

WORSHIP AT HOME EASTER 3B, 14-04-24

OPENING PRAYER¹

Thank You, Father, for the gift of Life! I have breath, I have FREEDOM! I worship You, Heavenly Father. Today, I glory in and embrace God's presence! Oh Lord, my God, I come before You, recognizing that Your presence is all I need.

You are the air I breathe, the song I sing, and the love that fills my heart. In the stillness and quiet, I reach out for You, seeking to embrace the fullness of Your divine presence.

As I call upon Your name, I can feel the comfort and peace that comes from being in Your presence. You are my sanctuary, my place of refuge, my solace in times of turmoil. It's in Your presence that I find joy, peace, and strength beyond measure.

STF 530, TO BE IN YOUR PRESENCE; <https://youtu.be/typ7cueKdT4>

- 1 To be in your presence,
to sit at your feet,
where your love surrounds me,
and makes me complete:
This is my desire, O Lord,
this is my desire.
This is my desire, O Lord,
this is my desire.
- 2 To rest in your presence,
not rushing away,
to cherish each moment --
here I would stay.

Noel Richards (b. 1955) Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 530 Words and Music: (c) 1991, Thankyou Music. Administered by worshiptogether.com Songs, excluding UK & Europe, administered by Kingswaysongs, a division of David C Cook <tym@kingsway.co.uk> Used by permission.

¹ [Powerful Prayer To Embrace God's Presence - ChristiansTT](#)

PRAYER

Dear God, I want my life to be a living testament to Your presence. I pray that as I walk through each day, my life will radiate Your love, grace, and mercy to those around me. Let Your presence be so real in my life that others will see You in me. May my actions, my words, and my thoughts be pleasing to You. Let me live each day conscious of Your abiding presence, guiding me, protecting me, and directing my steps. Oh Lord, You said in Your word that if I draw near to You, You will draw near to me. I commit to seeking You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. As I spend time in prayer and in Your word, I ask that You draw me closer to You. Open my spiritual eyes to see You more clearly, open my ears to hear Your still, small voice, and open my heart to receive Your love in a new and powerful way. Fill me with Your Spirit and let me experience Your presence in a deeper, more intimate way. AMEN²

PSALM 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

² [Powerful Prayer To Embrace God's Presence - ChristiansTT](#)

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

You have put gladness in my heart more than when their
grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O
Lord, make me lie down in safety.

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION

The Psalmist speaks of being stressed, maligned, slandered, oppressed. You might read Psalm 3 because this Psalm, 4 is a carry on from Psalm 3. Traditionally David is suffering from his relationship with son Absalom. Think about your own family relationships. How and when have they been strained? What did you do about it? How did these familial strained relationships carry over into your relationships outside family boundaries? Think about the church family. Have you ever suffered strained relationships with anyone within the/your church? What did you do about it?

The Psalmist says that historically God gave him space to breathe and lament. God continually gives space to do more of the same. The Psalmist infers that God was faithful to him amidst the ongoing distress caused him and will again find refuge and strength in the One who has always proved faithful. Is this your relationship with God? Do you find God always faithful? The Psalmist believes that God's life provision is more than sufficient, and is grateful for it. Furthermore, at the end of the day the Psalmist gives God his daily troubles and rests in God's abiding care. The Psalmist is able to sleep peacefully, soundly because God is praiseworthy. Is this your reality? As an old friend of mine

used to say, *If not why not?* The Psalmist asks God to shine upon him and then goes to sleep believing he will dream well, and awake ready for the new day coming. May it be so for each of us. Amen.

PRAYER

Merciful God, your love and care is everlasting and always trustworthy because you are our trustworthy God. We thank you. This is our reality. At times we may feel alone and afraid, and neglected, but help us remember that you have promised never to leave us nor forsake us, but to grace us with your presence. We are your children, and you are our ever-present Resurrected Lord. Bless your holy name.

Forgive us where we have grieved your heart because of our waywardness, broken relationships, and neglect of responsible living. Thank you for your merciful forgiveness and renewed opportunity to think and act again.

We bring your world before your throne of grace. We acknowledge that it is a violent place, fraught with calamity and seemingly overwhelming problems. Give us renewed sense to perceive you in the midst of it, not only as suffering servant leading us to follow, but as the living God enabling us to live in you on behalf of your world.

We give you, our leadership. Guide and influence them through your gracious Holy Spirit. We give you the little, least, last, and lost who have fallen by the wayside. May they know your merciful care. We give you sick and suffering inhabitants of this earth. May they know your mercy and healing care. We give you those who grieve. May they know your everlasting promise of fullness in Christ. We give you the saints who have walked this vale of tears

amidst the joys of your creation and now experience lasting peace. Be pleased to bring us with them into your heavenly habitation world without end. And teach us to pray. Our Father... Amen.

STF 142, TALLIS'S CANON, <https://youtu.be/hVUKU1WYxpU>

Glory to thee, my God, this night for all the blessings of the light; keep me, O keep me, King of kings, beneath thy own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done, that with the world, myself, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread the grave as little as my bed; teach me to die, that so I may rise glorious at the awful day.

O may my soul on thee repose, and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close, sleep that may me more vigorous make to serve my God when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie, my soul with heavenly thoughts supply; let no ill dreams disturb my rest, no powers of darkness me molest.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below, praise him above, angelic host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

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BLESSING

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and always. Amen.

SONGS FROM SINGING THE FAITH AND YOUTUBE

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