

WORSHIP AT HOME SERVICE SHEET

South Molton & Ringsash Circuit

Sunday 19th October 2025

prepared by Revd. Anna Flindell

WELCOME.

HYMN:- StF 164. Your words to me are life and health.

- 1 Your words to me are life and health;
they fortify my soul,
enable, guide, and teach my heart
to reach its perfect goal.
- 2 Your words to me are light and truth;
from day to day they show
their wisdom, passing earthly lore,
as in their truth I grow.
- 3 Your words to me are full of joy,
of beauty, peace, and grace;
from them I learn your blessed will,
through them I see your face.
- 4 Your words are perfected in One,
yourself, the living Word;
within my heart your image print
in clearest lines, O Lord.

George Currie Martin (1865-1937)

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Words Edition, number 164

PRAYERS.

O Lord, how we adore you. How we marvel at
the depth of your love.

How we wonder at the waves of your grace.
How we are astounded by the glorious
balance of the earth.

We are in awe of the vastness of the universe.
We are so privileged to be called your
children.

We are accepted and forgiven and embraced.

You are almighty, above and beyond
everything. You are victorious. Darkness, sin
and death are under your feet.

You are holy, beautiful and full of love.

As we come before you to bring our thanks we
are reminded of those things we do which
separate us from your love.

I am sorry when I get so carried away with the
busyness of each day, never stopping to dwell
in your love.

I am sorry when I allow the stresses and
demands of work or family to erode and wear
away my hope.

I am sorry when I'm caught up in conflict and
frustration, when I harbour resentment,
instead of giving out forgiveness.

I'm sorry when I seek to be fulfilled by food,
drink or entertainment, yet fail to feast on
your truth.

I'm sorry when I desire the wrong things,
blinded by the media, and forget to engage
with the real treasures of love and justice.

You are all love, all hope, all forgiveness, all
truth and all I really need. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER.

READING:- Luke 18:1-8.

MESSAGE.

In our reading from Luke's gospel, we see a
woman who could teach us a thing or two
about what it means to never, never give up
even when you are facing opposition or
obstacles are blocking your path.

It is always the case that to fully understand
any Bible passage we need to look at it in
context. Our parable from Jesus describes a
court room, a corrupt judge and a poor widow
seeking justice. However, this is not a
modern-day court room.

Try to see it in its Eastern setting. The “court room” was not a fine building but a tent that was moved from place to place as the judge covered his circuit. The judge, not the law, set the agenda; and he sat regally in the tent, surrounded by his assistants. Anybody could watch the proceedings from the outside, but only those who were approved and accepted could have their cases tried. This usually meant bribing one of the assistants so that he would call the judge’s attention to the case.

The widow in this parable started off with three strikes against her already. First, being a woman, she had little standing before the law. In the Palestinian society of Jesus’ day women simply did not go to court. Court was for wealthy men. Women in that day were little more than a possession of their husbands. She had few rights as a female citizen. Second, since she was a widow, she had no husband to stand with her in court. Finally, she was poor and could not pay a bribe even if she wanted to. No wonder poor widows did not always get the protection the law was supposed to afford them.

She didn’t have the best of circumstances, but she didn’t let that stop her. The second obstacle this lady had was that she had an adversary who was against her. Now we’re not told who this adversary was or what had

happened, but it must have been serious enough to cause this woman to come to a court where she was not welcomed.

Throughout scripture we are told that we have a spiritual adversary who is ruthlessly seeking to destroy our relationship with God and our joy in Christ. His name is Satan, the devil, the prince of darkness, the father of all lies as Christ said, and he wants to oppose you in your walk with Christ. He’ll try to throw you off course, tell you to give up. You’ve failed; you’ve lost. He’ll try to convince you that your prayers are going unheard, that your faith is useless. He won’t stop until you are defeated. Don’t listen to him. Don’t get caught up in his lies. Oppose him with all your strength. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves, then, to God. resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

The third obstacle this woman faces is a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. It is always sad when a person is like this, but it is a dreadful situation when this person is a person of public office, one who leads the nation and one who has power to set forth laws. God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah, said “Your rulers are rebels, companions of thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts. They do not defend the cause of the fatherless; the widow’s case does not come before them.”

Now, it’s sad when those in power oppose God and God’s people. And just like this woman, we may feel like giving up, like throwing in the towel, but we need to press forward. This woman did and we are told in verses 4-5 what happened - “For some time he refused. But finally, he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’” This woman never gave up, even after the judge refused to hear her, she kept going, and eventually she got what she wanted.

John Wesley’s persistence is notable at the beginning of the Methodist movement as he was constantly thrown out of churches and stoned by mobs regularly. However as we see in some of his journal entries that persistence finally paid off.

1738

Sunday a.m., May 7, preached in St. Lawrence’s, was asked not to come back anymore.

Sunday p.m., May 7, preached at St. Katherine Cree’s church, deacons said, “Get out and stay out.”

Sunday a.m., May 14, preached at St. Ann's, can't go back there either.

Sunday afternoon, May 21, preached at St. John's, kicked out again.

Sunday evening, May 21, preached at St. Bennet's, deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return.

1739

Tuesday, May 8, afternoon service, preached in a pasture in Bath, 1,000 people came to hear me.

Sunday, September 9, preached to 10,000 people three weeks in a row in Moorfields.

1742,

Friday, March 10, preached in meadow, chased out of meadow as a bull was turned loose during the services.

Persistence is sometimes what God calls us to. Persistence in prayer and certainly persistence in praying for our protection from the devil and that of others. Don't let the devil say you can't, if something is God's will, you can.

HYMN:- StF 254. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto
you;
Allelu-, alleluia:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu-, alleluia!
- 2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto
you;
Allelu-, alleluia:
- 3 We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;
Allelu-, alleluia:

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.

Hidden and mysterious God, we seek you in our darkness and our unknowing, so come to us with tender love as we raise before you our prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

(Short Silence)

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us.

Father God, as church leaders spend time in prayer and preparation, fill them with divine inspiration and revelation, so that when they speak, it will be your word which comes in power to challenge, convict and empower. As they plan ahead, let them be led by you.

(Short Silence)

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us.

Mighty God, we pray for all who carry civic and political responsibilities throughout the world. Help the leaders of the nations put aside all selfish ambition as they seek to be the instruments of your will for humanity and carry out your desire for the welfare of all people which will culminate in glory to you and in happier human lives.

(Short Silence)

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us.

Compassionate God, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross. We hold before you those who are homeless, those who face famine and need clean water. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide for them.

(Short Silence)

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us.

Living God, where there is sickness turn weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort. Help all who suffer to trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of their suffering. Let them be filled with patience and joy in your presence as they wait for your healing touch.

(add names of those requesting prayer)

(Short Silence)

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us.

Everlasting God, we remember all those who have gone before, walked the same path that we tread, and, by their example, encouragement, wise words and teaching led others into your Kingdom and so we offer our

grateful thanks particularly for those whose anniversary falls at this time.

(Short Silence)

Lord hear us; Lord graciously hear us.

Faithful God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Thank you that we can live in Your light and walk in Your truth. May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. **Amen**

HYMN:- StF 503. Love divine, all loves excelling.

- 1 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.
- 2 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.

- 3 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!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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BLESSING.

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