

FAMILY COMMUNION



16th May 2021

"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere..." Ps.84.10a

In worship, let us come to the one who offers peace and respite.

The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

Prayer of approach

How lovely is your dwelling place.

My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

My soul longs for the courts of the Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place.

Even the littlest and the least find a home.

How lovely is your dwelling place.

Happy are those whose strength is in the Lord.

My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

They go from strength to strength.

My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Hear our prayer, O God, as we gather here in your name.

How lovely is your dwelling place.

Amen.

Song I've got peace like a river

Written and Performed by Listener Kids, used with permission

Summary of the law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: the first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandments greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Confession

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24

After a period of reflection

**Forgive us, gracious God,
when we have turned away from your word
and immersed ourselves in the distractions of the world.
Forgive us, when we have sought to belong to the world
and compromised your truth to fit in.
Forgive us, when we have bickered among ourselves
and not shown the world that we are one.
Forgive us, when we have distanced ourselves
from those you have called us to serve.
Forgive us, O God; protect us and unite us.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Reading Psalm 84.1-7,10-11 read by Kate Holliday

1 How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord Almighty! 2 My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. 3 Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young – a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. 11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose way of life is blameless.

Sermon Nigel is opening God's Word for us today

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Song Safe in your arms

Performed by Martin Smith, used with permission by Gloworks.tv

Intercessions

by Richard Beckingsale

In you O Lord

Do we put our trust

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.' Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times, it may seem strange to 'share the Peace.' But peace is from the heart and from God. God's peace in the Spirit moves among us and unites us, physically distanced yet one in the Body of Christ.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

*Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in the one bread.

Giving of Communion

The body of Christ bread for the world. The blood of Christ, the cup of abundance.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We are invited to make spiritual Communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. And as we do so please listen to ... Love divine, all loves excelling.

Performed by Matt Redman, www.thykingdomcome.org

Prayer after communion

And we say together ...

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Song We seek your kingdom

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere
We long for heaven's demonstration here
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see
Transform, revive, and heal society

Before all things, in him were all things made
Inspiring culture, media, and trade
May all our work serve your economy
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere
With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page
Make us again what we were made to be
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be
Selfless in service, loving constantly
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive, and heal society

Melody: Eventide (Abide with me) by William Henry Monk (Public Domain) Lyrics: Noel Robinson, Andy Flannagan, Graham Hunter © 2016 Downwardly Mobile Music, Nu Image Music, Graham Hunter Used by permission. All rights reserved. Commissioned by licc.org.uk

Final Prayer & Blessing

**As we leave this place, Lord, may our prayers be just beginning.
May our worship, our time here, what we have learned and what we have discovered,
lead us into action and lives full of worship every hour of every day.
We ask in the name of Jesus, whose whole life was an offering of worship to you.
Amen.**

Thank you for joining us today.

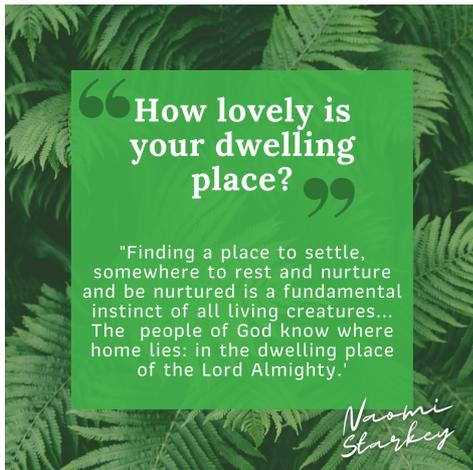


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Finding Respite

How to use Psalm 84.1-7,10-11

The goal of the pilgrim, hot and weary after the long journey, is the peace and plenty of God's house, a place of rest, cooled by springs and pools of clear water. It's not just rest for weary feet and bodies but the fulfilment of longing. It's the complete opposite to the wild hills in last week's psalm, and perhaps the message is that God who sees the details will also bring us home in safety at our journey's end.



FIND OUT

Research a country where Christians are persecuted for their faith. You could start with the World Watch list, which lists the most dangerous places to be a Christian – see www.opendoorsuk.org. On that website you also find a variety of resources and ideas for prayer and action, including how to contact your MP to advocate for those who are suffering for their faith.

WALK

This week, pray with your feet. Choose a safe part of your community and... just go for a walk. Allow what you see and experience to influence your prayers – e.g. passing a food shop might remind you of Fairtrade or a local food bank; graffiti might stimulate prayer about the need to have a voice. If you cannot walk safely, try to visualise a walk as you 'walk your fingers' over a map of your local area.

Daily Prayer



Psalm 84 shares some similarities with Psalm 121 and Psalm 23. Take a look at them using www.biblegateway.com Let them help you in your prayers this week for guidance, support or help.



BAKE



Make shield-shaped biscuits. Every time you eat one, or give one to someone else, give thanks for God's protection.

You will need: access to an oven; 50g caster sugar, 50g butter, 100g self-raising flour, 25ml milk, a drop of vanilla essence, a shield-shaped cookie cutter (or make your own shield template) and a knife, a rolling pin, a baking tray, icing sugar (optional).

- Preheat your oven to 190C/370F/Gas 5.
- Sieve the flour into a bowl; add the butter and rub with your fingers until the mixture is like breadcrumbs. Add the sugar and rub again. Add the milk and the vanilla essence. Knead together with your hands to make a firm dough.
- Roll out the dough on a floured surface to about 10mm thick. Cut out shield shapes. Spread the shapes out on a lightly greased baking tray.
- Cook for about 15 minutes – until golden brown.
- When they are ready, remove from the oven and allow to cool. (optional) Decorate with a dusting of icing sugar.

DANCE



The song 'Safe in the Father's hands' by Paul Field reflects the request by Jesus for us to be kept safe. The words can be found in some hymnbooks or here: www.elevationkids.com/song/safe-in-the-fathers-hands.

Whether or not you know the tune (which you can find on YouTube), make up a dance or a mime – or even your own tune! – either on your own or as a household, and use it as an opportunity to celebrate that Jesus' prayer is just as much for us now as it was for his disciples then.



Name _____

ROOTS Activity Sheet

16-22 May 2021

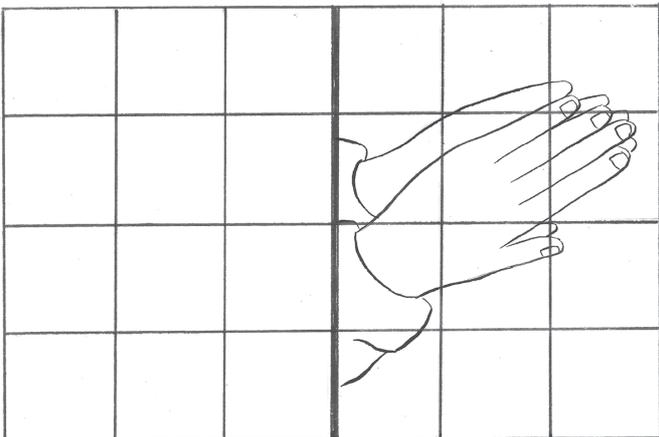


John 17.6-19

Jesus prays for his special friends, the disciples, to be protected when he goes back to heaven.



We often think about prayer in a particular way. Colour this picture and use it as your own way of praying. Write or draw onto the hands some ways of praying and reasons why we pray.



Copy the picture of someone praying, using the drawing grid.



Write your own prayers to God; saying thank you, sorry and please.



Follow the dots to reveal the word, then colour it in.

