



Sunday 31st July 'At Home' Worship

Rich towards God



(Sourced from Roots worship resources)

Call to worship

Just as we are, together and apart,
we come to worship you, Lord God,
to hear your word and sing your praise,
to acknowledge our need and share your love.
Amen.

A gathering prayer

Creator God,
we know that on this planet there is enough,
and indeed plenty for all.
Help us to be good stewards of your plenty,
working with you so that all may be fed,
all may be secure, and all may come to know and honour you,
the giver of all good things. **Amen.**

First impressions



For artist's details, see [this issue's illustrators](#)

Questions for the image

- What do you have in abundance?
- What might you do with that abundance?
- How do we become 'rich towards God'?

Song Morning has broken [Morning Has Broken \(Tune: Buinessan - 3vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Praise for the springing fresh from the world.
Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
Born of the one light, Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.
Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Songwriters: Cat Stevens, Eleanor Farjeon

Saying Sorry to God

St Paul says
'Be imitators of God;
love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit;
put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice.'
So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ. **Amen**
cf Ephesians 4.30 – 5.1

Assurance of forgiveness

Through the blood of the Lamb, we are forgiven and cleansed.
Let us praise God for his Son, the Lamb,
who through the cross paid the price for our sins.
Thanks be to the Lamb of God. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Day

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Bible passage



Luke 12.13-21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.””

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”



Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication **Children may like to do the activity sheet**

Is there some deeper sin beneath the apparent ungodliness of hoarding wealth? As we see from Luke – accumulating stuff doesn’t make a person happy. But is this the whole story?

The pandemic saw, at first, a most impressive drive to devise, test, evaluate and license a whole range of vaccines against Covid-19. But then hoarding set in. Sometimes, as when the UK secured the promise of enough vaccine to vaccinate its population several times over, it was called prudence. Later it was vaccine nationalism. Some people insisted that the nation devising the vaccine should get first access to it, regardless of need. Others sought to disparage a vaccine they hadn’t produced or procured in sufficient supply, regardless of the consequences of thereby encouraging vaccine hesitancy. What lay behind this rather shocking display of school-playground mentality? ‘It’s my ball and he’s not playing with it!’ ‘It’s a rotten ball and I wouldn’t play with you even if you let me!’

Covid vaccines proved a kind of possession that illustrated all too clearly how our possessions, even good and useful ones, can come to be seen as our only protection against a hostile and dangerous world – or our leverage against opponents. We become possessive and defensive, trusting that what we own will protect us from other people, never mind from impending emergencies or unseen dangers. So, richness in stuff really does seem to militate strongly against trust in God. Stuff can mask our real need, and leave no room for faith to squeeze in. Stuff perpetuates and builds fear of loss; and that inhibits hope, as well as love, compassion and generosity. But it’s very hard to shake off our trust in stuff completely. Perhaps we should at the very least wind it down a bit

Song [How Deep The Father's Love For Us \(lyrics\) by Selah - YouTube](#)

How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

We pray for others

Take time to silently pray for people and situations which are on your heart.

Lord our God, your abundance, your love, your provision, your blessing amazes us day by day. With such knowledge we bring our prayers for others in need this day.

We pray for those in need of food on the table when the cupboard is bare or when the crops have failed. No one should need overseas aid and yet they do. No one should need to use Foodbanks and yet they do. No one should go hungry and yet they do. Help us to do all we can to help feed the hungry.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry for love, hungry for care, hungry for compassion, hungry for purpose, may they find what they need and what they seek from the abundance of your richness to the world.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For those who don't seek abundance, but simply seek for a shelter to surround them, a roof to protect them, a place to call home, a place to belong, a place to be the best they can be.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For the fearful and the frightened, the bewildered and bemused as the pace of life overtakes them, for those who feel they no longer belong where they used to, they no longer understand what they used to.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For the NHS and Social Care and Social Workers who strive to see people as a whole and to meet their needs when all around them there are pressures and cutbacks and shortages and complaints.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For governments across the world as they readjust to life's changing needs and demands, may they have open eyes to see the real needs, open ears to hear the cries of the needy, open hands to reach out in compassion and are and open minds to change their ways when needed.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For those participating and organising the Commonwealth games, that they may be a games of friendship, hospitality and fairness. That all who share may feel respected and appreciated, safe and secure.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For those known to us who need our prayers today...in the silence of this moment we bring their names and offer them to God.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer.

For ourselves that we may live fruitful, helpful lives, treating others with respect, dignity, fairness and worth. That we loved as we are loved and as Jesus commanded.

God of abundance:
hear our prayer. Amen.

Song As the deer pants for the water [As the deer pants for the water - Robin Mark - YouTube](#)

As The Deer Pants For The Water
So My Soul Longs After You
You Alone Are My Heart's Desire
And I Long to Worship You

I Want You More Than Gold Or Silver
Only You Can Satisfy
You Alone Are The Real Joy Giver
And The Apple Of My Eye

You Alone Are My Strength, My Shield
To You Alone May My Spirit Yield
You Alone Are My Heart's Desire
And I Long To Worship You

You Are My Friend And You Are My Brother
Even Though You Are King
I Love You More Than Any Other
So Much More Than Anything

A sending out prayer

Loving God, you have given us eyes to see the beauty and bounty of the earth, and minds to understand the importance of sharing.

As we go from this place, make us quick to see where there is injustice or suffering, and generous to do what we can to alleviate either.

Amen.

God bless you now and always



Go with God 24/7 We look to put our faith into action

We might resolve to make a donation to a charity on our heart, or the next (appropriate) charitable collecting box you see. Or, take something you don't need to a charity shop – something that you already have enough of, rather than something that is 'done with' (although you can do that too!).

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