

Service at Home

Sunday 5th July 2026

God's Way!

Call to Worship:-

Jesus says, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'
Let us come to him today, to learn to walk in his ways;
Let us come to him today, to discover more of his truth;
Let us come to him today, to be filled with his life.
Let us come together now, to rejoice in him:
The way, the truth and the life. Amen

Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (STF 465)

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| 1 | Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land ;
I am weak, but thou art mighty ;
hold me with thy powerful hand :
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore ;
feed me now and evermore. | strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield ;
be thou still my strength and shield. |
| 2 | Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream shall flow ;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through : | 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside ;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side :
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee ;
I will ever give to thee. |

William Williams (1717–1791)

translated by Peter Williams (1727–1796)

Prayers:

Father God of all creation,
our hearts sing you a song of adoration
Precious Son of God, Servant King,
our hearts sing you a song of adoration.
Refreshing Holy Spirit of divine wisdom,
our hearts sing you a song of adoration.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
your love is like a bottomless well
from which we can drink every day.
Our hearts adore you.

Our Father is a God of love and wisdom.
All our wrong doings, all wrong decisions, have been forgiven
through the gift of Jesus on the cross.
Through his blood, God's own Son has paid all our debts,
past, present and future.
We are loved and forgiven.

All thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Loving God,
many times in our walk with you we come to decision crossroads.
We have a choice: your way, or our way.
Your way may look rocky and uneven,
whereas our way may look smooth.
Forgive us, loving God, for taking what appears to be
the easy way.
Your way is far more rewarding as we journey in your
loving grace.

Amen.

Hymn: Lift high the cross (STF 276)

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ
proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

- 1 Follow the path on which our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God :
- 2 Each new-born soldier of the Crucified
bears on their brow the seal of him who
died :
- 3 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks
combine :

4 From farthest regions let them homage
bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King :

5 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to
thee :

6 Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may
cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace :

Michael Robert Newbolt (1874–1956) and George William Kitchin (1827–1912)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **276**

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Background - When Abraham was very old, and the Lord had blessed him in every way even with a son Isaac. One day Abraham called his senior servant and gave him a task and we now hear his story of how events unfolded

Reading ; Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67

34 So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

42 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' ⁴⁴and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

45 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your

camels.” So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” She said, “The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.” So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.’ ⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ She said, ‘I will.’ ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,
‘May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.’

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, ‘Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?’ The servant said, ‘It is my master.’ So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Amen thanks be to God for his word

Hymn: Knowing You, Jesus (STF 489)

1 All I once held dear,
built my life upon,
all this world reveres,
and wars to own,
all I once thought gain
I have counted loss ;
spent and worthless now,
compared to this.
*Knowing you, Jesus,
knowing you,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best,
you're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love you, Lord.*

to be found in you
and known as yours.
To possess by faith
what I could not earn,
all-surpassing gift
of righteousness.

3 Oh, to know the power
of your risen life,
and to know you in
your sufferings.
To become like you
in your death, my Lord,
so with you to live
and never die.

2 Now my heart's desire
is to know you more,

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

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Reading: Romans 7: 15-25

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.
 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.
 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.
 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.
 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.
 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.
 For in my inner being I delight in God's law;
 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.
 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?
 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Amen and thanks be to God for his word

Talk: God's Way

There is always a right and a wrong way to do something. Even making a cup of tea too quickly (it's weak); making a black coffee with twice boiled water and not putting a drop of cold on the granules first spoils it completely; pulling a door to open when it clearly says push (I do that all the time) ,running down some steps and tripping; pulling a plaster off – is this better done slowly or quickly? Always a wrong and a right way!

In our Reading from Isaiah we heard how Rebekka picked the right way, trusted God and definitely followed God's way. As it happened Isaac and Rebekka loved each other and, unlike most men of his time, he stayed faithful to her and didn't take any other wives. Although they didn't manage to have children for 20 years, they eventually had two sons and that's when the trouble started, Jacob was Rebekka's favourite and Esau was Isaac's and of course, through cunning, Rebekka helped Jacob get Esau's birthright – big trouble!

I love the reading from Romans 7:15-25a is one of the most famous and intensely debated passages in the New Testament. It vividly describes the universal, agonizing human conflict between the desire to do what is right and the persistent pull of our sinful nature.

- **The Will vs. The Action:** Paul famously expresses a universal human paradox: *"For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing"* (v. 19). Even when the mind and the heart desire to follow God, the physical "flesh" or human nature constantly undermines those intentions.
- **The "I" in the Passage:** Theologians and scholars have long debated who Paul is referring to. Some argue he is speaking about his pre-conversion life (under the burden of the law), while others believe he is describing the ongoing, daily struggle of a practicing Christian who still grapples with sin.
- **The "Law" of the Body:** Paul describes an internal "war". Even as the "inner being" delights in God's law, there is another force at work within the body that takes the mind captive, resulting in a frustrating lack of self-control.
- **The Cry of Anguish:** The frustration culminates in a desperate cry: *"Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"* (v. 24). This acknowledges the core theological reality that self-reliance and willpower alone cannot overcome the grip of sin.
- **The Ultimate Deliverance:** Paul immediately shifts from despair to praise: *"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* (v. 25a). It serves as a reminder that the solution to human frailty is not found in personal perfection, but in the grace and deliverance provided by Christ.

To follow God's way isn't always easy – even Paul found it hard! but we know it is the right way. It is so easy to stray off the path and go the wrong way . That is why we always need to be alert and make sure we follow the teachings of Jesus and stay close to God.

Amen

Hymn: Take My Life and let it Be (STF 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. | 4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold ;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose. |
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 566

Prayers of intercession:

Father God, we turn to you in prayer – bringing the troubles of the World to you We know you are all powerful and can bring peace to the trouble torn areas and give the leaders wisdom and grace to learn to live together in harmony. We think of those in Ukraine, Russia and the Middle East and all those areas where there is conflict. Be near all those who are suffering fear, death and destruction.

We pray for those suffering from natural disasters, the earth quakes in Venezuela – the devastation and grief that there is. Father God, wrap your loving arms around all those who suffer and show them your love and care. We pray for all the rescue workers and those who are working so hard to save lives.

We pray for your World and all creation, knowing that you created all things – teach us how to care and preserve for all that you gave us so that future generations can also see and enjoy all that you made.

We pray for all those who suffer, those who are ill, those who are bereaved, those who are lonely, those who are worried and stressed – bring them your peace, a peace which only knowing you can bring

We come to you with our prayers, knowing of your love for each one of us and ask that you give us wisdom to live our lives in the way that you would have us. Teach us how to take the right decisions and do your will we pray

Amen

Now let us join in **the Lord's prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who 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

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness (STF 51)

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee ;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they
fail not ;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be :
*Great is thy faithfulness ! Great is thy
faithfulness !
Morning by morning new mercies I see ;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest,

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960)

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The blessing

And now 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.

New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

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sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love :

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide ;
strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside !