

EVENING WORSHIP
Friday 16th September 2011
Theme: Our own mortality

Tonight we remember that death is part of life.
Some of us live with this knowledge every day - it shapes our living and our working.
For some of us the theory is ok, but our own mortality makes us fearful.
As loved and precious children of God, we remember that Jesus told us that we do not
need to be afraid, for he came to bring us life - abundant life on earth, and eternal life
to come.
And so we begin by affirming our faith in God's loving care for us.

In God we live, in God we have our being
From God we came, to God we return.

We are part of a cycle of living and dying
From God we came, to God we return.

In God we die, in God we go on living
From God we came, to God we return.

Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, Eggs and Ashe © Wild Goose Publications 2004

Hymn

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 Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our forbears in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

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!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

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 Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Francis Henry Lyte

All sit. Explain that Psalm 90 will be woven with O Lord you are the centre of my life. The words of the psalm will be read to us with the music playing under it. Please feel free to join in with the words of the sung refrain if you would like to.

O Lord You are the center of my life;
I will always praise you;
I will always serve you;
I will always keep you in my sight.
(Repeat)

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Psalm 90

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge •
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed, •
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to dust and say: •
'Turn back, O children of earth.'

O Lord You are the center of my life;
I will always praise you;
I will always serve you;
I will always keep you in my sight.

- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, •
which passes like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away like a dream; •
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; •
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; •
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
- 8 You have set our misdeeds before you •
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; •
our years come to an end like a sigh.

O Lord You are the center of my life;
I will always praise you;
I will always serve you;
I will always keep you in my sight.

- 10 The days of our life are three score years and ten,
or if our strength endures, even four score; •
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,
for they soon pass away and we are gone.
- 12 So teach us to number our days •
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- 17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us; •
prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands.

O Lord You are the center of my life;
I will always praise you;
I will always serve you;
I will always keep you in my sight.
(Repeat)

Old Testament Reading: Job 1:13-22, 2:11-end

New Testament Reading: Romans 8: 19 – 27

Song

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
(Repeat)

When I feel afraid,
Think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear
As long as You are near;
Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
(Repeat)

I will not forget
Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide
And hold me to Your side,
And I will love You to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
(Repeat)

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A time of quiet

Prayers

In faith, O God,
we dare to bring to you the doubts, the questions, the anxieties,
the struggling and strivings which are part of our journey through life.
We place them all into your hands for your care and compassion.

Pause

We are sorry if we have kept them from you,
As though we are afraid of your judgement, or our own lack of answers,
Which we fear may be your lack of answers and which may shake our faith.

Pause

Into your hands dear Lord we commit our lives,
And the lives of all our loved ones.

Pause

Just as the night covers the earth with its restfulness,
So we rest in your love, O God.
Abide with us Lord, for it is towards evening and the day is far spent.
Abide with us, so that we, knowing your presence,
may sleep this night in that peace
which the world can neither give nor take away.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon, Liturgies for Daily Life, SPCK 2004 (adapted)

Song:

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

Words: Psalm 23 adp'td Stuart Townend. Copyright © 1996 Thankyou Music

Closing Responsess

**Teach us, dear Lord, to number our days;
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.**

**Oh, satisfy us early with thy mercy,
that we may rejoice and be glad all of our days.**

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us;
and establish thou the works of our hands.

**And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us;
and establish thou the works of our hands.**

Celtic Daily Prayer from the Northumbria Community, Harper Collins 2000 (from Midday Prayer)

The Lord God almighty is our Father:
he loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:
he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us:
he will lead us in God's holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.

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