



'Worship at home' September 28th 2025



We come to worship God
who cares for all and desires justice, peace and
reconciliation for all of creation.

Opening based on Psalm 91

We come to worship the Most High,
our shelter from the storm.

We will trust in God!

God delivers us
from temptations and troubles.

We will trust in God!

God heals us and reconciles in love.

We will trust in God!

God is with us
when we call out for help.

We will trust in God!

God offers us fullness of life.

We will trust in God!

Those who live
in the shelter
of the Most High
will find rest
in the shadow
of the Almighty.

-Psalm 91:1



PsalmsQuotes.com

I will say to the Lord,
"My refuge and my
fortress, my God, in
whom I trust."

Psalms 91:2 ESV

There is a lot happening in our world
at the moment! **Reflect on current
and recent world events – to what
extent do you take notice of our
world news? Of local affairs?**

It can seem overwhelming when
there is so much struggle, challenge,
conflict and uncertainty. We don't

know what we can do. Sometimes we don't know how to pray.
Jesus challenged people to respond to the needs of others with
love and compassion, but this is not always easy. Jesus himself
was often criticised for his care for the poor and needy. He also
cautioned people about their attitudes towards money and
possessions, and the hold these can have on our lives.

A central message of Jesus, emphasised in Luke's gospel, is of God's concern for the poor. The good news is that Jesus Christ offers life in abundance to all, and that in him we find fulfillment and freedom.

Luke 16:19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free

Luke 4:18

like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house - for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'

The opposite of love is not hate, **it's indifference.**

The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, **it's indifference.**

The opposite of sacred is not profane, **it's indifference.**

The opposite of life is not death, **it's indifference.**

—Elie Wiesel

This story is full of vividly described contrasts and reversals. The rich man who had lived so comfortably finds himself in a place of torment, while the beggar Lazarus, whose name means “God helps me”, is given an honoured place. Their fortunes have shifted. A “great chasm” now exists between the two, which cannot be crossed.

The rich man is not inherently sinful or evil. We don't hear about him doing anything wrong: he was not actively harsh towards Lazarus, he did not persecute him. The problem is that he did not “see” him. He was indifferent to his plight.

“This text presents us with the great moral challenge of seeing, and then making visible, the invisible suffering of the world. Indeed, this may be one of our most important moral challenges today. Our global network of communication allows us to be more aware of the world's suffering than ever before, but we have become adept at ignoring the suffering that is right at our doorstep. Maybe, in fact, these two things are connected; the more we become voyeurs upon the faraway sufferings of others, the more impotent we feel to do anything about pain and injustice. Despair and cynicism tempt us to close our eyes to suffering and shut down our overloaded sympathies.” Feasting on the Word Yr C Vol 4

The artist Bob Dylan invites us to consider how many times we might see something before taking any notice or feeling its impact ... the answer is famously “blowing in the wind”...



How often do we turn our faces away when we step over homeless people in the street, shut our emotions off when we watch scenes of conflict overseas, or stop listening when we hear the latest road deaths? It is sometimes too easy to become complacent to what is going on around us. Sometimes the pain gets too much, and we feel overwhelmed and helpless. We distract ourselves, or justify ourselves... I can't possibly make a difference... I am not equipped to help... I don't know what I could do...

Where is the invisible suffering in our world?
Where do we turn our face away?
Where do you feel helpless in the face of need?

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

Matthew 25:44-45

This parable prompts us to place the kingdom of God as our priority. It is our caring for each other, sharing what we have, noticing, acting on, and living out the values of God's kingdom, that contribute to the coming of this kingdom, and the renewal of our world.



Prayer

God of great love and grace, teach us to value the lives and gifts we are given, and to share with love and compassion. Open us to our own frailties and struggles, that we may grow in faith. Open us to the needs of those around us: not only their physical needs, but also their emotional and spiritual needs. Prompt us to respond in your love. We pray in Christ, Amen.

Closing

Do good, be rich in good works, be generous and ready to share. Trust God with everything you are. Be open to the transformation brought about by the love of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit within, and show love in all you do. Amen