

Worship at Home – 16th November 2025 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

A short act of worship for use in people's homes prepared by Erica Gassor.

Call to worship

What shall we do now?

Let's come and praise our wonderful God.

How shall we come now?

Come before him in repentance and humility.

What shall we sing now?

Let's sing to the Lord a new song.

How shall we sing now?

Let's make a joyful noise to the Lord.

How shall we praise now?

With all our energy and love. **Amen**

Hymn – STF 526 – Lord of all hopefulness Jan Struther (1901–1953)

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no care could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Bible reading – Psalm 128

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

¹ Blessed are all those who have respect for the Lord.

They live as he wants them to live.

² Your work will give you what you need.

Blessings and good things will come to you.

³ As a vine bears a lot of fruit,

so may your wife have many children by you.

May they sit around your table

like young olive trees.

⁴ Only a man who has respect for the Lord

will be blessed like that.

⁵ May the Lord bless you from Zion.

May you enjoy the good things that come to Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

⁶ May you live to see your grandchildren.
May Israel enjoy peace.

Opening prayers

God of spring and summer, autumn and winter: we adore you.

God of past and present and times to come: we adore you.

God of the darkest night and the brightest day: we adore you.

God of love and peace and hope and joy: we adore you.

God of all times and all places: we adore you now.

We are sorry God if we have missed the point of being a Christian.

We are sorry God if we have wavered in our faith,
wandered from the path and followed the wrong group.

We are sorry God if we have caused hurt and pain to those who love us.

We are sorry God if we have been lazy in our faith and witness to you.

We are sorry God for all of this and we ask you to forgive us..

The Almighty God, who never fails us, hears our prayers,
our confession and our sorrow and give us now
the assurance that our sins are forgiven. **Amen**

Bible reading – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Paul Warns Those Who Do Not Want to Work

⁶ Brothers and sisters, here is a command we give you. We give it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep away from every believer who doesn't want to work and makes trouble. Keep away from any believer who doesn't live up to the teaching you received from us. ⁷ You know how you should follow our example. We worked when we were with you. ⁸ We didn't eat anyone's food without paying for it. In fact, it was just the opposite. We worked night and day. We worked very hard so that we wouldn't cause any expense to any of you. ⁹ We worked, even though we have the right to receive help from you. We did it in order to be a model for you to follow. ¹⁰ Even when we were with you, we gave you a rule. We said, "Anyone who won't work shouldn't be allowed to eat."

¹¹ We hear that some people among you don't want to work and are making trouble. They aren't really busy. Instead, they are bothering others. ¹² We belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. So, we strongly command people like that to settle down. They have to earn the food they eat. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, don't ever get tired of doing what is good.

Hymn – STF 693 – Beauty for brokenness Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

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|---|---|
| 1 Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
your kingdom increase! | 2 Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak:
<i>God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.</i> |
| 3 Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain. | |
| 4 Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned -
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.
<i>Chorus</i> | 5 Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.
<i>Chorus</i> |

Reflection on the reading

We live in a world that constantly asks, “*What’s next?*”

What’s the next goal, the next trend, the next thing to worry about?

But Paul reminds us in this passage from Thessalonians that the Christian’s calling is not to be obsessed with what’s *next*—but to be faithful *now*.

The believers in Thessalonica were eager for the Lord’s return.

Some were so sure it was coming any moment that they stopped working altogether.

They had turned waiting into wasting.

So Paul writes to them—and to us—about how to live now as followers of Christ.

Paul begins with a command: “*Keep away from every brother who walks disorderly.*”

In other words, *don’t follow the example of those who refuse to live responsibly.*

He reminds them, “*When we were with you, we worked night and day so as not to be a burden to anyone.*”

Paul could have demanded support as an apostle, but he chose instead to model diligence and humility.

In our time, this means honouring our daily responsibilities—whether in our work, our families, or our ministries.

The believer’s faith is not idle. True faith works through love.

When we do our part faithfully, we reflect the character of our diligent God—the one who sustains creation every moment.

Paul had heard that some were idle—not busy, but *busybodies*.
They had time to meddle because they had neglected their mission.
So he gives this counsel:

“We command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ that they work quietly and eat their own bread.”
The call here is not merely to find employment—it is to live a life marked by peace and purpose.
Christians are not to be known for creating confusion but for cultivating calm, fruitful living.
To live now means to be steady, prayerful, and productive in whatever task God entrusts to us.
Even the smallest duty becomes sacred when done in the name of the Lord.

Paul concludes with encouragement:

“But as for you, brethren, be not weary in well doing.”

It’s easy to become discouraged when others seem careless or indifferent.

It’s easy to think our quiet faithfulness doesn’t matter.

But Paul says: *Keep going*. Don’t give up on doing good.

The Lord sees every act of faithfulness—every prayer offered, every burden carried, every unseen task done in love.

In due time, we will reap a harvest if we do not faint.

How, then, should we live *now*?

Paul’s answer is clear:

- Live responsibly—work diligently and honourably.
- Live quietly—focus on your purpose, not others’ faults.
- Live faithfully—never grow weary of doing what is right.

We do not know the exact day of Christ’s return, but we do know how He calls us to live until that day comes.

Let us live with discipline, with compassion, and with perseverance—so that when He appears, He will find us faithfully doing His will.

Closing Prayer:

“Lord, teach us to live now—with hands that serve, hearts that trust, and spirits that do not grow weary in doing good.

May our daily faithfulness bring glory to Your name until the day You return. **Amen**

Prayers for the world, others and ourselves

Gracious God, we lift before you the rising numbers of people without work in the UK, now the highest for several years. We pray for those who feel anxious, insecure or without hope. Pour out your comfort on them. Grant wisdom and courage to leaders in business and government as they seek to create sustainable jobs, uphold dignity, and serve the common good. May your peace guard the hearts of those affected, and may communities rally to support one another in love.

Lord of healing and hope, we bring before you the announcements about the NHS England voluntary redundancy scheme and reforms to redirect billions back into frontline patient care. We pray especially for health-care staff who are burdened, weary or uncertain about the future. Strengthen them, renew their spirits, and help them to see your purpose in their work. We ask for wise stewardship of resources, reduction of unnecessary waste and bureaucracy, and that reforms bring real relief to those needing care. Use your hand to restore broken systems and bring compassionate service.

Compassionate God, we pray for the plight refugees and the efforts of the UK to support them with humanitarian aid. Move the hearts of nations to act with justice, to provide shelter, to uphold human rights and to build resilience in the face of crises—whether from conflict, climate or displacement.

Sovereign God, we pray for those in leadership—in the UK and globally—who face challenges of trust, division and governance. Grant them integrity, courage to listen, wisdom to serve rather than dominate, and humility to recognise the needs of the many over power for the few. Guide them in building unity, seeking the common good, and responding faithfully to the citizens they represent.

Maker of heaven and earth, we remember how our planet is experiencing a record pace of ice loss and environmental disruption. With heavy hearts we bring before you the millions who will be affected—through floods, climate displacement, crop failure and more. Stir in us a sense of stewardship and responsibility. Help us to act and live in ways that reflect your care for all Creation and for the poorest among us who are often hit first and worst.

Lord Jesus, you know each heart, each wound, each fear. We bring before you those who may not be in the headlines: the lonely, the ill, the discouraged, the fearful. May they know your presence, your comfort and your hope. Help your church to be a place of refuge, healing, reconciliation and service. Let our prayers be matched by acts of compassion, such that your love flows through us to others. **Amen**

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

Hymn – STF 407 – Hear the call of the kingdom Keith Getty (born 1974), Kristyn Getty (born 1980) and Stuart Townend (born 1963)

- 1 Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King;
let his song rise within you as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.
- 2 Hear the call of the kingdom to be children of light,
with the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ;
walking justly before him, loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.
*King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.*
- 3 Hear the call of the kingdom to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come:
let the nations put their trust in him.

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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