

Worship at Home Service Sheet

Sunday 15th November 2020

BEFORE GOD

God of all time,
you made time and you entered time to be with me.
I move from ordinary time to extraordinary time,
and in all this, I wait for you.
Keep my heart aflame with the things that please you:
mercy, humility, justice.
And as I turn to worship you,
I worship you in time, in spirit and in truth.

I gather here, at the end of one week
and the beginning of another.
O Lord of decades and days,
centuries and seconds,
I stop now, for this moment,
and turn to you –
who holds all time in your hand.
Make me ready to receive you,
as I meet with you here today.

Turning towards you, O God,
I also turn towards myself.
I think of what I bring, and what I don't.
And I know that even though you call me to be ready,
you also support me in bringing the little I have,
whether I feel ready or not.
O God of readiness, ready me, as I pray.
Ready me as I confess my sin.

I CONFESS MY SIN – Silence (*Speak to God*)

You call me to a life of mercy, justice and humility –
but I do not always live like this.
You call me to a life of welcome –
but I do not always welcome.
You call me to a life of solidarity –
but I do not always offer a helping hand.
Have mercy on me, O God, for the times I have failed,
and for the times I have failed to care.
For your name's sake, and your mercy's sake,
hear my prayer. Amen.

Hear God's word of love and forgiveness.

"Your sins are forgiven"

Bible Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Matthew 25.14-30

REFLECTION

Are you as a Christian ready for Christ return?

Are you ready if He calls you home?

As we approach Advent (*meaning "coming"*) the bible readings for the next few weeks are already pointing to Christ coming, the readings are about being ready and preparing ourselves, for no one knows the day or the hour of that return, not even the Son (Jesus) knows. The Lord will return suddenly and unexpected, so Paul warns to be ready at all times.

The passage also reminds us of advent themes such as light and darkness. A Christian should be one who lives in the light, but if one lives in darkness, the day of the Lord's coming can be a surprise like a thief.

But every Christian should be a Child of light, doing good deeds, speaking truth and constant feeding on his Word.

Friend, suppose Christ was to return today, How would he fine you living?

Are you ready to meet Him?

Live each day prepared to welcome Christ.

The passage says we should be alert, awake and sober, protecting ourselves with the breastplate of faith and love.

The helmet of hope of being saved.

(see Eph 6:13 -17 about Christian armour)

God does not intend wrath for us or we should be punish,
but to be saved through Christ our Lord who died for us.

The passage ends reminding us as Christians to spend time encouraging each other and to build up each other.

We must be sensitive to others need for encouragement, and offer supportive words or actions. What a good way for Christ to come and meet us. Amen.

PRAYER:

Jesus, you were always ready to hear the needs of those around you. You turned to those who were used to being ignored. I am sometimes ready and sometimes not. And I am sometimes ignored and sometimes not.

In all these times, nurture my heart
so that I may seek you, and share you, all around.
Because you are all around.

PRAY FOR OTHERS

We pray to God, who is always ready –
for those overtaken with demands.

Give rest, O Lord.

For those overburdened with anxieties.

Give rest, O Lord.

For those overcome with debt.

Give relief, O Lord.

For those oppressed by powers that despise them.

Give salvation, O Lord.

For those in situations they cannot see a way out of.

Give freedom, O Lord.

For those in need of hope.

Give hope, O Lord.

Pray for the sick & bereaved.....

Your family & friends.....

Yourself.....

Merciful Lord, hear my prayer. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

O God, you have made me your child,

I once was not your child.

You have spread your arms wide and welcomed me together with many others.

Your invitation is always open, always ready to extend

and expand. I leave this time of worship now,

in the joy of your inclusion

and with the mission of your hospitality for all.

Father, Son and Spirit, you dwell in community

and call us all to community.

Source, Light and Love, you welcome all.

The Grace:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore.

Amen