalm as 'A Prayer for forgiveness'. The Author, David, acknowledges that his sins are against God and seeks his forgiveness.

His prayer asks God to "*create a pure heart within me, and put a new loyal spirit in me. Do not banish me from your presence. Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.*"

I am sure there are times when we have felt, or feel, like David and have known we have let God down in some way, we have messed things up, said or done something we know we shouldn't have said or done and need to be forgiven. All of us sin constantly in thought, word, or deed, and need God's mercy and forgiveness. We need cleansing, to be given a pure heart, a loyal spirit and put right with God. This is why we all need to ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit to enable us to resist temptation, and strength to do what God wants us to do and be.

Use this Charles Wesley hymn as a prayer: O for a heart to praise my God

O for a heart to praise my God, a heart from sin set free,  
a heart that always feels my blood so freely spilt for me;

A heart resigned, submissive, meek, my great Redeemer's throne,  
where only Christ is heard to speak, where Jesus reigns alone;

A humble, lowly, contrite heart, believing, true and clean;  
which neither life nor death can part from him that dwells within;

A heart in every thought renewed, and full of love divine;  
perfect and right, and pure, and good, a copy, Lord, of thine!

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart; come quickly from above,  
write thy new name upon my heart, thy new best name is love.

Jesus, at the start of his ministry, when he was baptized by John, was filled with the Holy Spirit and was able to resist all the temptations of Satan in the wilderness and fulfilled his mission from God.

Peter is also a good example to us as he made many mistakes when he was a disciple of Jesus, travelling round with Him. Luke 22: 31 tells us that Peter promised Jesus so much when he said: "*Lord I am ready to go to prison with you, and to die with you.*" What a statement! Yet Jesus knew how weak Peter really was and said that the cock would not crow that night until he had said three times that he did not know him! Which is exactly what happened.

Contrast this with Acts 2: 36 when Peter declared that *'all the people of Israel then, are to know for sure that this Jesus, whom you crucified, is the One that God has made Lord and Messiah!'* Peter was afraid when 3 people accused him of being a follower of Jesus and denied knowing him, then stood before thousands and declared: "*Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God*".

What made the difference? Earlier he was acting in his own strength, but

on the Day of Pentecost he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and was empowered to be strong and not be afraid.

David knew the difference that the Holy Spirit made in his life and pleaded with God not to take the Spirit away from him.

**Read Psalm 51** again and let it sink into your heart and mind so that you can follow David's example and pray the same prayer whenever necessary.

Spend time with these words (by Daniel Iverson) in song or prayer or both!

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me x2

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

All Christians need the help and power of the Holy Spirit to keep close to Jesus, to understand, and obey God's word. We are not expected to do things in our own strength, whether it be to pray, worship, or love God and people.

**Pray:**

Confess your sin, ask for God's forgiveness.

Ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit to help you do what's right.

Stop doing things in your own strength!

Sing or read the word of this hymn 'Love Divine' by Charles Wesley...(Youtube - version 4.20m. citrail - 9 years ago.)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

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**CREATE IN ME A PURE HEART, O GOD,  
AND RENEW A STEADFAST SPIRIT WITHIN ME.  
PSALM 51:10**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August: God our Redeemer - Psalm 19**  
**(Pauline Seaton)**

God wants us to know Him in all his glory, majesty, holiness, power and love. To know Him as He really is - not a distorted picture of who we think, or what we think, He is like. To know his true character and nature.

So begin this meditation by reading **Psalm 19.**

*How clearly the sky reveals God's glory!*

*How plainly it shows what he has done!*

*<sup>2</sup> Each day announces it to the following day;  
each night repeats it to the next.*

*<sup>3</sup> No speech or words are used, no sound is heard;*

*<sup>4</sup> yet their message goes out to all the world  
and is heard to the ends of the earth.*

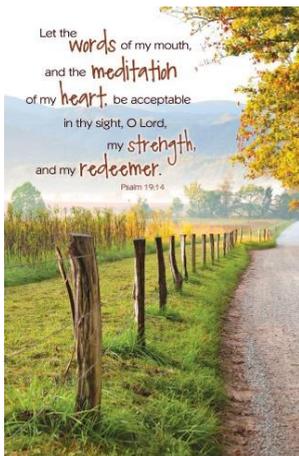
*God made a home in the sky for the sun; it comes out in the morning  
like a happy bridegroom, like an athlete eager to run a race.*

*<sup>6</sup> It starts at one end of the sky and goes across to the other.  
Nothing can hide from its heat.*

*<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect; it gives new strength.*

*The commands of the LORD are trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to those who lack it.*

*<sup>8</sup> The laws of the LORD are right, and those who obey them are happy.  
The commands of the LORD are just and give understanding to the  
mind.*



*<sup>9</sup> Reverence for the LORD is good; it will  
continue forever.*

*The judgments of the LORD are just; they  
are always fair.*

*<sup>10</sup> They are more desirable than the finest  
gold;*

*they are sweeter than the purest honey.*

*<sup>11</sup> They give knowledge to me, your  
servant;*

*I am rewarded for obeying them.*

*<sup>12</sup> None of us can see our own errors;  
deliver me, LORD, from hidden faults!*

*13 Keep me safe, also, from willful sins; don't let them rule over me.  
Then I shall be perfect and free from the evil of sin.*

*14 May my words and my thoughts be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my refuge and my redeemer!*

IT IS IMPORTANT that we know GOD AS OUR REDEEMER - because that is what He is! Psalm 19:14 states that God is our '**refuge** and '**redeemer**'.

The words 'redeem, redemption and Redeemer', are mentioned 130 times in the Old Testament - and they have the same root word as 'ransom' and 'purchase' which are mentioned just 13 times. Redeemed means: to pay a price to get something back which is rightfully yours - as from a Pawn Shop. In the days before the war people used to 'pawn' their precious possessions to gain money to help them in a time of hardship, and then when their fortunes improved they would pay a price to get them back. Also, a 'ransom' price was paid to secure a person from slavery or captivity.

When the people of Israel had become **slaves** in Egypt in Exodus 1 they were being cruelly treated, slaving away to please their slave masters. God heard their cries for mercy and set into motion the process of setting them free. He revealed Himself as the Lord the 'Redeemer' when he spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. - "*Therefore, say to the Israelites I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them and I will **redeem** you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.*" (Ex,.6: 6 NIV)

To achieve this plan God paid a 'ransom' price for their freedom which was the life of every 'first born' son and cattle belonging to the Egyptians. They all died when the angel of death moved over the land, but passed over the Israelites because they had daubed the blood of a lamb on their door posts for protection as instructed by God through Moses. (Psalm 24 states that the world and everyone in it belongs to God.)

Scripture tells us that they had a miraculous escape from Egypt and rejoiced with dancing and music to celebrate their wonderful freedom and the promise of a new life in a new land.

God's people were set free from their bondage of slavery to learn to trust and obey God's instructions and receive all His blessings of provision and protection, and thus learn how to be God's holy people.

Suggested song: 'Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return' (by Ruth Lake) 541 in Songs of Fellowship

Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return  
and come with singing unto Zion,  
and everlasting joy shall be upon their head. (repeat)

They shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

Therefore the redeemed... (repeat)

Although the word 'redeemer' is not mentioned in the New Testament Christians should still know God as their 'Redeemer' as He has paid the price for our freedom from slavery to sin and death with the life of his own dear Son, Jesus Christ, ***"who gave himself for us to 'redeem' us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own , eager to do what is good"*** (See Titus 2:14.)

Redemption means: Forgiveness and freedom from:

- slavery to sin: (idolatry, dishonesty/deceit, corruption, perversion, greed, sexual immorality, etc. - (see Colossians 3:5-10).
- Guilt; Fear; Worry.
- Bondage to Satan and the world of darkness.

***"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of light of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*** (Colossians 1:13-14).

A costly '**ransom**' price has been paid for our salvation/redemption – ***"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now***

*that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:15)*

*"For you know what was paid to set you free from the worthless manner of life handed down by your ancestors. It was not something that can be destroyed, such as silver or gold, it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without a defect or flaw." (1 Peter 1:18-19.)*

Purpose:- for us -

- to become God's precious child through faith in Jesus Christ, his Son.
- to have fellowship with God by trusting and obeying Him.
- to commence the process of being made holy/righteous in God's sight; "*God said 'Be holy' because I am Holy*".' (1 Peter 1:16.)
- to receive God's blessings of peace, joy, love and strength.
- to enjoy abundant life of meaning/purpose,
- to know the truth; and right/wrong;
- to be a member of Christ's body on earth and do God's will.
- to live under the protection of God's love from the power of Satan and the world.
- to bring glory and honour to God's name.

Suggested song: 'Amazing Grace'...my chains are gone....' by Chris Tomlin.

Galatians 3:13 '*Christ has redeemed us from the curse that the Law brings.*'

**Jesus came to set the captives free!**

Hymn: 'And can it be'

Do you feel that you have been set free?

If so, from what? Can you rejoice?

Do you need to be set free? If so, can you pray about it and ask God to do this for you?

Or, if you need help and would like someone to pray with you, or for you, then please let Trish know.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August: Our Saviour – Psalm 146 (Richard Davis)**

Please read **Psalm 146**.

*Praise the LORD.*

*Praise the LORD, my soul.*

<sup>2</sup> *I will praise the LORD all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

<sup>3</sup> *Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.*

<sup>4</sup> *When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.*

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.*

*He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them –  
he remains faithful for ever.*

<sup>7</sup> *He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.*

*The LORD sets prisoners free,*

<sup>8</sup> *the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.*

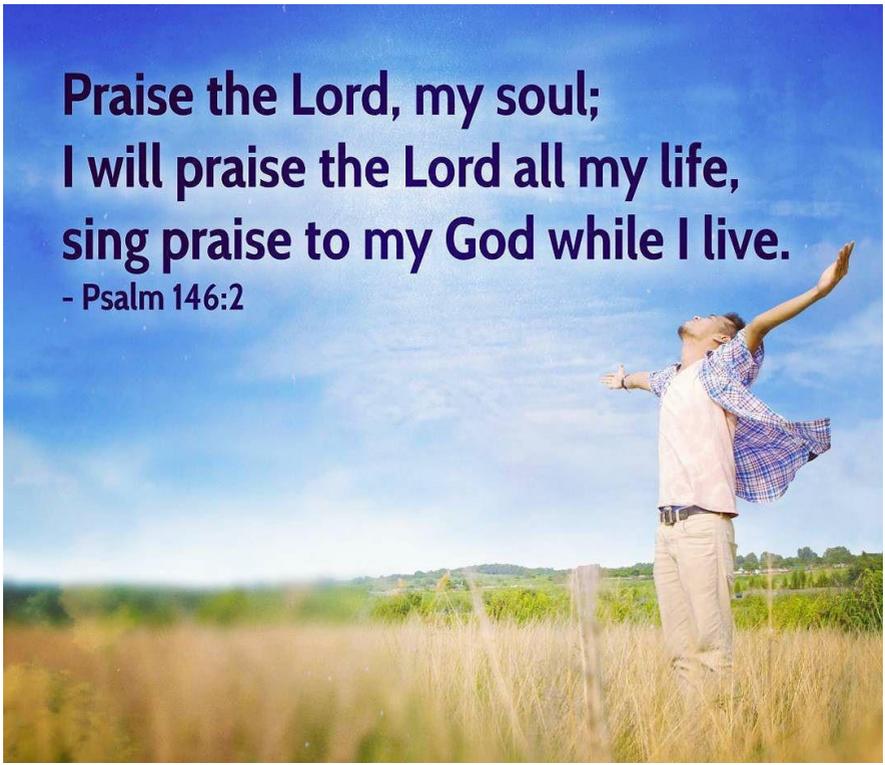
<sup>9</sup> *The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.*

<sup>10</sup> *The LORD reigns for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.*

*Praise the LORD.*

**Praise the Lord, my soul;  
I will praise the Lord all my life,  
sing praise to my God while I live.**

**- Psalm 146:2**



Are you feeling like praising God today? How about praising God because He's your SAVIOUR? Maybe the psalmist didn't feel like it; he does begin by exhorting his soul to "Praise the Lord! Whatever you're feeling like today, take an example from the psalmist and speak to your soul. Have you done that lately?

An old lady, who had been a missionary for many years, admitted to me that of all the different forms of praying it was praise and adoration that she found the most difficult. I can't remember what I said to her, but if I were speaking to her today, I'd gently ask her if she felt she knew God in a deeply personal way. When we praise God, we are appreciating Him FOR WHO HE IS. We thank him for what he gives to us, for what he has done for us, but we praise him, for being who He is to us. We really need to know God personally to do that. In praising God, our feelings are released towards Him in a deeply personal way, because we have come to know him, not to just know about Him.

To praise God (or anyone) it is necessary to turn away from being preoccupied with ourselves. That's got to be a good thing - hasn't it? I wonder if you like me are sometimes aware of how your mental life is all about "me". I'm the centre of everything. Life is all about what I'm wanting, what I'm needing. In order to praise, or to love, we turn away from a preoccupation with our own selves. Someone else becomes the centre of our lives when we love and praise. And what a relief it is to be free of the world having to revolve around us. Praising is so good for us. Praise is the supremely unselfish way of prayer. What a relief praise can be as we focus our attention away from ourselves to God. As the Charles Wesley hymn 'Love Divine' goes, we become "Lost in wonder, love and praise." (The words to this hymn are in Wednesday's prayer sheet...)

So, with the Psalmist we exhort our souls, to Praise the Lord who saves us, who saves us from our narcissistic selves. God is our Saviour - He saves us from ourselves through love and praise. Through His Spirit he gives us the power to focus, to revel in Him, to love Him. St. Paul (Romans 5:5) tells us that God pours out his love into our (selfish) hearts through His Spirit. God saves us from ourselves and frees us to worship God in wonder, love, and praise.

## **PRAYER**

Perhaps you are not feeling like praising God today. If so, don't let your "feelings" control you. The Psalmist didn't... Like the Psalmist, do you need to tell your soul to "Praise the Lord"? Talk to your soul right now like the psalmist. (verse 1) You might want to sing your favourite praise song...

**Open your heart to the God and Saviour of our Lord Jesus Christ, in wonder, love, and praise. Focus on God, love praise, and adore Him.**

## **CONFESSION**

Read Psalm 146: 5. “<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.*”

Who have you sought after to help you, to give you hope? Perhaps you have been putting your trust in yourself, or someone else. Not seeking God first.

**Ask God to help you recall times when you haven't put your trust in God.** He is your Saviour! **Repent and receive the forgiveness He has won for you in Jesus.**

## **LISTENING TO GOD**

God speaks through the words of the Bible. Listen to God through an ancient way of prayer called *Lectio Divina* (*Divine Reading*)

Read the Psalm again, slowly, and as you do so, be open to any words that appear personally significant to you.

Take hold of these words.

Ask yourself what God might be saying to you through them.

It may be that it's not the actual words, that especially take your notice - perhaps you receive a picture in your mind, or you may experience a deep feeling.

Whatever it is, hold it in your heart and mind before God and listen to what God might be telling you through it.

Don't be disappointed if you don't "hear" what God is saying right away - take it away with you and recall the words/picture/feeling during the day, it may be that you will then know what God wants to say to you.

**Praise God, anyway!**

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August: Jesus is Lord – Psalm 118 (Jan Hayter)

**This is the day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it.**  
(Psalm 118 v 24)

Sit comfortably and open your hands, palm up, in your lap.

Relax and be still in God's presence... allow yourself to feel the warmth and acceptance of His love.



### Psalm 118

*<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; His love endures forever.*

*<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever." <sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever." <sup>5</sup> When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place.*

*<sup>6</sup> The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? <sup>7</sup> The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. <sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans.*

*<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.*

*<sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down. <sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down. <sup>12</sup> They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down. <sup>13</sup> I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me.*

*<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.*

*<sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:*

*The LORD's right hand has done mighty things! <sup>16</sup> The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!" <sup>17</sup> I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.*

*<sup>18</sup> The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. <sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. <sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.*

*<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;*

*<sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.*

*<sup>24</sup> The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.*

*<sup>25</sup> LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! <sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.*

*<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.*

*<sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

So what if you're not rejoicing today ... what if you can't?

When the alarm goes off for another Monday morning.... When we're weighed down with the pain of problems, anxieties, health, relationships ..... When God seems far away .....

**In Psalm 118** David is rejoicing because after years of dodging King Saul's attempts to do away with him, he has at last defeated the Philistines and was King of Israel. Now he is able to rest, reflect and rejoice at God's provision and the fulfilment of His promises to him and the nation of Israel.

We know, from other Psalms, that there were many times when David was overwhelmed and oppressed by his troubles, but in the middle of everything, he always knew that God was there in the mess with him because he knew that God is good and his love is never ending (v 1-7)

In fact, it was adversity that taught David to trust God, to take refuge in Him rather than trust in human resources, his own and others. (v 9 - 13)

He knew it was the mighty strength and power of God that had saved him and his nation and he proclaims: *"I will not die but live."* (v 14 - 17)

**This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

David's God is our God! How blessed are we! And there is more! God has made a way for *us* so that each and every day, no matter what, we **can** rejoice!

For God has opened the gate to His kingdom and welcomes us in (v 19 - 20 ) And that Gate is His own Son, Jesus and through Him, each one of us can not only know and enjoy God's continuing love and care, we can know Him as our Father.... and as His children we are brothers and sisters with Jesus - heirs to all the resources of heaven and earth.

But this was at great cost – to God our Father and to Jesus His Son - who, enduring the rejection of His Father and the humiliation of a wooden cross, gave up everything, even his life, for you and for me. But God raised Him from the dead, and now, through Him, we have been given a new unending life – He has become my salvation (v 21) Now we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Now nothing, absolutely nothing, in this world or the next, is able to separate us from the love of God and our inheritance, which is ours through Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8 v 27- 30) Wow!

Unlike the foundations that hold our buildings together, the capstone is the wedge-shaped stone at the apex of a masonry arch or typically round-shaped one at the apex of a vault. In both cases it is the final piece placed during construction and locks all the stones into position, allowing the arch or vault to bear weight.

Jesus is the Capstone - Jesus holds everything together (v 22)  
(And remarkably, as if to emphasise this truth, God has placed this Psalm and this verse right at the centre of His written word to us, the Bible.)

So Jesus is the Capstone, Jesus is the Gate, Jesus is the Way, the Truth  
and the Life.  
Jesus is Lord!

Shouldn't this put a different perspective on life? .... surely, no matter what we are facing, whether we feel like it or not.... **This is the day the Lord has made. We can, we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

This, this is the God we adore.  
Our faithful unchangeable friend,  
Whose love is as great as His power  
which neither knows measure nor end.

Let us pray:

- Count your blessings ... name them one by one...

*Lord God, how blessed am I! How surprised I am at how blessed I am!*

*Lord God you are good and how amazing that your love and mercy never fails, never gives up on me!*

*Thank you.*

**This is the day the Lord has made! I will rejoice and be glad in it!**

- What or who do I put my trust in? - name them one by one ...

*Lord Jesus, please help me to put my trust in you and you alone. Help me to trust you to guard my life in the here and now and the journey to my eternal destiny.*

**This is the day the Lord has made! I will rejoice and be glad in it!**

- Count your troubles and anxieties .... name them one by one ...

*Lord Jesus on the cross you carried all my burdens, all my worries, all my anxieties, all my sin.*

*Thank you.*

*So why do I still hang on to them? Why do I still let myself be weighed down by them?*

*Lord, I'm so sorry.*

*Please help me remember that you **do** walk with me, both in sunshine and rain, in good days and bad.... and Lord Jesus, help me to let go and let you do that.*

*Lord Jesus, be my centre, be Lord of my life.*

**Jesus is Lord! He is the capstone that holds all things together.**

**He is the Gate to the everlasting kingdom of God**

**This is the day that the Lord has made.**

**I will rejoice and be glad in it!**

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August: Final Thoughts – Psalm 67 (Trish Davis)**

It is quite hard to prepare ‘Final Thoughts’ before the event, but I have had the privilege of seeing in advance all the wonderful contributions made by the team of folk kind enough to help prepare the resources for our Prayer Week.

I hope that you have found throughout the week that you have been able to ‘Be still and know that I am God’; to rest in God’s presence, but also to hear God’s words of comfort, hope and challenge. You may still be waiting to ‘hear’ from God – that is fine – sometimes we ‘hear’ God after an event as much as during it. There is no right and wrong in this – being still before God is a beautiful place to be whether we ‘hear’ God in that stillness or not. Spend some time today with the words of Psalm 67...

### **Psalm 67**

- <sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine on us –
- <sup>2</sup> so that your ways may be known on earth,  
your salvation among all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> May the peoples praise you, God;  
may all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you rule the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> May the peoples praise you, God;  
may all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> The land yields its harvest;  
God, our God, blesses us.
- <sup>7</sup> May God bless us still,  
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Consider what blessings you have received this week. Look back through the previous days resources and through any notes you have written down for yourself.

Psalm 67:1-2 suggests that we are blessed so that we might be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. How do you think you might be, or become, a blessing to others?

If we find we really enjoy something, then we instinctively want to share that joy with other people. Psalm 67 speaks of great joy – *‘may the peoples praise you, God... May the nations be glad and sing for joy... May all the peoples praise you’* (verses 3-5).

Where have you found joy this week, and how could you share that joy? We have a God who draws us in so that we can be sent out to serve and reach other people (we could say that true enjoyment of God leads naturally to mission). Our ‘mission’ might feel limited if we are confined to one place, but it is ‘mission’ nevertheless because it is our faith influencing those people who we meet, inside or outside the place we live.

When we receive blessings we don’t take credit for our own blessings, but we point beyond ourselves to God; we speak out about God’s glory and grace. And, amazingly, God empowers us to do this!

You might like to sing or read through the words of the hymn: ‘Jesus is Lord of all the earth’, (by Donald Fischel) with its catchy chorus.

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the King of creation. *Alleluia...*

Spread the good news o’er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.  
*Alleluia...*

We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever:  
*Alleluia...*

God has proclaimed the just reward: new life for all! *Alleluia! Alleluia...*

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour:  
*Alleluia...*

## **Prayers linked with our Psalms this week:**

**Psalm 8:** Majestic God, how is it possible that we fill your mind? You love and care for us so much you were willing to become a weak infant and vulnerable child, all in order to save us. Now help me, in all my daily interactions to treat every person I meet as a being infinitely precious in your sight. Amen.

**Psalm 103:** Lord, I praise you for making yourself not just my King and my shepherd but my Father. To think of the all powerful God as my Father – loving me and working all things for my good! Transform my prayer life through a deeper grasp of your fatherly love to me. Amen.

**Psalm 2:** Lord, your answer to the chaos and suffering of the world is your Son, Jesus Christ. He will eventually break brokenness, kill death, destroy destruction, and swallow every sorrow. Teach me how to take refuge in you – in your forgiveness through Jesus, in your wise will, and in my assured, glorious future. Amen.

**Psalm 51:** Lord, I don't want my heart to be too cast down by my disappointments and losses – but it can be hard. Send your Holy Spirit to speak to my heart of the amazing love and grace I have and will have in you. Amen.

**Psalm 19:** Lord, I am so grateful that you don't make us guess who you are but that you speak directly to us. Help me understand that if the Word is going to be sweet and life-giving to me, I must let it examine, search, and warn me. Help me have the discipline and faith to let you do that in my life. Amen.

**Psalm 146:** Lord, I thank you that you cared so much for us that you became a vulnerable human being and died to satisfy the demands of justice against sin. I run out of words as I praise you for your endless love for us. Amen.

**Psalm 118:** Lord, I praise you for loving me enough to not just leave me as I am. I thank you for your discipline as you train me to become the person you intend me to be. Help me to respond to your call and grow ever closer to you. Amen.

**Psalm 67:** Lord, *'Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Take my voice and let me sing, always, only, for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.'* Amen (from the hymn *'take my life and let it be by Frances Havargal*)



May God be gracious to us  
and bless us;  
may his face shine upon us.

- Psalm 67:2

## Additional Songs and Hymns featured in these Prayer Resources:

### O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder (by Stuart K Hine)

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*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!*

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:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart;  
then shall I bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art:

### 'Crown Him' by 'I Am They' (by Jacob Sooter. © So Essential Tunes, Be Essential Songs)

It's not my life, to live. It's not my song, to sing.  
All I have is His for all eternity.  
It's not my righteousness. It's not my faithfulness.  
All I have is His for all eternity.  
And we will...

*Crown Him, crown Him, King of glory.*

*Crown Him, crown Him, Lord of all.*

*Crown Him, crown Him, King of glory.*

*Crown Him, crown Him, Lord of all!*

It's not my war, to win. It's not my weight, to bear.

And by His mighty hand He won the victory

He won victory! *Crown Him, crown Him,...*

It's not my blood, but His That stands in my, defence.

And oh what love, is this that won the victory.

He won the victory! *Crown Him, crown Him,...*

Crown Him, crown Him, Lord of all!

### **Crown Him with Many Crowns**

– By Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring

Crown him with many crowns, the lamb upon his throne.

Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,

and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God. Before the worlds began;

and ye who tread where he has trod, crown him the Son of Man,

who every grief has known that wrongs the human breast,

and takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,

and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.

His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high;

who died, eternal life to bring, and lives, that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways

from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.

His reign shall know no end. And round his piercèd feet

fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side –

rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.

All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;

thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

**Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)** by Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains; unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures  
My chains are gone; I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains; unending love, amazing grace.  
My chains are gone; I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains; unending love, amazing grace.

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow; the sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below will be forever mine;  
Will be forever mine; You are forever mine.

**And can it be** – by Charles Wesley

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!  
Who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the first-born seraph tries to sound the depth of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above – so free, so infinite his grace –  
emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,  
my chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

**All things bright and beautiful** by Cecil Frances Alexander

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings:

The purple heathered mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God almighty, who has made all things well:

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