

WORSHIP WITH A DIFFERENCE

July 26 2020

God is for us: Nothing can separate us from God's love.



GATHERING WITH GOD

You may like to light a candle in your home as I light the Christ candle here in the church.

(Light the candle)

We light this candle to remind us of the presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, God -with -us.

We come to God, remembering we are the church, the Body of Christ, gathered in faith, despite not being physically present with one another.

God is present with us and through us, to one another.

SONG: TEN THOUSAND REASONS

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up

It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass

And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul.....

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will sing
Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul.....

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
Yes I'll worship Your Holy name
I'll worship Your Holy name

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PRAYERS

Our Father, God almighty, you are full of strength and goodness.
In you we have our being.
And so we come to you Father with confidence,
for our fragmented lives to be knit together again.
As truly as you are our Father, so is Jesus Christ our elder brother
full of wisdom, kindness and love
and so we come to be restored in love.

We experience you in the Holy Spirit, active in us through grace,
praying through us and enabling us to yield ourselves to you
and so we also come to be opened to your grace.

O God, Three in one, you are strength and goodness,
wisdom, kindness and love, who never leaves us
and with thanks and wonder, we worship your holy name.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
You have made us for yourself
and called us into this fellowship of your church.

So
when our words of welcome and openness
have not been matched by our practices,
hear our prayer. (*reflection*)

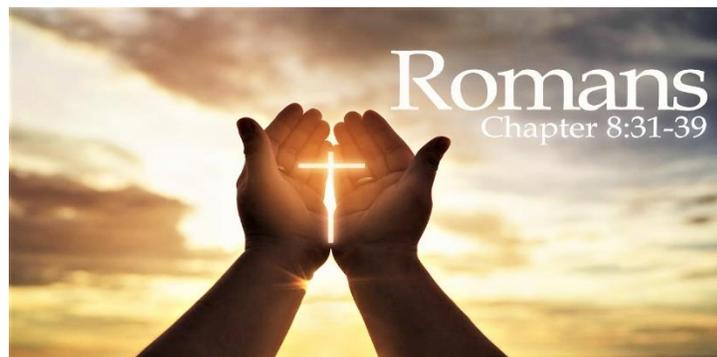
When we have been a stumbling block
to another's journey of life and faith
rather than a trustworthy companion,
hear our prayer. (*reflection*)

When we stood back
and neglected your gifts and the privilege of love
Hear our prayer. (*reflection*)

You hear our prayers, O God, even when words fail us.
But you do not fail us,
Your love holds steady and welcomes us into greater love. Amen.

AFFIRMATIONS

St Paul asked
If God is for us, who is against us... who is to condemn?
And the answer is no-one.
No, *nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
Thanks be to God



RECEIVING THE WORD

Today is the third in a series on the 8th Chapter of Paul's Letter to the Romans.

ROMANS 8:26-39

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."^[b]

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[c] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

REFLECTION: GOD IS FOR US: NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE.



HYMN: TIS 380 YOURS BE THE GLORY

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, over death you've won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where your body lay.
*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory, over death you've won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord is living, death hath lost its sting.
Refrain

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without you; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through your deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.
Refrain

Songwriters: Edmond Louis Budry translated by Richard Birch Hoyle alt

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the places of decision making, and the places of powerlessness:
In the places of wealth, and the places of poverty.
Come Lord, hold us in your love, and heal us.

Where we are healthy, and where we are sick:
Where people are oppressed or abused,
and in the hearts of the oppressors and abusers
Come Lord, hold us in your love, and heal us.

Where people are unsafe, and where people are safe
Where people are assured, and where people are anxious and uncertain
Come Lord, hold us in your love, and heal us.

Where people are safe in houses and employed,
and where people are homeless and unemployed
In crowded places, and in lonely places,
Come Lord, hold us in your love, and heal us.

In our places of learning, and in the depths of our ignorance
Where there is hope and where there is hopelessness
Come Lord, hold us in your love, and heal us.

In our hearts and welcomes and in the hearts of those who are indifferent
In our places of worship, and where there is no faith:
Come Lord, hold us in your love, and heal us. *

Lord, we are so thankful for your love that never fails us and never deserts us.
We are filled with gratitude that nothing in this world has the power
to disconnect us from your awesome, powerful, life-changing love.
In moments when we feel overwhelmed by circumstances or problems,
we ask that you will give us a special awareness of your unfailing love in our lives.
In Jesus name we pray Amen.



PRAYER FOR BLACKTOWN UNITING CHURCH

This is the 34th anniversary of the opening of our church building on Bungarribee Road
So let's pray for Blacktown Uniting Church.

God of goodness and grace,
we give thanks for our congregation here in Blacktown Uniting Church:
for the people who have offered leadership, friendship
and their gifts in faithful service.
for lives transformed and blessed through the years.

Good Shepherd, as we step out into a new beginning
in these strange and troubling times
we pray for your wisdom for our minister and leaders
protection for our vulnerable ones
care and safety for us all as we wait for when we can regather

Lead us, Good Shepherd, into the future you have for us
that we may continue to shine your light
and live out your love
in this growing, dynamic and multicultural city of Blacktown. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING Andrew

Please take your weekly offering
or a symbol of your offering
in your cupped hands as we dedicate it
and ourselves,
giving thanks for all God's blessings
and mercy.

Generous God, bless these gifts that they may be
used to continue our ministry as Blacktown Uniting Church
in our local community
as we live out the good news in love for our neighbours –
especially those in need
Amen.

SONG: TIS 685 THE POWER OF YOUR LOVE

Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You
Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away by the power of Your love

*Hold me close,
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love*

Offerings can be transferred electronically to

Blacktown Uniting Church

BSB: 634

Account No.: 100023472

or deposited directly to this account at any
Westpac branch.

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day by the power of Your love

*Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love*

Source: [LyricFind](#) Songwriters: Geoff Bullock The Power of Your Love lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc, Universal Music Publishing Group, Music Services, Inc

SENDING OUT / BLESSING

St Paul wrote:

*We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present ,nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height , nor depth
nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God keep you safe.

Be blessed in the name of God the Father, Christ our brother and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



*Prayers from Ann Lewin *Love is the Meaning: Growing Faith with Julian of Norwich*, pp17,18, 61