



Sunday 15 September 2024
17th Sunday after Pentecost

All are welcome

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's word comes to us: "I am with you."

In our worries as in our celebrations, always.

God's word comes to us: "look up."

See the stars — always present, signs of a bigger story.

God's word comes to us: "I promise."

We trust that however impossible it seems, God's word is true.

HYMN CH4 157

**Sing of the Lord's goodness,
Father of all wisdom,**

come to Him and bless His name.

Mercy He has shown us, His love is for ever,
faithful to the end of days.

*Come then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise Him with your music,
worship Him and bless His name.*

Power He has wielded, honour is His garment,
risen from the snares of death.

His word He has spoken, one bread He has broken,
new life He now gives to all.

Courage in our darkness, comfort in our
sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high.
Solace for the weary,
pardon for the sinner,
splendour of the living God.

Praise Him with your singing,
praise Him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp:
praise Him with the cymbals,
praise Him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days.

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PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

ALL AGE TIME

HYMN CH4 186

Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist
without the knowledge of Your parenthood
and Your loving care.

But now I am Your child,
I am adopted in Your family,
and I can never be alone,
'cause Father God, You're there beside me.

I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises for evermore.
I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises for evermore.

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SCRIPTURE Genesis 15:1-21

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.' But Abram said, 'Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.' Then the word of the LORD came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.' He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. He also said to him, 'I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.' But Abram said, 'Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I shall gain possession of it?' So the LORD said to him, 'Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.' Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the LORD said to him, 'Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and ill-treated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterwards they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.' When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking brazier with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates – the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.'

HYMN CH4 162

The God of Abraham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love.
Jehovah, great I Am,
by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
for ever blest.

The God of Abraham praise,
at whose supreme command;
from earth I rise, and seek the joys
at His right hand.
I all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame, and power;
and Him my only portion make,
my shield and tower.

He by Himself has sworn,
I on His oath depend;
I shall on eagles wings upborne,
to heaven ascend.
I shall behold His face,
I shall His power adore;
and sing the wonders
of His grace for evermore.

There dwells the Lord our King,
the Lord our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world of sin,
the Prince of Peace:
on Zion's sacred height his kingdom he
maintains,
and glorious with his saints in light for ever
reigns.

The whole triumphant host,
give thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God and mine!
I join the heavenly praise,
all might and majesty are Thine;
through endless days.

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SERMON

HYMN CH4 644

O Jesus, I have promised

to serve You to the end;
be now and always near me
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if You are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if You will be my guide

O let me feel You near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me, and within;
but, Jesus, draw still nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear You speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Oh speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, You have promised
to all who follow You,
that where You are in glory
Your servant shall be too;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve You to the end:
now give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

HYMN CH4 513

Courage brother! do not stumble,

though your path be dark as night;
there's a star to guide the humble:-
'Trust in God, and do the right.'
Let the road be rough and dreary,
and it's end far out of sight;
foot it bravely; strong or weary,
trust in God, and do the right.

Perish policy and cunning,
perish all that fears the light!
Whether losing, whether winning,
trust in God, and do the right.
Some will hate you, some will love you,
some will flatter, some will slight;
heed them not, and look above you:
trust in God, and do the right.

Simple rule and safest guiding,
inward peace and inward might,
star upon our path abiding,-
'Trust in God and do the right.'
Courage, sister! Do not stumble,
though your path be dark as night;
there's a star to guide the humble
trust in God, and do the right.

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BENEDICTION