

Call to Worship

Lord our God, dwelling in unapproachable light, source of all wisdom, goodness and truth, out of the abundance of our reason we adore you and out of the love of our hearts we praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen** (Susanna Wesley)

Hymn 123 StF or 355 H&P (using the latter's words)

1. Come ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day
All offences purge away;
Give his angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In his garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come;
Bring thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin.
There for ever purified,
In thy garner to abide:
Come, with all thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.

Prayers

Thank you, Lord, that you have set us in this wonderful world, a world of beauty and majesty, of variety, of never-ending change, and of interdependence. We marvel at the complexity of many creatures, at the sheer size of mammals and mountains, at the distances of migration, at the minuteness of microbes, both good and bad.

Whilst conscious of the problems arising from the coronavirus, we thank You for the benefits – the cleaner air, the chance to appreciate nature, to hear the birds, to be made aware of what is important in life. We thank You for those who help during the pandemic, who shop and visit, phone and pray, for doctors and nurses, and for all who (often unnoticed and poorly rewarded) maintain the essential services day in and day out.

We thank You for the technology that has made life easier under the pandemic, and for the skill and dedication of those who are treating the sick and those trying to find a vaccine.

But, despite our many blessings, we often let others and You down by our words and actions or lack of these. We seek your forgiveness . . .

. . .for our foolish deeds, our trivial concerns, our inappropriate desires -

Father forgive us, **and help us to change**

. . . for our unkind words, our thoughtless actions and unworthy thoughts that deny our faith -

Father forgive us, **and help us to change**

. . . for our self-centred lifestyles, our half-hearted commitment and careless discipleship that undermine our witness -

Father forgive us, **and help us to change**

. . . for our lack of devotion, lack of faith, and lack of love that demean Your name -

Father forgive us, **and help us to change**

The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 119 vv 81 to 88
John 20 vv 19 to 29

Message

Hymn: Mission Praise (Complete) 295

1. I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

*He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives),
Christ Jesus lives today.
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives),
Salvation to impart.
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

2. In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Chorus

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the king!
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Chorus

Prayers:

We pray for doctors and nurses and hospital staff as they try to cope with the pandemic and other health issues. Give them the compassion, stamina and skill that they need. We pray for those who are affected by the pandemic, for those awaiting treatment or diagnosis for other ailments, and for those who are suffering in any way.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

We pray for healing for those affected, and for those seeking a cure for coronavirus and a vaccine to prevent it. Give them the patience and the skill to persevere in their vital work

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

We pray for the lonely, the locked-down, for those prevented from seeing loved ones, and for those who mourn the loss of someone dear to them. We pray for those caring for those who are ill, whether physically or mentally. May they all know your loving presence, and be given the strength to cope.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have been made jobless and those fearing to be so at the end of furlough. For businesses, companies and charities adversely affected by a lack of funding due to the pandemic, particularly those threatened with closure and danger of no revival. We pray for our own church that the current reduction in income will be short-lived, and that we can soon get back to worshipping and enjoying fellowship together in person.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

We pray for our Government and governments around the world, and their advisers, that they may have wisdom and compassion in making provision and rules for coping with the pandemic. That people will be prepared to suffer inconvenience for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

We pray for those in various parts of the world who are suffering from natural disasters - floods, fires, earthquakes, famine, landslides, drought, locusts and similar plagues. And for those recovering from these that have happened in the past, but no longer in the news. And we pray for those parts where warfare is raging, and pray for true and lasting peace.

Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Hymn: H&P 687

1. When we walk with the Lord
In the light of his word,
What a glory he sheds on our way!
When we do his goodwill, he abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey*

2, Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he doth richly repay.
Not a grief nor a loss,
Not a frown nor a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Chorus

3. But we never can prove
The delights of his love,
Until all on the altar we lay.
For the favour he shows,
And the joy he bestows,
Are for those who will trust and obey.

Chorus

4. Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at his feet,
Or we'll walk by his side in the way.
What he says we will do,
Where he says we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Chorus

Blessing: We go now to proclaim the Gospel, not just through words but deeds – through what we say, through what we do, through what we are. May others, as they meet with us, meet with Christ, and know his loving presence for themselves.

The Grace