



Worship at Home

7th May 2023

Easter 5

Name above all names,
worthy of all praise ;
my heart will sing :
how great is our God.

*How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see
how great, how great is our God.*

Chris Tomlin (b. 1972), Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves



Call to worship

The Father teaches us the true meaning of parenthood and care.
Jesus shows us what it is to love and forgive.
The life-giving Spirit breathes life into us, so we can be children of God. Let us come now to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Hymn StF 15: The Splendour of the King

Sing/ Read /pray the words or listen to it here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ut5LBSi-YGE>

The splendour of the King,
clothed in majesty ;
let all the earth rejoice,
let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light
and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice,
and trembles at his voice.

*How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see
how great, how great is our God.*

And age to age he stands,
and time is in his hands ;
beginning and the end,
beginning and the end.
The Godhead, Three in One,
Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb.

*How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see
how great, how great is our God.*

Name above all names,
worthy of all praise ;
my heart will sing :
how great is our God.

A Time of Prayer

Blessed God, we cannot see and know the depth of your being, but, for what we do see and know, we worship and adore you.

We find in you protection, guidance and love.
We find in you forgiveness, acceptance and repentance.

We see in you a way of living that is right and just, loving and caring.

We feel the spark of your Spirit in the depths of our beings and know you to be true.

You search us and know us and are forever with us.
Blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as you are one, may we be one with you and all. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Holy God, whose perfect nature challenges and changes us, our guilt weighs heavy on our shoulders. It saddens us that we fail you so often when we:
fail our families, friends and neighbours;
fail to recognise need;
fail to see how we can be the hand that guides, the love that enfolds, the word that strengthens.

Forgive us that we deliberately look the other way and avoid the hard challenges you call us to.

Forgive us, O God, for our failings, our deafness and our blindness in reaching out and offering your love.

Amen.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Time to Reflect

In a couple of years' time Alison and I will retire, and it will be up to the Methodist Ministers Housing Society to find us a house to live in. This is the deal that many Ministers live with for giving up their own homes upon entering Ministry. Now that we're this close we find ourselves asking inevitable questions when we travel to areas that we're not familiar with: "Do these houses look suitable?", "What else is there in this area?", "What are the local churches like?" In other words, our future feels both uncertain and exciting. There is an element of anxiety and the inevitable game of "What if?" and we all play that game at various points in our lives.

This passage reminds us that the disciples were also wondering about the future. The setting for the scene is the last supper where Jesus has explained all that is coming including his death. Naturally they are concerned (wouldn't we be?) They must have wondered what was to happen to them once Jesus had gone, but he seeks to reassure them. 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" he says. It echoes many of his other reassurances. Walking across the water, appearing in the locked room, the appearance of the angel to Mary and others are all accompanied with the words "do not be afraid" God seeks to restore his relationship with us to the one enjoyed in Eden, a natural state of love without fear, a relationship at one with he so protects, guides, leads and simply talks with us. We will all still have worries and anxieties but where we can Jesus simply calls for us to follow and as the old (1971) Gospel chorus tells us to "put our hand in the hand of the man from Galilee ". I pray we can all do that more and more.

A time of prayer

In a world where there is warfare and violence, many people live in fear of the bullet and the bomb; many have had their lives and livelihoods destroyed; many grieve for loved ones who have been killed. That they may know your strength and peace, loving God: **be for them a rock and a stronghold.**

In a world where harvests have failed; where there have been droughts and floods; many do not have money to pay for food and power; many are reaching the end of their tether. That they may know your strength and peace, loving God: **be for them a rock and a stronghold.**

In a world where many people are alone; many do not know where to look for comfort and encouragement; many see no purpose or future; some cannot see the point of anything. That they may know your strength and peace, loving God: **be for them a rock and a stronghold.**

In our lives when we struggle and doubt; when we don't know what to say or do; when life overwhelms us and we turn to you. That we may know your strength and peace, loving God: **be for us a rock and a stronghold.**

In the name of the living Lord Jesus, our Saviour and companion. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn StF 492: Christ be my leader by night as by day

Sing/ Read /pray the words or listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktvGoqT-rRQ>

Christ be my leader by night as by day ;
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care,
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him ; though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me ; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Saviour in calm as in strife ;
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation ; with Jesus I reign.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (*b.* 1926)

A prayer of blessing

Send us out, Lord, into your world.
Draw us closer to yourself by your Spirit,
so that others may see your presence in us
in all we do and say and are.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Original materials written by Rev Mike Redshaw

Prayers taken from rootsontheweb.com

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