

EVENING WORSHIP
Thursday 15th September 2011
Theme: Pain and Suffering – thirsting for God

Song before the service begins:

One thing I ask, one thing I seek,
that I may dwell in your house, O Lord.
all of my days, all of my life,
that I may see you, Lord.

Hear me, O Lord, hear me when I cry,
Lord, do not hide your face from me.
You have been my help, you have been my shield,
And You will lift me up.

One thing I ask,
One thing I desire
is to see you,
is to see you.

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Gathering

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.

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The Three Brothers – an invitation to take space

There were once three brothers who lived with their father. After he had died, they wondered about their future. The eldest said, “I’m off to give health to the world.” The second said, “I’m off to spread education round the world.” And the third said, “I’m staying here.”

A few years passed and the eldest brother came back saying, “I am exhausted and diseased.” The second came back too and said, “I am weary and confused.” And the third one said, “I’m going to get some water from the river.”

He came back with a bowl full of water. It was dark and murky, but he asked his brothers to sit around it and wait. Gradually the water settled, and the mud fell to the bottom. In fact the water became so clear that the brothers could see their faces reflected in it. The peace of the stillness enveloped them.

“You see,” the youngest brother said, “It is only when you are still enough know your own faces, that you can hear what God wants of you. Only then can you act in God’s power.”

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Hymn

As water to the thirsty,
As beauty to the eyes,
As strength that follows weakness,
As truth instead of lies,
As songtime and springtime
And summertime to be,
So is my Lord,
My living Lord,
So is my Lord to me.

Like calm in place of clamour,
Like peace that follows pain,
Like meeting after parting,
Like sunshine after rain,
Like moonlight and starlight
And sunlight on the sea,
So is my Lord,
My living Lord,
So is my Lord to me.

As sleep that follows fever,
As gold instead of grey,
As freedom after bondage,
As sunrise to the day,
As home to the traveller
And all we long to see,
So is my Lord,
My living Lord,
So is my Lord to me.

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Psalm 13

I put my trust in your steadfast love;
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.

**I put my trust in your steadfast love;
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.**

How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

I put my trust in your steadfast love;

How long shall I have anguish in my soul
and grief in my heart, day after day?
How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

I put my trust in your steadfast love;

Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God;
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

I put my trust in your steadfast love;

I will sing to the Lord,

for he has dealt so bountifully with me.

**But I put my trust in your steadfast love;
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.**

Song (sung by the worship group)

As the deer longs for running streams, so longs my soul for thee my God

Refrain:

As the deer longs for running streams,
So I long, so I long, so I long for you.

Bob Hurd © OCP Publications, with Calamus.

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 1: 17, 23 – end

Song

Come to me,
and I will give you rest.
Come to me,
and I will give you rest.

From the depths I call to you.
Listen, Lord, and hear my pleading.

Come to me,
and I will give you rest.

Love and mercy flow from you,
Lord of life and kind redeemer.

Come to me,
and I will give you rest.

In the dark I hope for you,
You are light of new day dawning.

Come to me,
and I will give you rest.

Weak and frail we come to you,
God of love and new beginning.

Come to me,
and I will give you rest.
Come to me,
and I will give you rest.

Psalm 130 – paraphrased N. Donnelly. & Matt.11:28

New Testament Reading: John 11: 25 – 44

Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

**A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Luke 2.29-32

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Prayers:

O Christ our Lord,
as in times past,
not all the sick and suffering
found their way to your side,
but had to have their hands taken,
or their bodies carried,
or their names mentioned.
So we, confident of your goodness,
Bring others to you.
As in times past,
you looked at the faith of friends
and let peace and healing be known.
Look on our faith,
Even our little faith
And let your kingdom come.

We name before you in the silence or write them down
those for whom pain is the greatest problem;
who are remembered more for their distress than their potential;
who at night cry, 'I wish to God it were morning.'
and in the morning cry, 'I wish to God it were night.'

Pause

Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
Bring Healing, bring peace.

We name before you
those whose problem is psychological;
those haunted by the nightmares of their past
or the spectres of their future;
those whose minds are shackled
to neuroses, depression or fears,
who do not know what is wrong
or what to pray.

Pause

Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
Bring Healing, bring peace.

Lord God,
you alone are skilled to know the cure
for every sickness and every soul.
If by our lives, your grace may be known
then in us, through us,
and if need be, despite us,
Let your Kingdom come.

On all who tend the sick,
counsel the distressed,
sit with the dying,
or advance medical research
we ask your blessing,
that in caring for your people
they may meet and serve their Lord.

Pause

Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
Bring Healing, bring peace. Amen.

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Hymn:

Safe in the Shadow of the Lord, Beneath His hand and pow'r,
I trust in Him, I trust in Him, My fortress and my tow'r.

My hope is set on God alone, Though Satan spreads his snare,
I trust in Him, I trust in Him, To keep me in His care.

From fears and phantoms of the night, From foes about my way,
I trust in Him, I trust in Him, By darkness as by day.

His holy angels keep my feet Secure from ev'ry stone,
I trust in Him, I trust in Him, And unafraid go on.

Strong in the Everlasting Name, And in my Father's care,
I trust in Him, I trust in Him, Who hears and answers prayer.

Safe in the Shadow of the Lord, Possessed by love divine,
I trust in Him, I trust in Him, And meet His love with mine.

Psalm 91 © Timothy Dudley-Smith

Closing Prayers

Watch now, dear Lord,
with those who wake or watch
or weep tonight,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ,

rest your weary ones,
bless your dying ones,
soothe your suffering ones,
pity your afflicted ones,
shield your joyous ones,
and all for your love's sake.

Now may the God of hope fill us
with all joy and peace in believing,
that we may abound in hope
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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**I trust in Thee, O Lord.
I say, 'Thou art my God,
My times are in Thy hand,
My times are in Thy hand.'**
Amen.

Celtic Daily Prayer from the Northumbria Community

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