



You will be aware we are in the middle of recruitment for a Team Leader/Pastor, and we want to give you every opportunity to let us know your feelings by 19th Jan. There are many people to pray for: people who are housebound, in care homes, isolated or estranged. Key workers – in hospitals, schools, shops - and more likely to come into contact with the virus or any who are ill. Those at home, those home-schooling and juggling a job with daily education.

Call to worship

Isaiah 11:2 says “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him” and then outlines a future when all creation will be restored. By chapter 12 it seems as if Isaiah can’t help himself as he bursts into this psalm-like passage.

READ Isaiah 12.

We have a God who we can trust with our fears, who is our protector and from whom we can keep on drawing deep joy. These words also remind us that we have a mandate to proclaim that message to others – so later we will be praying for some needs further afield.

Song

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

Henry Francis Lyte | John Goss

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Read John 14:5-14

Teaching

- “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you’re sincere.” How does that compare with what Jesus says in v6?
- 2. In what ways is Jesus i)THE way? THE truth? and THE life? If Jesus is right about the end of v6, what must that mean for you? What should we do about this?
- 3. Why should Philip believe? Why should we? How would you answer someone who said “But Philip DID see Jesus, we can’t!?”
- 4. How does Jesus ensure that we don’t turn his promise into selfish prayers? Knowing this promise, what will you do this week?

Song

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
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The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
To shine upon you and be gracious,
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light
Of His countenance upon you,
And give you peace

Prayer

Pray for Tearfund in South Sudan – where they have had severe flooding.

In the Twic East area, where Tearfund has a field base, the current flooding is the worst in living memory. The whole area is now under water and the only means of travel is either on foot or by canoe. Many houses have been submerged. Our staff have also been forced to relocate. Approximately 100,000 people have lost their homes since July, and temporary camps are crowded and uncomfortable. Access to drinking water is difficult. Good hygiene practices are challenging without toilets and clean tap water, which increases the risks of waterborne diseases, malaria, and coronavirus. Tearfund and our partners are responding, building toilets, promoting good hygiene messages, and installing surface water collection systems. With the heavy rains there are more fish.

Pray for Helen Cobbald working in S Africa with Wycliffe Bible Translators to enable translations in people's heart language and also to increase scripture engagement through story-telling, music and technology.

Lord we lift up Helen before you. We thank you for her delight in you, her energy and her heart to see people engage in scripture. We pray for her safety in South Africa at this time. As she's currently spending quite a bit of her time on her academic work we pray for motivation and concentration. We pray for the Wycliffe Southern Africa team and the various translation projects, particularly the Se Pulana one and ask for good progress. We thank you for recent fund-raising encouragements and blessings to the team.