

Worship at Home Service 15th September 2024
Prepared by Gloria Manning South Molton / Ringsash

Call to Worship.

Praise the Lover of creation, Praise the Spirit, Friend of Friends.
Praise the true Beloved, our Saviour, Praise the God who makes and mends. Strong, Surrendered, many Splendored,
Three whose One-ness never ends.

StF137 New every morning

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| 1 New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life, and power, and thought. | 2 New mercies, each returning day
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven. |
| 3 If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice. | 4 Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
as more of heaven in each we see;
some softening gleam of love and prayer
shall dawn on every cross and care. |
| 5 The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask;
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God. | 6 Prepare us, Lord, in your dear love
for perfect rest with you above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray. |

*John Keble (1792-1866)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 137*

Opening Prayer, praise and Thanksgiving

Father God, we approach your throne of grace, as a group of people from different backgrounds and experiences, who know that we need your love to sustain us.
You know our strengths and weaknesses, our gifts and failings.
Lord help us today to be united in our praise for you sharing in the Worship of a loving God who does not discriminate, but who accepts us as we are, with all our imperfections.
May your Name be glorified in all that we do today and may we all learn something new about you and our relationship with you, as we worship together. Amen

Readings: Isaiah Ch. 50 v.4 - 9a
St. Mark Ch. 8. v. 27 -38

Prayers of Confession.

Forgive us Lord for the times when we should have spoken about you, but were silent

FATHER, Forgive us.

For the times when we did not have the words to say, when talking to others about you.

FATHER, Forgive us

For the occasions when we have not set aside time to pray to you. When we have been too concerned about other things.

FATHER, Forgive us

Thank you that you are a God who understands our weaknesses and is ready to forgive when we confess our sins. Teach us how to grow stronger in our love for you in Jesus' name we ask. AMEN

We share together, The Lord's Prayer, OUR FATHER, -----

StF 247 I danced in the morning

1 I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun;
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem
I had my birth.

*'Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance.' said he,
'and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance,' said he.*

3 I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame:
the holy people
said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high,
and they left me there
on a Cross to die.

5 They cut me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the life
that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord
of the Dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe
and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John;
they came with me
and the Dance went on.

4 I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the Dance
and I still go on.

REFLECTION.

A text for today. St. Luke CH. 9.v.18--27." Who do people say I am "

The words of Jesus to the Disciples. The Disciples report that some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others, one of the prophets. Jesus, ministry of preaching, teaching does bear resemblance to that of great prophets of Israel, but does not get to the heart of the matter. Then Jesus Asked a more direct question", Who do you say I am?" Impulsive Peter responds," You are the Messiah." Of course, we know the story, and know that Peter has given the right answer. The title Messiah, in Hebrews or Christ in Greek was associated in Jewish tradition with an anointed King, a royal figure from the line of David. But Jesus, up to now has not given any indication of claims to Royalty or political ambitions.

As they were crossing to the other side of the lake, a teacher of the law came them and said "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go,"

Jesus replied "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head "St. Luke Ch.9.v.57-62

Following Jesus can cost us many things , popularity, friendship , leisure time for example .If you are reading this book ,you cannot read that one at the same time .There has to be choices .While the cost in worldly terms can be high ,The blessings and joy are much higher .If we follow Jesus closely we find out what is meant by " The Way "Jesus said " I am the Way The Truth and The Life "

Roughly 2000 years later, a poet, Robert Frost first used the same metaphor in his poem "The Road not taken "too long to print here.

Again, meaning we have to make choices. Which road we take, the decision is ours.

Eugene Peterson wrote, will you have a life of prayer, listening to and answering prayer. Rooted in the soil of Gods revelation. Your life growing like a tree with fruit laden branches. He, is not meaning here

"To be so heavenly minded, that we are no earthly use." No, far from it. A prayerful life means living and working a normal life, but keeping close to God in prayer. Maybe sometimes we let other things take our time, but helps no one. We are guilty at times for making the wrong choices.

So, what is our response when Jesus says "Follow me "He does not mean to do some great thing. What kind of love and obedience do we give Him.

Complete faith, complete trust? It is hard sometimes, in the world as it is today, to have complete trust that God is there and knows what this sinful world has become. That is why we need to pray daily, that is why Jesus is saying, just as He said when with the Disciples, "Come and follow me "

There is a gospel song.

Singing I go along the road, praising the Lord praising the Lord.

Singing I go along life's road, For Jesus has lifted my load and he will.

The Gospel songs are often a Sermon on their own.

A man once complained to the Minister," I don't like the hymns that you chose today "Thats O.K. came the reply "We were not singing them for you."

Life often brings many problems. Jesus never promised an easy road. But He is there with us in our problems if we take them to Him in prayer. He shares our suffering and anxiety. He died on the Cross and took all our sins upon Himself. He asked," Who do you say I am? The One who gives "The Peace that passes all understanding ".

What a Saviour.

Prayers of Concern:

Lord, we come to you now with concerns upon our hearts. We think of many bereaved, may they feel your peace. We think of people who are ill. Either at home or in hospital. We think of the many in care homes with the uncertainty of having to move from their homes.

A moment of silence

We pray for our new Government, that there will be great care in all their decisions, agreed with integrity and honesty. We know what a responsibility they carry.

A moment of silence

We pray for all young people, awaiting exam results going out into the adult world deciding which road to take guard them and guide them lord, We pray for all families, our own and many we know We ask these prayers in the precious Name of Jesus Christ. Amen

StF 673 Will you come and follow me

1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus, I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

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May the blessing of God the Father, the Love of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit be with us for evermore. **Amen.**