

Worship at Home – 19th October 2025 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

A short act of worship for use in people's homes prepared by Karen Frost.

Introduction

Welcome to Worship at Home today. It is good to be sharing in worship with you. Today we'll be thinking about our toolbox for life.

Call to worship

Come to hear God's inspired Word; come with open hearts to hear its teaching; come with humble hearts to hear its instruction; come with minds willing to hear its challenge.

Hymn – STF 57 – Let all the world in every corner sing George Herbert (1593–1633)

1 Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!

2 Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!
The church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!

Opening prayers

God who is eternal love, whose Word speaks love to our hearts:

we adore you and praise your holy name.

Christ who is love incarnate, whose gospel showed us a new way:

we adore you and praise your holy name.

Holy Spirit, who opens the Scriptures to us, shedding light to aid our understanding:

we adore you and praise your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, we praise you for the powerful words of Scripture, which endure from age to age in order that we may endure also. Thank you for entrusting your sacred books to us in the Bible, so that we might study and learn from them, enlightened by the Holy Spirit in our efforts to understand your message of guidance to us. We praise you for the strength your Word gives us to persevere when our faith is sorely tried by the ways of the world. All thanks and praise be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, we are often slow to consult the wisdom of your Word. When life presents us with problems, we wrangle with them in our own minds and often turn to Google instead of God! What need have we of a search engine when your Word is the toolkit for our survival? We repent of forgetting about our Bibles and recommit ourselves to study your Word in all its fulness, so that we may persist in our faith when the world throws problems in our path.

Lord, you forgive us when our faith flags and falters. You are the enduring God who persists with us when we fail to persist with you. We thank and praise you for this faithful forgiveness, which never flags, never falters, endures to the end. **Amen**

Hymn – STF 394 – Spirit of God, unseen as the wind Margaret V Old (born 1932)

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
Gentle as is the dove,
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
Show us the Saviour's love.*

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| 1 You spoke to us, long, long ago,
Gave us the written Word;
We read it still, needing its truth
Through it God's voice is heard.
<i>Chorus</i> | 2 Without your help, we fail our Lord,
We cannot live His way,
We need Your power, we need Your strength,
Following Christ each day.
<i>Chorus</i> |
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Bible reading – 2Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

¹⁴ But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned and are sure about. You know the people you learned it from. ¹⁵ You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. ¹⁷ By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.

⁴ I give you a command in the sight of God and Christ Jesus. Christ will judge the living and the dead. Because he and his kingdom are coming, here is the command I give you. ² Preach the word. Be ready to serve God in good times and bad. Correct people's mistakes. Warn them. Encourage them with words of hope. Be very patient as you do these things. Teach them carefully. ³ The time will come when people won't put up with true teaching. Instead, they will try to satisfy their own desires. They will gather a large number of teachers around them. The teachers will say what the people want to hear. ⁴ The people will turn their ears away from the truth. They will turn to stories that aren't true. ⁵ But I want you to keep your head no matter what happens. Don't give up when times are hard. Work to spread the good news. Do everything God has given you to do.

Reflection on the reading

I wonder, have you ever had a toolbox? Where was it kept and what was in it? I remember my dad's large wooden toolbox filled with all sorts of implements: screwdrivers and chisels various, a bradawl, a junior hacksaw (with various larger saws hanging up in his garage), spanners, Allen keys, a couple of spirit levels, a metal tape measure and hammers. This was all alongside the thousands of nails, screws, tacks, bolts and washers, in their pots on the garage shelves. All the tools he needed to do a DIY job around the house. We'll come back to our toolbox shortly.

In our reading we heard that Timothy is reminded that '*God has breathed life into all Scripture*' and '*it is useful for making our lives whole again*'. Timothy's task is to proclaim the message of scripture-based faith in Jesus Christ; however inconvenient this might be for his audience. Mostly they will need encouragement, but correction is called for when they 'turn to stories that aren't true'. (4:4).

The Scriptures are an important toolbox for faith in every generation. The bible is the only thing that can help us with our whole lives. It has directions on most of the important topics we will

encounter, if we know where to look, although it can only help us if we open our bible, read it and use it in our daily lives. It's not a useful toolbox if it sits on a bookshelf gathering dust.

Now back to our toolbox for DIY.

Every tradesperson or home DIYer needs to have the right tools for the job. As I've said, the Bible can be seen as a toolbox, full of items for our spiritual life. What might be in it?

- Like a saw, the Bible teaches persistence – you just need to keep going.
- Like a spanner, it teaches humility – sometimes we need to change our fixed view and make an adjustment.
- A spirit level reminds us to hold steady and onto God's Word in the ups-and-downs of life.
- A tape measure: how do our attitudes and actions measure up against the Bible's teaching?
- A hammer may also remind us to be persistent and not give up in our Christian life when things are difficult.

I wonder, which one do you need today?

Lord God, thank you for the gift of your Word, to teach us, to challenge us, and to train us. Help us to use it well so we may live holy lives for you. **Amen**

Hymn – STF 519 – Father, I place into your hands Jenny Hewer (born 1945)

- 1 Father, I place into your hands
The things I cannot do.
Father, I place into Your hands
The things 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Father, we love to see 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.
- 4 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.

Prayers for the world, others and ourselves

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for all involved in our justice system, for police officers, judges, lawyers and all who uphold the law. We pray for all who work in our prisons and for all those serving prison sentences.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Afghanistan and other countries that never reach the news headlines. We pray for the people of Gaza and Israel. For aid workers everywhere. We pray for safe passage for lorries and workers to reach those in need.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for families everywhere. We pray for the bereaved and vulnerable. We pray for our own loved ones and for our communities. For those who fear the onset of the colder months and for those in poverty, having to choose whether to heat their homes or eat.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for all who preach your word, Lord. For all Christian leaders in our churches. For all your people. You call us to pray, to work at it and not give up. You care about every detail in our lives, from the smallest to the more complex. We place all into your hands, for on you we can depend.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

Hear our cries for justice, mercy and peace. Amen

You may now wish to say The Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.

Hymn – STF 470 – Lord, for the years Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Blessing

Almighty heavenly Father, you are always faithful to us. Help us to stay connected to you through our prayer and reading of your Scriptures. Help us, O Lord, to set aside times in our lives to devote ourselves fully to you. **Amen**

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, remain with you and all those you love, this day and forever more. **Amen**

Bible readings from [New International Reader's Version \(NIRV\)](#)

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