

WORSHIP AT HOME 12 MAY 2024; EASTER 7B

SONG: Pour out my heart; <https://youtu.be/jyex6CMiqfk>

Here I am
Once again
I pour out my heart
For I know that you hear
Every cry
You are listening
No matter what state
My heart is in
You are faithful to answer
With words that are true
And a hope that is real
As I feel your touch
You bring a freedom
To all that's within
In the safety of this place
I'm longing to
Pout out my heart
To say that I love You
Pour out my heart
To say that I need You
Pour out my heart
To say that I'm thankful
Pout out my heart
To say that You're wonderful

SONG: Lord, I need you; <https://youtu.be/e37m3I5eH8g>

Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the One that guides my heart

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You

Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
Where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
When I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

You're my one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

PRAYER

Thank you, Blessed Lord, for the sabbath rest we find in you. You are our rest and our guide. You are our defense, and righteousness. We confess our great need and desire to know you more intimately. To you we pour out our heart's deepest feelings. You know them already, intimately know them. You are the one who forgives, forgets, and removes all trace of our wrong doing from Heaven's law book, because You, blessed Lord are the giver, fulfiller, keeper and our

constant enabling presence who guides our steps through your blessed word, to your blessed heart and protects us there free from all condemnation forevermore. You are indeed our hope and stay. And we worship you with thanksgiving for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SONG: Lord, I come before your throne of grace;
<https://youtu.be/bekyy2PG1Cc>

Lord, I come before Your throne of grace;
I find rest in Your presence
And fulness of joy.
In worship and wonder
I behold Your face,
Singing what a faithful God have I.

What a faithful God have I,
What a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
Faithful in every way.

Lord of mercy, You have heard my cry;
Through the storm You're the beacon,
My song in the night.
In the shelter of Your wings,
Hear my heart's reply,
Singing what a faithful God have I.

What a faithful God have I,
What a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
Faithful in every way.

Lord all sovereign, granting peace from heaven,
Let me comfort those who suffer
With the comfort You have given.
I will tell of Your great love for as long as I live,
Singing what a faithful God have I.

What a faithful God have I,
What a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
Faithful in every way.

What a faithful God have I,
What a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
Faithful in every way.

BIBLE READING: PSALM 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

BIBLE READING: 1 JOHN 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

BIBLE READING: JOHN 17:6-19

” I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

REFLECTION

Friends, today’s texts all speak of that which informs and directs our life pattern and choice. We have a choice to follow the way of the world, or the way of God in the world. Please keep in mind that ‘world’ here does not mean God’s beautiful Good Creation, but ungodly worldly pursuit that perpetuates injustice, brokenness, inequality and disenfranchises. In the Psalm the way of God in the world is shown and known in the law of God or Torah—more than commandments of do and don’t, right and wrong— instructional guidance for God honouring lifestyle in opposition to that which is

ungodly. Torah is about (w)holistic relationships with all. Those who meditate, muse upon, reason, discern, and internalise this guidance find abundant purposeful life. Furthermore, this Hebrew scripture is vital because it builds upon God’s ways—Godly tradition, and points to what is to come in ensuing years that importantly and necessarily will withstand judgement. Guidance continues.

The writer of 1 John finds this faithful guidance in none other than the lived testimony of God found in God’s Son. What’s more is this testimony of God embodied in God’s Son is greater than what humankind has testified because God’s testimony has an eternal divine origin fully lived in the earthly Son of God. When believed and embodied in the human heart this testimony leads to eternal life. This is lived Christian Experience. Think about where you centre your thoughts, what you read, what influences you. This is what makes and shapes us. It could be of God, or it could be worldly. We must choose. Guidance continues. We find it in centred in Jesus.

Jesus in his ‘*High Priestly Prayer*’ of John 17 while in conversation with his Abba, speaks of the/his faithful tradition of life. He reminds God of who he is and has been about while sojourning on earth, and who we are in relationship to this God. And now prior to his earthly departure he calls this ‘lived out testimony’ truthful words that lead to a sanctified existence. This is a heavenly existence lived on earth that is wholistically authentic and truthful in relationship with all that is of God’s heart and being. He is passing it onward. It is for a holy life set apart for God. This truthfully lived relationship is based on the word of God shown and known in Jesus. Jesus pleads protection for those who he knows and believe in him and his embodied truthful testimony/word from God. That means his followers, the church, including you and I, and whosoever will become part of the way of God in the world. We together are called to faithfulness to this Jesus lifestyle enabling and exhibiting authentic Christian Experience.

So, let’s push it a bit. Where do we find God’s word truthfully known and shown today? If this is the truth handed down to us, that we are called to follow, where is God’s word to be found? Well, perhaps if

you have been discerning, musing, reasoning, on what has been written above you will have noted that all of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral has been inferred one or more times. The Quadrilateral is the model Methodist's use for theological reflection for life application centred around the word of God. The word of God is known through scripture, tradition, (spiritually discerned) reason, and lived Christian experience. Most notable, all of this is done within the Christian community. The truth of our lives is Jesus of Nazareth, the eternal Son of God, the Christ of Glory lived within, among, and all around. He embodied this truthfulness to us and for us. He lived, died, rose again and granted heaven's joyful tradition to us so that we might reason out together truth of the Word, and determine to live faithfully guided by the Holy Spirit of Love through the day of judgement and forevermore. What a blessed journey indeed. Amen.

SONG: Guide me O Thou great Jehovah;
<https://youtu.be/ietK7-57iFY>

Guide me, O Thou great *Jehovah, [*Redeemer]
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow'ful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,

Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

PRAYER

...Let us pray for the church...universal, connexional, local...
...Let us pray for godly leadership in the world...
...Let us pray for those little, least, last, and lost in the world...
...Let us pray for justice, equality, peace and hopeful restoration...
...Let us pray for those ill, shut-in, dying, grieving, and mourning...
...Let us thank God for those gone before now residing in heaven...
...Let us pray together *Our Father*.... Amen.

SONG: Jesus, all for Jesus; https://youtu.be/kr_aU9prkcE

Jesus, all for Jesus; all I am and have and ever hope to be (2X)

All of my ambitions, hopes and plans, I surrender these into your hands (2X) *For it's only in your will that I am free (2X).*

BLESSING:

May the One who knows our way lead us, guard and keep us, granting shalom now and forevermore. And may this One be blessed through us and in us. Amen.

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Songs from YouTube

ccli: 279627

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