

This short act of worship has been produced for you. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you

Call to Worship: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded (Singing the Faith 455)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here
www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.

Let us pray together

**Lord, you are steadfast in your love
and infinite in your mercy; I praise you for what you have done
in my life ...**(take a few moments to name the good things)

**Thank you for the gift of Jesus who shows us what you are
really like.**

**You welcome sinners and invite them to be your guests.
Forgive me when I have felt myself to be better than other
people.**

**I confess my sins,
trusting in you to forgive me.**

God always forgives those who turn to him in Christ.

Read Today's readings:

"Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

(Isaiah 51:10 NRSV)

"...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"

(Matthew 28:10 NRSV)

Time to Reflect

In all that we face in these days, know this: we belong to God.

God's people have always from time to time found themselves living in contexts of real fear and uncertainty. Time and time again the message from Scripture meets those moments with the repeated refrain: "Do not fear"; "Be at peace" and in Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel today, "...remember, I am with you always...".

We desperately need to do that remembering today. When we live with real fear and anxiety about the health of those close to us, or ourselves and at a time when our Church buildings are temporarily closed and we are keeping isolated from one another we feel beset by uncertainty and fear can be overwhelming. We have to come back to that remembering of who we belong to, of the God in Christ who shares the fullness of our human lives.

This week, sadly, the doors of our Church buildings have had to close. But the Church is more than our buildings and our faith in God's presence through these times can be stronger than our fear. We will have to, as one politician put it recently, stand together by pulling a little further apart at this present time. There's a number

of ways we can pull together, in sharing worship separately and yet united in prayer. We can pray wherever we are, for one another, for those who are unwell and anxious around the world and for those seeking to bring healing and hope. You can, if you are well enough and able to do so, sign up as a volunteer to deliver essential items to the doorstep of those unable to get out. You can keep in touch with one another on the phone or via social media. You can always call or email your Minister for pastoral conversations.

This week we mark Mothering Sunday. One theory about the origins of this festival in the middle of the season of Lent is from the 16th century practice of returning to the Mother Church, the largest Parish Church or Cathedral in the area. This year, we are unable to visit our local Churches but we recognise more than ever how important that sense of belonging together and belonging to God is for our own continued nurture and support. We should never take that for granted.

I've been thinking a lot this week about two lines of a hymn that speak into this: (STF 682 God of Grace and God of glory): the hymn says at its conclusion: "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days".

We find courage, even we feel fearful because we know God is with us still.

We find strength to go on because we remember Jesus is with us always. Thanks be to God.

A time of prayer

*God of all hope I call on you today.
I pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness,
fear for loved ones,
fear of other's reactions to them.*

May your Spirit give us all a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty:

For those people who are worried.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

*Grant us your wisdom, grant your peace
I pray for the afflicted and sorrowful and for all who need my
prayers.*

I especially want to pray for.....

I pray today as I give thanks for those who have nurtured and guided me through life. I pray for those celebrating Mothering Sunday and for those who have nothing to celebrate today.

*Holy God,
I remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in
Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.*

**Eternal God,
through your Son you have filled each person's life with your presence.
Help us in our sufferings and trials and strengthen us in our weakness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (STF 682)

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour.

Heal your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days.

A prayer of blessing: **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you
now, and for evermore. Amen**