



Mary Pincher

With new Covid restrictions in Birmingham, please let us know if this causes you practical difficulties, we'd love to find a way to help. Please be mindful especially of those living alone who may feel isolated, maybe you could call them or send a message?

Coffee Tree is open Wednesday to Fridays and it's a great clean space to meet up with a friend.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time when we can gather together, or apart, to worship you with our hearts & minds. We love you Lord and are ashamed that we don't always give of our best. We lift especially to you now those people who are on their own and feeling isolated. Please be especially close to them today.

We pray for the Team Leader/ Pastor interviews this week. We ask for clear guidance, for openness from the candidates and wisdom for the interview panel.

Help us to be a people who truly revere your name and worship you wholly with our lives. Amen

Read Psalm 40

Redux

I quieted my worried, despairing heart
and I waited.
The Holy drew near.
I felt myself drawn to a single point;
all of life collapsed into a timeless moment.

(I breathed.)

Desolation dissipated.
When I arose, I stood on solid ground.
My self recollected, a song of praise erupted
from my throat,
a new song, born of heaven and rooted in
earth.
A song of joy. A song of gratitude.

Happy are we who find ourselves in God,
who wait and listen,
who set aside distraction
and see behind the surface satisfactions.
Nothing can compare with the eternal
glimmer,
with the whole held in tender hands.
Depths and heights clasp glory;
a whisper of wonder binds all in all.



An opened heart is the divine desire,
not thoughtless obeisance.
Attentive presence is all I have to give,
and all You want.
I open the book of my days
that You may write Your story
in the lines of my life.
The flow of ink is smooth and pleasing;
even sorrow and disappointment reveal
the goodness of Your guiding hand.
You have become my delight,
as it is meant to be.

May my testimony ring true
in the ears that hear it.
May my song strike joy
in the hearts of those who catch the
harmonies.
May my flesh-made-Word be seen

to reveal Your purpose:
the blessing of all that lives.

Mercy abounds, steadfast love uplifts
and justice springs up where the faithful walk.
I stumble; my heart fails within me.
I remember: Your grace saves me.
Nothing can separate the heart turned
towards God
from her salvation.
Again I turn: you are life and breath to me.
My back toward those who would denigrate
and dismiss me,
I grasp your goodness with both hands
and pledge my loyalty and my love.

May all who seek You find You.
May all who love You sing You.
As for me, in my weakness and my need,
give me the patience of overwintering seed,
that I may quiet my restless heart,
turn, wait,
and prepare to receive You.

Teaching - Malachi

1. Am I giving God my best or does he get what's left over after everything else that I do?
2. Do I put more effort into my secular job than I do in serving the Lord?

Song - So will I

God of creation
There at the start
Before the beginning of time
With no point of reference
You spoke to the dark
And fleshed out the wonder of light

And as You speak
A hundred billion galaxies are born
In the vapour of Your breath the planets form
If the stars were made to worship so will I
I can see Your heart in everything You've made
Every burning star
A signal fire of grace
If creation sings Your praises so will I

God of Your promise
You don't speak in vain
No syllable empty or void
For once You have spoken
All nature and science
Follow the sound of Your voice

And as You speak
A hundred billion creatures catch Your breath
Evolving in pursuit of what You said
If it all reveals Your nature so will I
I can see Your heart in everything You say
Every painted sky
A canvas of Your grace
If creation still obeys You so will I

God of salvation
You chased down my heart
Through all of my failure and pride
On a hill You created
The light of the world
Abandoned in darkness to die

And as You speak
A hundred billion failures disappear
Where You lost Your life so I could find it here
If You left the grave behind You so will I
I can see Your heart in everything You've done
Every part designed in a work of art called love
If You gladly chose surrender so will I

I can see Your heart
Eight billion different ways
Every precious one
A child You died to save
If You gave Your life to love them so will I

Like You would again a hundred billion times
But what measure could amount to Your desire
You're the One who never leaves the one behind
You are forever mine

So will I (100 Billion X)

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Prayers

Thank God for the wonder and intricacy of
His glorious creation

Thank God for His faithful promises which
have been demonstrated over the years

Thank God for His love and grace directed
towards us, as the One who never leaves the
one behind



Song

I waited patiently for the Lord
He inclined and heard my cry
He lifts me up out of the pit
Out of the mire and clay

I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song

How long to sing this song?
How long to sing this song?
How long... how long... how long...
How long... to sing this song

He set my feet upon a rock
And made my footsteps firm
Many will see
Many will see and hear

I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song

How long to sing this song?
How long to sing this song?

Adam Clayton / Dave Evans / Paul Hewson / Larry Mullen
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The Psalm we have repeated for most of today's
worship starts with recognition of a saving act,
but also expresses honesty about an everyday
reality which is far from idyllic, and a personal
confession of weakness and dependency.
For each of us, continuously bringing our best
can be exhausting, but we are simply required to
give voice to the song which He has placed in our
mouth.



The blessings of God break out around you
His grace astound you, His goodness ground you
The light of His smiling face surround you
His miracles remake and remould you
His mercies hold you
His perfect peace unfold you