

This short act of worship has been produced for you by Revd Papa Owusu. If you are well enough and able, why not spend a few moments with God, perhaps at a time when you would normally be sharing with others in church - pray for them as they pray for you.

### **Call to Worship**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.  
**Sing the glory of God's name.**

How awesome are your deeds, O God!  
**All the earth worships you and sings your praises.**

Come and see what God has done.  
**Bless the Lord, O my soul and let the sound of praise be heard.**  
**Amen**

### **Hymn: King of kings, majesty (StF 331)**

Sing/read/pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKAQvIEotc8>

King of kings, Majesty  
God of Heaven living in me  
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend  
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End  
All within me falls at Your throne

*Your Majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve Your Majesty*

Earth and Heaven worship You  
Love eternal, Faithful and True  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls  
Brought this sinner near to Your throne  
All within me cries out in praise.

*Your majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve Your Majesty*

*Jarrold Cooper (1996)*

### **Prayer**

*Let us pray together.*

**O God of all, we gather this day with brothers and sisters across the globe who confess faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. As we join our hearts in worship, we praise you, Holy and always-faithful God,**

**You have created us so that we might experience the fullness of life.**

**You show your love for us by coming to enter into our mortal world.**

**We thank you for all the ways in which you meet us in the midst of our lives.**

**You come to us in the beauty of your creation, in the love of family, friends, and church; and even in the pain of life.**

**You have always promised to be with us, and you have been true to your word.**

**As a family gathered together in worship, we give you thanks and praise your Holy name. Amen**

**Prayer of Confession:**

*Let us make our confession to God.*

**Merciful and compassionate God,  
we confess to you our weaknesses and shortcomings.**

**We want to think that, because we are your children, life will always be pleasant for us.**

**We want to avoid all the pain and turmoil that make life human.**

**And when we are overtaken by the troubles of life, we are so consumed by our problems that we forget about the suffering of others.**

**Forgive us and renew us in your Spirit for the sake of the Christ who suffered among us for the salvation of all. Amen**

**Silence**

Hear the Good News! Our eternal salvation has been brought fully into view by the appearance on earth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who has broken the power of death and brought immortality to light through the Gospel. Friends, believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God**

**The Collect**

God of all power and might,  
The author and giver of all good things,  
Graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
Increase in us true religion,  
nourish in us all goodness  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Old Testament reading: 2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15b (NRSVA)**

**The Healing of Naaman**

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the

rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant.'

**Gospel reading: Luke 17:11-19 (NRSVA)**

**Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he

was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

**Hymn: Faithful One, so unchanging (StF 628).**

Sing/read/pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqK-UnsRTFI>

Faithful One, so unchanging,  
Ageless One, you're my rock of peace.  
Lord of all I depend on you,  
I call out to you again and again.  
I call out to you again and again.  
You are my rock in times of trouble.  
You lift me up when I fall down.  
All through the storm your love is the anchor,  
my hope is in you alone.

*Brian Doerksen (b.1965)*

**Time to Reflect**

Our Gospel passage is about Jesus' encounter with the ten lepers and what ensued when these lepers were healed. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and 'was going through the region of Samaria and Galilee'...and as our Lord entered **a certain village**, he met these ten lepers...It is difficult to conceive of any condition more thoroughly miserable than that of these men who were afflicted with Leprosy:

- They had been cast out from normal society.
- They had been cut off from their community
- They had been placed in **a certain community** in **a certain village** – a village with no name – an insignificant village – but for Christ, there is nothing insignificant... so he went through that village... that place of alienation and insignificance... and something remarkable happened. It is in this place that they encountered Christ.

It must be noted that their confinement and seclusion did not become a stumbling block to their freedom. These were genuinely sensible people who were aware of their wretchedness and their frailty:

- They were ready to do something about their situation...

- They were not idle...their wellbeing was crucial to them.

Despite their state:

- They approached Jesus irrespective of the opposition that they may have encountered
- They lifted their voices and said, 'Jesus, master, have mercy on us – they cried earnestly for relief when the relief appeared in sight – They prayed earnestly and seriously for their deliverance... and something miraculous happened.

The men who were deemed outcasts had faith and received their healing and relief as soon as they obeyed the command of Christ...They did not hesitate as compared to the arrogant Naaman, the commander of the King of Aram in our Old Testament Reading, who thought he was too important to do what the prophet Elisha asked of him.

We are told that of all the ten healed lepers, **only one (the Samaritan, a despised outsider)** returned to thank the Lord...

***We are more ready to pray for things to happen than to praise, and we are more disposed to ask God for what we have not***

***than to thank him for what we have...We have to thank God for his faithfulness, his goodness and kindness...***

All the ten lepers asked for mercy, but only one strikingly was shown to have **true understanding faith**, as shown by his casting himself with thankfulness at Jesus' feet. Jesus thus commended him for his faith.

Our worshipful response -or lack thereof- reflects the extent of our understanding of God's mercy and goodness. The first and most incredible response to the gospel of grace is thankful worship which brings the ultimate glory to God and brings wholeness to us.

In our reading of St Luke's gospel, we see the inverted reversal that the gospel gives. The kingdom of God upturns the world's values and welcomes anyone if they will repent and believe the good news, relying on Jesus alone for a new and eternal life.

Let us not think that we can manipulate God to do what we wish through our acts of praise and thanksgiving. What is needed is that we must be good and faithful soldiers of Christ... The freedom of approaching God's presence is only possible for

those who are ready to surrender all to Jesus...when we allow Jesus Christ to be in control of our lives... something happens... and we can testify to others about the good things he has done...**Amen**

**A time of prayer (trusting that others pray with us)**

Almighty God, whose power is revealed in our weakness and whose grace meets our every need; we give you thanks for your healing and your love and pray you will guide us always to keep our hope and our trust in you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Holy and Mighty God, how wonderful is all your creation; we give you thanks and praise for all you have provided us. We pray for the work of the church among the scorned and rejected, among those who are not easily socially acceptable. We pray for the church's work among those suffering from leprosy, among those with AIDS, and among all of whom society is afraid of or scornful. We pray for Christians who work in dangerous or lonely places; we remember those who suffer persecution for their faith.

Lord, you are our hope.  
**We put our trust in you.**

We pray for downtown areas of cities, for areas of deprivation, and for places looked on as ghettos. We pray for all who are not allowed a fair chance in life because of where they come from or because of their looks. We remember all areas where there is prejudice and hostility, all places of ethnic fear and animosity.

Lord, you are our hope.  
**We put our trust in you.**

We give thanks for those who have accepted us as we are, and we pray for our friends and our loved ones, that our communities may be places of peace and mutual love, and that we may learn respect for all peoples. We remember all those who feel rejected and unloved.

Lord, you are our hope.  
**We put our trust in you.**

We pray for all who have been disfigured through accident or illness. We remember those who suffer through the cruelty and thoughtlessness of others. We pray for all who are working with people with contagious diseases. We remember friends and loved ones who are ill at this time. We pray especially for ...

Lord, you are our hope.  
**We put our trust in you.**

We give thanks that you heal and renew your people. We pray for loved ones who have been changed into glory, remembering especially today ...

Lord, you are our hope.  
**We put our trust in you.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray the prayer that the Lord Jesus taught his disciples and us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn: Through the love of God our Saviour (StF 639)**

Sing/read/pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gpj1SVKoeQU>

Through the love of God our Saviour  
all will be well.  
Free and changeless is his favour;  
all, all is well.  
Precious is the blood that healed us,  
perfect is the grace that sealed us,  
strong the be hand stretched forth to shield us;  
all must be well

Though we pass through tribulation,  
all will be well.  
Christ has purchased full salvation,  
all, all is well.  
Happy still in God confiding,  
fruitful, if in Christ abiding,  
holy, through the Spirit's guiding;  
all must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow;  
all will be well.

Faith can sing through days of sorrow  
all, all is well.

On our Father's love relying,  
Jesus every need supplying,  
then in living or in dying,  
all must be well.

*Mary Peters (1813-1856)*

### **The Peace**

The Lord is your strength and your salvation, in him alone is  
wholeness and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

### **Blessing**

May the goodness of God the Father go with you.  
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ protect you.  
May the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God ever lead you.  
and the blessing of God, the Three in One, be upon you and  
abide with you now and forever. **Amen**

Go in faith to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

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