

Adaptation Action for Children Service:

Sunday 11th July 2021

Priory Methodist Church, Bedford

10:30am

Morning Worship led by Carmen & Hazel

Welcome & Thanks

Introductory music by Pauline Kaye

Call to worship: 'Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

Hymn STF 83 Praise my soul, the King of heaven;

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| <p>1. Praise my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!</p> <p>3. Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.</p> | <p>2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless,
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.</p> <p>4. Angels in the height, adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!</p> |
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Author ~ Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Prayer of Praise & thanksgiving:

Loving God,

We give you thanks and praise for your abundant mercy and grace that we receive. Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us peace in our mind, body, soul and spirit. Help us to bring healing to this broken world, bringing peace and hope to families and children in these uncertain times. Give those who work for all charity organisation wisdom to make the right choices for those they help. Bring peace to those who are overwhelmed by circumstances that are sometimes beyond their control. You are the Prince of Peace and we put our trust in you. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

Prayer by Elizabeth Bishop, Action for Children(adapted)

⁷ At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸ They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

¹⁹ Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?" ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹ A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

²⁵ "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷ No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

²⁹ Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. ³⁰ Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

³¹ "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. ³² "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Bible Reading: Philippians 4: 1 – 9

Bible Reading: Philippians: 4: 1-9 Read by Lesley Wycherley

1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Reflection: “God’s Peace within”

Poem “Peace, My Child (written by Susan Noves Anderson)

Hymn STF 427 I’m accepted I’m forgiven

I’m accepted, I’m forgiven,
I am fathered by the true and living God,
I’m accepted, no condemnation,
I am loved by the true and living God.
There’s no guilt or fear as I draw near
To the Saviour and creator of the world.
There is joy and peace
As I release my worship to you, O Lord.

Author ~ Rob Hayward (p 1985). © 1985 Thankyou Music. Reproduced under CCL Licence 6663.



: **Action for Children** has supported thousands of families through the pandemic. The charity's Coronavirus Emergency Fund, helped families to cover the cost of essentials like food, also provide books, technology and other resources so that children can learn and play at home. Since March 2020, the Fund has helped around 20,000 children and young people across the UK. Your help donations can make a life-changing difference for vulnerable children and their families.

Coral's story

Coral is a single mum who lives in Northumberland with her six children, Ben, 16, Alisha, 14, Hannah, 13, Jack, 11, Bethany, seven and Ava, four. She first got help from Action for Children when Jack was diagnosed with autism.

"I was really struggling caring for Jack," Coral explains. "But Louise, our support worker, was brilliant. She was there for us through the diagnosis, and it was a massive help." The family was just about managing before coronavirus hit. But when the first lockdown was announced, everything became so much more difficult. "When the schools closed, it was really hard having Jack and the other children at home also had a big impact on Coral's mental health. "I've had depression for a number of years, and the loss of freedom being stuck in the house was difficult. Mentally, I couldn't imagine what the children were going through, either. I was so worried they'd become isolated." The family's Action for Children support worker, Louise, was there for Coral and the children throughout lockdown.

“She asked the children what would help and they told her they needed a new laptop because Hannah’s was broken,” Coral explains. “Louise said she would look into it and then, one day, we had a delivery from her – the children were so happy!” home all of the time,” Coral says. “Jack can be disruptive and it affected the others. I found it hard to do things like shopping, too. I had to take all six children with me.”

“It was absolutely huge for all the family. It meant we could keep on top of the schoolwork. It helps us plan our days and provides the structure we’ve been missing out on.” Louise also helped Coral to find Jack a place in school. She says: “Louise didn’t give up until we finally got a place for him. Jack has been going to school for a couple of days each week and I can’t begin to tell you the difference it’s made to the family.” “I want to say a huge thank you to everyone at Action for Children. Thank you for believing in us and not giving up – we feel so valued.

Prayer for Action for Children & Others:

Ever-present God, we thank you that you are active in our world, declaring your love for all people through the work of various organisations and Action for Children.

We earnestly hold before you today all those children and families that need to be supported – those surrounded by the horrors of abuse, neglect, violence, poverty, exploitation and other peace shattering circumstances.

Every child and family member is precious to you and so we humbly ask for the work of the charity to continue to make a real difference in their lives. May they be blessed with all the things that will allow them to live and flourish as you intended, secure in the knowledge that they are loved and treasured.

We also hold before you the leaders, staff, volunteers and supporters of Action for Children. May every one of them continue to recognise the promptings of your Spirit as You guide them along the right paths to provide the life-giving support that is needed.

To struggle against the challenging circumstances of our time can be frightening, heart breaking and energy-sapping – physically, emotionally and mentally – not only for the children and their families in need but also for those people in

Action for Children who come into contact with them. And so we pray fervently that all involved may be instilled with your strength and your peace.

Lord of Peace, give them peace at all times and in every way, and may they know the hope that is possible through following Jesus.

Amen.

Prayer by Steve Oliver, Action for Children District (adapted)

The Lord's Prayer (in the following version, or in whatever language you wish to use)

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name;

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

On earth as it is heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen

Prayer Cards

1. What do you do or where do you go to feel peace within?

Sometimes we have to step into a place of peace. Jesus Christ often retreated to a solitary place away from distractions for reflection and prayer (Luke 5:16; Mark 1:35-37).

2. What can you do to help others feel at peace? Coral's story is an example of how Action for Children's support brought relief to families during the coronavirus crisis.

Closing hymn **STF 706** Longing for light, we wait in darkness

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone.

5 Many the gift, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come.

Author ~ Bernadette Farrell (born 1957) © 1994 Bernadette Farrell / OCP Publications. Reproduced under One License A-633108

Closing prayer: God of justice, help us to offer love and hospitality to the stranger. Work in us to transform this world, where justice and peace will ever flow in all the nooks and corners of the world.

Grant us courage: courage and strength to make a difference in this world. Take us and use us to love and serve you and all people, in the power of your spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to us in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(Jude 1:2). Prayer by Elizabeth Bishop, Action for Children

Grace