

Service – Erica Gassor Worship Leader.

Sunday 3rd May 2026

Call to Worship:-

We come, trusting you God to lead and guide us.
Your house is always open.
We come to this sacred place.
We know your love is around us.
We can trust you, you are our rock.
Even when doubts and trouble overtake us.
We are glad to rejoice in your love.
We come *together* to rejoice in your love.
Amen.

Our first hymn is an old classic and we probably haven't sung it for a while but I thought it was so apt for today theme.....

Hymn: Rock of Ages (STF 434)

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740–1778) Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 434

Prayers:

Most mighty and holy God,
we rejoice in the knowledge that,
wherever we are, there's a place for us with you.
We are at home in our bodies
because we know we belong to you.
We humbly dwell in your presence, O Lord, our cornerstone.

Lord, you are the cornerstone on which our foundation is firm.
We rest on the knowledge of your forgiveness,
the solid ground on which we build our lives.
We marvel in the joy of your forgiveness.

We wonder at your creation and at your unending love for each one of us
We know that we are precious in your sight and
that you care for each of us
We thank you for your love and guidance

Amen.

Reading : Psalm 31

- ¹ In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- ² Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.
- ³ Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
- ⁴ Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.
- ⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

Amen - Thanks be to God for his word

Our second hymn today is one that I love and so describes how I spend my life!

Hymn: Father I place into your hands (STF 519)

Father I place into Your hands
The things that I can't do
Father I place into Your hands
The times that I've been through
Father I place into Your hands
The way that I should go
For I know I always can trust You

Father we love to seek Your face
We love to hear Your voice
Father we love to sing Your praise
And in Your name rejoice
Father we love to walk with You
And in Your presence rest
For we know we always can trust You

Father I place into Your hands
My friends and family
Father I place into Your hands
The things that trouble me
Father I place into Your hands
The person I would be
For I know I always can trust You

Father I want to be with You
And do the things You do
Father I want to speak the words
That You are speaking too
Father I want to love the ones
That You will draw to You
For I know that I am one with You
For I know that I am one with You
For I know that I am one with You

Jenny Hewer (b. 1945) Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 519

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Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-10

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,

and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”^[b]

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”^[c]

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”^[d]

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Amen - Thanks be to God for his word

Talk: Our reading today from 1 Peter is so reassuring— dwell on those great words, We are ‘living stones chosen by God’, ‘We are precious to Him’ ‘Jesus .brought us out of darkness into His wonderful light’ and we are ‘built into a spiritual house’ Wow! What re assurance of His love for each one of us!

I do like the use of the word ‘corner stone’ - the stone that supports and on which we can build. This reading reminds me of that lovely old song ‘The wise man built his house upon the rock’ and how it stood firm despite the rain whereas the foolish man who built his house on the sand lost it all as it all came tumbling down – the children in young church used to love singing that song and doing the actions! But how true the words were. It is wise to build our lives on a firm foundation – care, compassion and good values. Sometimes it can seem better to follow the easier route, ‘go with the flow’ and not stand for what is right but that was not the way of Christ and should not be our way. Taking the right decisions is important and we know that our rock and redeemer is there throughout to support and guide us. Daily we can turn to prayer to ask for help and wisdom in making the right decisions, knowing that we are His precious children and He will listen and guide us. Not all answers are instant and we humans do like things ‘now’ and ‘instant’ and unfortunately the modern World is all about ‘instant’ be it food, answers to questions or general information and we all need to stop and remember that God’s World is eternal and His time frame can be much different to that of the World today.

Let us remember, that our rock and cornerstone is always there caring for us and being the strength behind our daily living as we follow Him.

Amen

Prayers of intercession:

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus, you say, ‘Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.’ So, Lord, we bring before you what is on our hearts today.

We ask for your hand on the situation in the Middle East and between Ukraine and Russia. May you bring peace and give those who are suffering strength and courage. Travel alongside, speaking to their hearts as you guide the leaders to peaceful solutions. Wrap those who are living amid danger in your loving arms and bring peace to your World

Lord, may we represent you and always show your love.
We lift our hearts to you, offering our prayer
and asking in your holy name that your will be done.

Lord, may we represent you and always show your love.
Help us as a church to represent you wherever we are,
whatever we are doing.
May your church bring glory to your name
by trusting and following the family traits
of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We lift our hearts to you, offering our prayer
and asking in your holy name that your will be done. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

And now for our closing hymn – another classic – reminding us that our Lord and Saviour is our foundation

Hymn: The Church has one Foundation (STF 690)

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation,
By water and the word;
From Heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the Earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

3. 'Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forever more;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

4. O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee;
There, past the border mountains,
Where in sweet vales, the bride
With thee, by living fountains,
Forever shall abide!

Samuel John Stone (1832–1900)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 690

And now the blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all this day and evermore Amen.

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