

Service at Home

Sunday 6th September 2026

Call to Worship:- Psalm 119

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.

² Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—

³ they do no wrong
but follow his ways.

Amen

Hymn: It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of his hand (StF 705)

It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of his hand;
It is God whose light is shining in the darkness of the land;
It is God who builds his City on the Rock and not on sand:
May the living God be praised!

It is God whose purpose summons us to use the present hour;
Who recalls us to our senses when a nation's life turns sour;
In the discipline of freedom we shall know his saving power:
May the living God be praised!

When a thankful nation, looking back, has cause to celebrate
Those who win our admiration by their service to the state;
When self-giving is a measure of the greatness of the great:
May the living God be praised!

God reminds us every sunrise that the world is ours on lease -
For the sake of life tomorrow, may our love for it increase;
May all races live together, share its riches, be at peace:
May the living God be praised!

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

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Prayers:

Father, we turn to you in prayer to thank you for your love for each one of us, for your wonderful creation that is all around us and the abilities that you have given to each of us. Thank you but mostly we thank you for sending your son Jesus to show us how we should live and honour you and who died to save us from our sins.

We know how much we needed Jesus to show us the way as we so often get things wrong and forget all that we have been taught – we can be so selfish, so materialistic, so thoughtless to those

around us. Pull us back and remind us how we should learn from Jesus and follow you and your way in all things

Lastly we thank you for your forgiving nature, as we stumble our way through life making mistakes and yet you always love us and care for us – thank you for your continuous love for each and everyone of us

Amen

Reading ; Exodus 12:1-14

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^[a] for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

¹² “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴ “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.

Amen and mthanks be to God for his word

Hymn: Be still and know that I am God (StF 19)

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

I am the Lord who heals your life
I am the Lord who heals your life
I am the Lord who heals your life

In you oh Lord we put our trust
In you oh Lord we put our trust
In you oh Lord we put our trust

Talk:

I find the reading that we had today from Exodus quite difficult as God is actually striking down the first born of the Egyptians – even if very small children - and this doesn't fit with my relationship with God and the type of God I know he is – warm and compassionate. However, when looking in detail at it, it was the 10th plague that God had sent to the Egyptians to get them to free the Israelites – the others were Moses turning the waters of the Nile River into blood. And then there were nine more, God sent frogs, gnats, flies, livestock disease, boils, hail, locusts, and total darkness but the Egyptians hardened their hearts and did not free the Israelites until this last plague. It was the action that God took as the Egyptians had such hard hearts. We need to stop and think at times, our God is a loving and a compassionate God but sometimes takes hard decisions to make clear what we should do – a lesson the Jewish community remember each year at Passover.

Again, we can ask - why do disasters happen such as the dreadful floods in Nepal. So many questions go around in our minds. But let us remember that earthquakes, wind, and rain follow the physical rules that keep our planet alive and functional but can bring disaster. The universe runs on steady physical laws (like gravity or weather patterns) that allow us to live and act. However, these same fixed laws can lead to tragic natural disasters or accidents.

Also remember, that God gave humans the freedom to choose between good and bad. Bad choices made by people often cause pain and tragedy for others – have we contributed to Global warming? Something that was never mentioned when I was young but is at the forefront of our minds in these days.

We can also be grateful that God sent Jesus to show us how to live so that we can be compassionate and follow his teachings to care for his planet and peoples in the World and to live peaceably with our neighbours and, of course, we are saved by His sacrifice and grace. It is so important that we, as Christians, have Christ at the centre of our faith and lives

Amen

Prayers of intercession:

Father God, we pray to you on this day, not always understanding fully your plan for the World or for us but we trust in your power and your grace to each one of us that comes to us through your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We pray for this World, its natural rumblings and pray that with all the technological ability you have given us we can foresee disasters and take action to avoid the devastation and heartbreak that follows such events.

We pray for all those who have lost their lives in Nepal and for those who are suffering sorrow at the loss of loved ones. We pray you will be near them to give them strength at this time and be with those rescue workers who are working tirelessly to find survivors.

We pray for our World and for World leaders and we pray that they will seek peace, peace among Nations and a cessation of the fighting, bombing and destruction that is taking place in so many areas as a result of war. Show the leaders how to live in peace and harmony with other nations and bring those who are causing suffering and pain to justice

We pray for those in our own community and area who are suffering from ill health, bereavement or loneliness and pray that you will also wrap them in your love and bring them your peace into

their lives. And Father God in the silence we bring to you those who are known to us personally and pray that you bring them your love and your peace

Father God, we bring all these prayers to you, knowing of your power and love for each one of us

Amen

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

Our Father who art 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: Seek ye first the kingdom of God (StF 254)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

(chorus)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

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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.

Acknowledgments

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