



Worship at Home Sunday 7th November 2021

Welcome to this week's worship at home act of worship. I hope you find it a helpful aid for creating a space to know the presence of God with you.

Whatever the time we come to worship, may it be a blessed time.

Wherever the place we come to worship, may it be a place of shelter in the LORD.

Whatever our emotional state as we come to worship, may we know God, Holy Spirit meet us.

Amen.

Psalm 127:1-2

'Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.'

Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful and loving,

There is nothing in this world more precious than knowing you.

There is nothing we can give you which did not come first from your gracious hand.

Help me to be my true and best self in you.

Help me to give you all I have and am.

Help me to be real, seeking only after you.

Help me to confess with an honest heart.

Help me to know your forgiveness through Jesus Christ my Saviour.

Help me to live each day with you. **Amen.**

StF N°18

1 Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

2 I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.

3 In you, O Lord, I put my trust.
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

Anonymous based on Psalm 46:10-11

Reading Mark 12: 38-44

A seed reflection by Revd. Gareth Baron

Mite or Mighty? Depends on the hands.

In this marvellous little story, Jesus observes the human heart with perfect clarity, seeing beyond the outward performance and recognising true devotion towards God.

Whilst a short passage, the commentary Jesus provides is huge in its significance. It provides encouragement to some and challenge to others. And I would suggest we can all find ourselves in either place on different occasions.

We began in our reading hearing about the fake approach towards God and acts of piety which were for show and appearance, rather than devotion. I wonder how often we (people) consider what others will think before we consider what will God think?

Concerning prayer, Jesus taught about going to the privacy of one's room, where God our Father sees and hears alone. So, prayer is first and foremost about our conversation and relationship with God.

This passage also provides the reminder that God sees. Jesus noticed the Scribes, the wealthy and the poor widow. God notices us too no matter how small our offering of time, gifts, or

money. And the significance of what we give isn't measured in it being more than another by human standards, rather, it is seen by God in relation to what we have in the first place.

The widow gave all she had, even though it wasn't more in earthly terms, it came from a sincere and generous heart. What's more, it cost her something, she would have felt it being all she had to live on.

Commonly described as the widow's mite. I would suggest that placed in God's hands it becomes Might. When we give our all to God, however small, it becomes much, much more. It does make a difference because God makes all the difference. It represents our devotion and trust in God.

Recently we have seen world leaders gather together in Glasgow for COP26. The issues surrounding the climate crises have been raised with a call for immediate action. We see world leaders and big companies all being challenged to do better and do more.

I believe too, that just like the widow who gave her all, we can give our all-in response to the climate crises. That what we do, however small it is perceived, makes a difference. It must move from the show of looking to be doing the right thing, like the scribes described in Mark chapter twelve, to a sincere effort, that will cost us something.

This is a matter of climate injustice too. Those who are often from the poorest communities around the world are facing the impact of climate change first. With people losing their homes and livelihoods because of rising sea levels and pollution. We have an amazing God who created a beautiful earth which deserves good stewards, who care for it and all who lived upon it. Amen.

StF N°562

1 O God, what offering shall I give
to you, the Lord of earth and skies?
My spirit, soul and flesh receive,
a holy, living sacrifice:
small as it is, 'tis all my store;
more would you have, if I had more.

2 Now, O my God, you have my soul,
no longer mine, but yours I am;
O guard your own, possess it whole,
cheer it with hope, with love inflame;
you have my spirit, there display
your glory to the perfect day.

3 You have my flesh, your hallowed shrine,
devoted solely to your will;
here let your light for ever shine,
this house still let your presence fill;
O source of life, live, dwell and move
in me, till all my life be love!

4 Send down your likeness from above,
and let this my adorning be;
clothe me with wisdom, patience, love,
with lowliness and purity,
than gold and pearls more precious far,
and brighter than the morning star.

5 Lord, arm me with your Spirit's might,
since I am called by your great name;
in you let all my thoughts unite,
of all my works be you the aim:
your love attend me all my days,
and my sole business be your praise.

*O Jesu, süßes Licht
by Joachim Lange (1670-1744) translated by John Wesley (1703-1791)*

A prayer for our offering.

Lord and Giver of all that is good, we give back into your hands our lives and gifts for your kingdom, all for transformation through your grace and love, made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Prayers for others

Taking inspiration from our early Gospel reading with regards to the scribes and long prayers. Today I would like to invite you to join in a prayer exercise and bring the prayers you have for people and situations.

You will need yourself and your imaginations.

I would like you to imagine a large pool of water. As you imagine this, imagine picking up a stone or pebble. First think about the stone or pebble in terms of representing you. What might the smoothness or roughness of it represent.

We recall that when we pray, it is an action. It is having a conversation with God. So let us give ourselves to God in prayer.

Imagining dropping the stone or pebble in the water, see the ripples form. Beginning with the ripples closest to the centre we pray.

For those we know by name.

For our neighbours and local community

For our nation and the world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer. 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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

StF N°566

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart – it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836 – 1879)

A blessing

May we each go forward in God's amazing
Grace.

May we each know the love and peace of God
in every moment of our lives.

May we give all we have and are to following
Jesus in all we think, say and do.

And may the blessing of God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, remain with us,
those we love and pray for, today and forever
more. Amen.