

Worship at Home – 26th October 2025 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
A short act of worship for use in people's homes prepared by Erica Gassor.

Call to worship

Come one, come all.
Come with your friends, come with your family,
Come on your own.
Come to the living God,
who longs to stand beside you.
Come with your joys, your sorrows, your achievements and
your failures.
Come to the living God
who loves you beyond measure. **Amen**

Hymn – STF 83 – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

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| 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who like thee his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King! | 2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness! |
| 3 Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows. | 4 Angels in the height, adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace! |

Bible reading – Psalm 121

A song for those who go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord.

- ¹ I look up to the mountains.
Where does my help come from?
- ² My help comes from the Lord.
He is the Maker of heaven and earth.
- ³ He won't let your foot slip.
He who watches over you won't get tired.
- ⁴ In fact, he who watches over Israel
won't get tired or go to sleep.
- ⁵ The Lord watches over you.
The Lord is like a shade tree at your right hand.
- ⁶ The sun won't harm you during the day.
The moon won't harm you during the night.
- ⁷ The Lord will keep you from every kind of harm.
He will watch over your life.
- ⁸ The Lord will watch over your life no matter where you go,
both now and forever.

Prayers

Eternal Father, whose love echoes throughout history,
we adore your holy name.

Risen Son, who never leaves or forsakes us,
we adore you in your perfect presence.

Holy Spirit, who comforts and counsels us,
we adore your spirit of enlightenment and encouragement.

In this world, we rely heavily on
the approval, validation and comfort of others.

But sometimes we find ourselves in situations where
it seems as if everyone has deserted us.

We confess that, at such times, we must remember you,
the one who has promised
to be with us always.

You are there, not in the shadows, not in the wings
waiting for your cue to step in and play your part,
- right there, by our side, just waiting for us to notice.
So, Lord, we remind ourselves that we are never alone,
never abandoned, and we commit ourselves to
fighting the good fight to remain faithful,
as you are ever faithful to us

We praise you for your presence in our lives,
especially at times when we feel forsaken.

We thank you for the feeling of not being alone,
of being uplifted by an unseen power
who causes us to rise up in faith and face life again.

Thank you, Lord, for sustaining us in all situations,
and encouraging us to fight the good fight
in your name, and for your sake. **Amen**

Hymn – STF 351 – In Christ Alone Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Keith Getty (born 1974)

- 1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.
- 2 In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.
- 3 There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.
- 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Our last hymn was also very appropriate for our next Bible reading we are about to hear Paul is in prison awaiting trial and reflecting on his life and ministry, Paul was put on trial around AD 64—67 by Emperor Nero who blamed the Christians for the fire which had destroyed a large part of Rome.

Bible reading – 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

⁶ I am already being poured out like a drink offering. The time when I will leave is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is a crown waiting for me. It is given to those who are right with God. The Lord, who judges fairly, will give it to me on the day he returns. He will not give it only to me. He will also give it to all those who are longing for him to return.

¹⁶ The first time I was put on trial, no one came to help me. Everyone deserted me. I hope they will be forgiven for it. ¹⁷ The Lord stood at my side. He gave me the strength to preach the whole message. Then all the Gentiles heard it. I was saved from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will save

me from every evil attack. He will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Give him glory for ever and ever. **Amen**

Reflection on the reading

Paul was in prison awaiting trial; he knew the end was near and was reflecting on his life and ministry in his letters to Timothy. Paul had converted Timothy, who was of mixed Jewish and Gentile parentage, and he was Paul's companion on both the second and the third missionary journeys. Paul also often used Timothy on special missions on his behalf.

We see in Paul's writings that he had confidence that his suffering and desertion by some supporters has not been in vain. He had fought the good fight, and a crown of righteousness awaited him. In his lowest moments, he knew people failed him, but God stood by him.

Today we can learn from Paul's example – God will always stand by us when we stay close to him, even in the most difficult times.

Such assurance of God's presence in all our troubles – even if we cannot see clearly that he is.

I love Psalm 121 we read earlier – it is so true!

Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber.

As we all know life has its struggles, with health, with money and the expense of everything, with the frustrations of everything not happening as we would like and it is so easy to become disheartened or grumpy and forget that we can turn to God with our sorrows, our worries and our joys.

I know in my hectic life I so often take on more than I should, or I struggle with a decision in my work with the homeless and those on the poverty line, It is not always easy to know what is the right decision and I always start my morning with prayers and ask God for his wisdom to help me throughout the day. Again, throughout the day, I often stop and ask for direction, understanding or strength.

So often in life there are things which you cannot control or 'sort out' – I am a great one for liking to jump in and get things sorted, not wasting time or dithering but there are some things beyond our control and it is so wonderful to be able to turn to prayer and know that you have God's strength and the guiding hand of Jesus to lead you in the right way.

If we look back on life – those of us who are older, and I include myself – it is good to realise that God was there guiding and leading us even when we did not realise it. When any of us are faced with those situations we cannot 'sort' let us turn to God and know that he stands by us through every day and every circumstance. Amen

I would like us to sit and listen to the words of this next song which is on based on Psalm 121 that we read earlier

Video – He Will Keep you

God will sustain us through this journey now and evermore! Amen

Prayers for the world, others and ourselves

God of peace,
We pray for nations facing growing threats of violence and terrorism.
Protect those who serve for safety and guide leaders toward peace.

Creator God,
As our world warms and weather worsens, help us act with care and courage.
Protect those already suffering from floods and droughts.

God of compassion,
We remember all forced to leave their homes.
May they find safety, welcome, and justice.

God our provider,
Be near to families burdened by high prices and uncertain work.
Grant fairness and generosity in our economy.

God our healer
Be with all those who are suffering from ill health,
Ease their pain, give them strength and bring them
Close to you, knowing your peace and love.

Faithful God,
Bless those who seek honesty in public life.
Give wisdom to leaders and courage to all who speak truth. **Amen**

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

Hymn – STF 51 – Great is thy faithfulness Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960)

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 spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Chorus

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!

Chorus

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**

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

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