



Sunday 15th May 2022

Jessica smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them.....But she knows they're hungry for more. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today: 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'

Welcome

Morning / Afternoon my dear friends welcome to our service of being together, we come near and far, we gather in Our Lords name who ask us to worship him, to change our lives and be more of what our Lord would like to see...we come with our needs and hopes for the world, fears and possibility doubts, we maybe angry, hurt , fed up , frustrated or looking for something other than we have. Welcome to Christian Aid week which begins today...

Call to worship

Let us come to the river and be like trees planted by streams of water, putting our roots down deep into God's word, bearing good fruit that will last not withering from fatigue, stretching out to receive and be a source of healing. Amen

Short Silence for Reflection

Take time to reflect on the light, and what you want

And what you hope for,

Take time to reflect on Gods presence in your life

And the life of the world.

Meditational tune 256-"May the God of hope go with us"(Organist)

Lighting the peace candle / A prayer for peace.



A gathering prayer Creator, Son and Spirit, we gather together, online or in-person to seek Your presence in our time of worship. We are hungry for you. Meet at our point of deepest need. Connect us with the needs of others. Equip us to join in your creative work. Transform us more into your likeness. We gather with all of creation; with the mountains and the hills. We shall burst into song, with the trees of the field we will clap our hands. As we do so, we pray for peace, within the world, peace coming deep within our heart. Bring peace to nation upon nation...we pray that people will sit and talk and resolve issues that have risen...in Jesus name Amen.

776 - "Kyrie eleison" x3 (Lord have mercy) (Listening to Ukrainian tune)

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you**

Let all the world in every corner sing

1 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!"
The heav'ns are not too high, God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low, God's praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!"

2 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout: no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!"



Jessica Story:

Are you hungry? What's for dinner tonight? Maybe you're looking forward to fish and chips, pasta, or your favourite family meal around the table. Maybe your going to have a roast with all the trimming, finished off with chocolate eclairs and ice-cream.

Jessica Mwedzi, a loving mum in Zimbabwe, fears her family won't eat tonight. When food is scarce, she can only give her children one bowl of porridge a day. She shares her heartbreak: 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.' For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival. Like many women in Zimbabwe, she toils on her farm, but no food can grow on her ashen dry land. 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.' It's unjust that drought robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she is the only breadwinner. She says: 'Women are at the mercy of climate change and hunger.' Once before, when things were desperate, Jessica asked her neighbours for food. But she came home with nothing. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family. You can help this loving mum turn hunger into hope. Your gift this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica grow seeds that thrive in the drought. In the months to come, she'll turn these seeds into fresh food like tomatoes, beans and cucumbers to sell and feed her family. She'll have the joy of seeing her children grow up happy and healthy. Jessica's love for her family gives her courage to stand strong against the threat of drought. 'My children give me the power to go ahead,' she says. 'I pray they have a better future.'

This Christian Aid Week, as you sit down to eat your favourite family meal around the table, please pray for Jessica and her family. Your gifts and prayers could fill families like hers with hope.





Prayer of confession / The Lord's Prayer

Good God of creation, we sing praise to you. But even as we raise our voices we know we have faltered and failed. Walking on paths that turned our hearts inward, sitting with those who scoffed at the cries of the poor, mocking those on the margins, denying the earth in her distress. Too often our leaves have withered our branches are barren. We have failed to be pruned and the axe is now poised. Poised to cut down the excesses that crucify all creation, the systems that impoverish all people, the privileges that diminish our faith. But even now it is not too late. For in the face of judgment comes the offer of grace and the hope that deadwood can spring to life. Forgive us. Restore us. Inspire us now to delight in your purposes, to embrace your possibilities, to inhabit your promises, to flourish as fruit for the world you so love and bring healing for all the nations as we say together the words of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour...

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen

First reading - Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Chat Psalm 148

Psalm 148 is one of the great Creation Psalms . In the book of *Genesis*, we are told that "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (*Genesis* 1:31). In turn, in this psalm all of creation is exhorted to respond with praise to our Creator. It is worth reflecting that even before *Genesis* was written, our human forebears must have had a strong sense of the magnificence and wonder of creation. As the Psalmist reminds us, "the heavens themselves tell of God's glory".

This psalm resonates with the call to all of creation to praise its Creator. The psalm works its way through celestial bodies, things on earth, including animals and natural phenomena, and only in the later verses, people. We are reminded that God commanded, and those beings were created - and God fixed their boundaries. It is testimony to the sovereignty of the Creator and a creation which was intended to be in harmony not only with God, but among all created things.

It declares that, as part of God's creation, we too, as humans, are expected to live in harmony. Paul says in the letter to the Colossians, "for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him... and in him all things hold together" (*Colossians* 1: 16-17).

And yet we are only too aware that human activity has disrupted that natural order and upset creation's harmony. That is why climate justice is a faith issue. This psalm is a call to be involved in restoring that harmony: to praise God is to

honour creation - not as an add-on, but as fundamental to our life and purpose. To be there to help all who live and are part of Gods creation. Those of us who are truly blessed and have enough, aren't we asked to help those who don't have much and are in need of our hand of fellowship and help. Amen



724 - "Christ's is the world in which we move" - Tune: Dream Angus

1/Christ's is the world in which we move; Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love; Christ's is the voice which calls us to care, and Christ is the one who meets us here.

To the lost Christ shows his face, to the unloved he gives his embrace, to those who cry in pain or disgrace, Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.

2/Feel for the people we most avoid - strange or bereaved or never employed. Feel for the women and feel for the men who fear that their living is all in vain.

3/Feel for the parents who've lost their child, feel for the women whom men have defiled, feel for the baby for whom there's no breast, and feel for the weary who find no rest.

4/Feel for the lives by life confused, riddled with doubt, in loving abused; feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin, which longs to be pure but fears to begin



Second reading - Matthew 25:34-40

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Chat

God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion — the marks of His kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: respond to unsettling realities in fear and withdraw, or follow Him in responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope. We know salvation doesn't depend on works, but we also know that caring for those in need is evidence of a faith that changes lives.

544-“When I Needed a Neighbour”

1/ When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there? When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

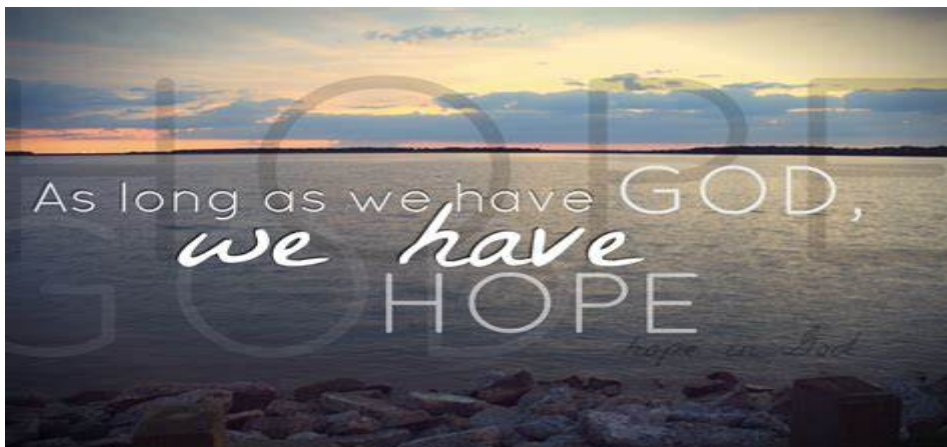
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter were you there?

2/ I was hungry and thirsty were you there, were you there? I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

3/ I was cold, I was naked were you there, were you there? I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

4/ When I needed a shelter were you there, were you there? When I needed a shelter were you there?

Reflection



Hope lives in you



Hope lives in you

'So painful and disheartening'

For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival.

Like many women in rural Zimbabwe - 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food - she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land.

Drought starves. Intensified by the climate crisis, and the effects of war in Ukraine on global food production, it drives families into hunger.

Jessica recalls that 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.'

It's unjust that drought - exacerbated by the effects of conflict and the global pandemic - robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she's the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give. Once before, when things were desperate, Jessica asked her neighbours for food but she came home with nothing.

Jessica is anything but helpless. In the face of drought, her love for her family gives her courage to stand strong - and we stand with Jessica.

As the golden sun fades across the sky, Jessica watches her much-loved sons and daughters sing, dance and play outside. Can you imagine how it feels for her to know her children are hungry, but have nothing left to give?

She finds a ray of hope that she will overcome this tough time - and be able to provide her children with good food, and a full life, free from hunger.

Could you give today, and help this loving mum provide food and hope for her family?

How your gift could help

Jessica could grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate.

Her dry, dusty land could transform into a garden of hope, abundant with fresh food like tomatoes, beans and cucumbers.

She'll be proud of the fruits of her work, and she'll see her children enjoy their first full meal in months.

With your gift this Christian Aid Week, families like Jessica's won't go to bed hungry tonight.

Hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Hope is in the hands of the local charity worker, delivering emergency food to hungry refugees.

Hope is in the eyes of Jessica in rural Zimbabwe, knowing her little ones won't go hungry thanks to fresh water and drought-resistant seeds.

Hope is in the heart of Natalia in a shelter in Ukraine, as her children sleep peacefully for the first time after nights of relentless bombing.

Hope is in the homes of all who welcome the fleeing.

Hope lives in you who shared, who gives and who does not put themselves first before those who are hungry in need.

Hope does it challenge us enough to help someone this Christian aid week...? It is so tough isn't it, for we hear so many stories and we wish to help everyone. As prices rise in the U.K and around the world, and we hear the story of Jessica, and so many others...as we look at our own families struggling and ourselves, how can we make an impact, what can we do? There are people who give at home, giving to charities abroad, giving each week putting food into the foodbanks in the super markets, bringing items to church, taking them to the centre points...offering what they can afford, yet poverty continues and seems to get greater.

Here is a list of four things we could be doing

1/ Prayer - In believing in the power of prayer. This is one way I think we can help . We must never cease to pray as we consider the size of the challenge and the ruthlessness of the enemy we face. Prayer enlists a God who is bigger than any problem, and God has promised to be at our side as we engage the world Jesus sent us into. In Matthew 28:20, he says, "Surely, I am with you always. ..."

Lets us have a silent prayer where you pray asking God to help....SILENCE...

2/ Act- While we depend on prayer, there is much that we can do with our hands as well. For our church, the most obvious place to act is locally. Many churches also want to act overseas through Christian Aid, this can allow a small church to take smart action in response to needs around the world. Takes one person to start the ball rolling.

3/ Give - Even the smallest of our churches can make a difference. It may not be practical for our church to tackle the famine in the Africa, start a micro-finance bank, or begin drilling clean water boreholes, but any church has access to the financial resources desperately needed to help accomplish these things and more. We live in one of the wealthiest nation of Christians in the history of Christianity. At the same time, £10-20 can help buy clean water for one person for a lifetime. No matter the size of our church, a modest financial gift can be life-saving for someone in need.

4/ Influence - Advocating on behalf of people affected by poverty and injustice is a powerful way for churches to reflect the love and compassion of Christ. Using our influence as Christians can help...writing to the governments and stating as a Christian, yes we as a church could be doing much more, while we as individuals could be also. Help change the world by influencing the people, policies, and systems that could have a more dramatic impact on the poor than a small church could ever believe. A church can stand in the gap for the defenceless and save more lives than any missions program could possibly afford. This kind of influence can be powerful on a local level, where poverty, homelessness, and economic injustice require the church to address the structures that may prevent the poor from improving their lives. No matter the size of our church, God calls us to do something. As the saying goes, what counts is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog. Thankfully, we can all pray, act, give, and influence for the sake of the gospel.

The church puts too much emphasis at times on unnecessary priorities, I think we are missing the point of what Church is meant to be all about, its God, we are here to worship God and follow his loving, caring, giving ways. We are here to stand up and tell the government at times you're wrong, and yes, the Archbishop of Canterbury was I think in my mind so right in announcing in his sermon on Easter Sunday sending refugees to Rwanda is immoral. We worry too much about how many bums are on seats, where are the children, why don't we have a Sunday school, we have to raise money to heat a drafftee building, trying to turn the church into a social club. Church is about worshipping God and helping those less fortunate than ourselves. We're all trainees of Jesus our Saviour and we worship him. God needs to see us praying, acting, giving, and influencing...God wants to see a church which is based on Him. God is working, yet no one is recognising it. God calls us to move and we are stuck in the same rut. O God, for goodness' sake, stir us up where we become angry, make us angry, not because of what the church life is facing, changing, make us angry with what is truly important to you and that is saving lives, make us not think about saving our own life first, or being seen to do the right thing, make us angry so that we will move mountains in your name trying to stop world poverty, climate change, bloody wars, the unfairness of some people's lives...let's get stirred up so much we forget about our church wants, let's get angry with the unfairness of what is happening in God's creation.

From the friendship book - Now if you have a worry, a worry you've got, you try to forget it, but no, it's there day and night and you just can't escape it. I've tried it myself, so I know! But one thing I'll say to you, and it's this: Its wisdom I'm sure you won't doubt; Be sure when you worry the worry itself is really worth worrying about. **Are you hungry?**

In the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit Amen.

519 - "Love divine, all loves excelling" - Tune: Blaenwern

1/ Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 /Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3 /Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and
praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise



Prayer Intercession

Creator God, cultivator of our faith, thank you for the privilege of living in this global garden planted to bear your fruit, to delight our tongues, to fill our bellies, to energise our bodies. You have given us life in all its fullness. You have given us life, yet millions still hunger. As we sit comfortable in our homes, going to our food stores and take items to make a meal without a thought, help us to think of those who are hungry, who have nothing and are dying. Make us more aware of the needs of our community and the world. Open our eyes to the struggles of those who we do not know, those whose life has become a dark place, and they have begun to think of ending their pain. You created a world full of resources guide us to use them in a way that can help those who are fighting with their life battles. Use our monies, and lives to feed and restore those who are fighting the hunger pains, the upsets and hurts of the world. We pray for each of us, take away our selfish western thinking and make us reflect on our brothers and sisters. We pray for our governments local and national to do more, to see further than wishing to score political points against their

opponents, bless each newly elected person so that they will work for the good of all. We pray for those who mourn and live without loved ones who are a memory away. We pray for our families and friends and now hear the prayers we offer to you in this ...silence...Hear our prayers, have mercy upon us and hold us close. Take the gifts of money and use them to help Christian Aid support communities throughout the world, and partners who hunger to provide. But may our support not end here. May we be the seeds from which your kingdom grows. Make us so angry that we have a hunger for peace where we act, we pray for that our concern for others will not stifle our concern for the people of Zimbabwe, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and all those other places to whom our hearts have become hardened through over-familiarity, help us not to become over- familiar. And in our hunger, we pray that you will fill us with your hope, your passion and your life, that we may go out from this place to give, act and pray. So, all who hunger to provide may be filled to the brim of overflowing. In the name of Christ, farmer, gardener and cultivator, Amen

804-"We Shall Go Out with Joy" x3



You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace, and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you. There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the fields shall clap, shall clap their hands.

**And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,
And you'll go out with joy.**

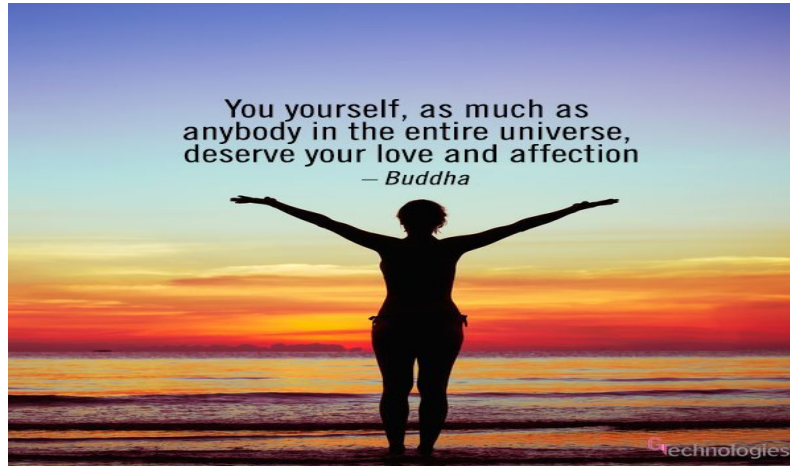
Blessing

In the name of God who plants the seed of justice: Be hungry. In the name of Christ who hangs on the tree of love: Be fruitful. And in the name of the Spirit who inspires God's will in our hearts and our lives: Be celebrated. You are Christ's people, here and throughout the world now and forever. Amen

786-"May the God of peace"

May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place; may the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.

Three-fold Amen



Sunday 15th May 2022

Welcome

Call to worship

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Short Silence for Reflection

Meditational tune 256-“May the God of hope go with us”(Organist)

Lighting the peace candle / A prayer for peace.

776 – “Kyrie eleison” x3 (Lord have mercy) (Listening to Ukrainian tune)

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you**

122-“Let all the world in every corner sing”

1 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!"

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the earth is not too low, God's praises there may grow.

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Prayer/ The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen

First reading – Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Chat

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To the lost Christ shows his face, to the unloved he gives his embrace, to those who cry in pain or disgrace, Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.

2/Feel for the people we most avoid – strange or bereaved or never employed. Feel for the women and feel for the men who fear that their living is all in vain.

3/Feel for the parents who've lost their child, feel for the women whom men have defiled, feel for the baby for whom there's no breast, and feel for the weary who find no rest.

4/Feel for the lives by life confused, riddled with doubt, in loving abused; feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin, which longs to be pure but fears to begin

Second reading - Matthew 25:34-40

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

544-“When I Needed a Neighbour”

1/ When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there? When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter were you there?

2/ I was hungry and thirsty were you there, were you there? I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

3/ I was cold, I was naked were you there, were you there? I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

4/ When I needed a shelter were you there, were you there? When I needed a shelter were you there?

Reflection

519 – "Love divine, all loves excelling" – Tune: Blaenwern

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Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 /Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3 /Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
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Prayer Intercession

804-“We Shall Go Out with Joy” x3

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And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,**

And you'll go out with joy.

Blessing

In the name of God who plants the seed of justice: Be hungry. In the name of Christ who hangs on the tree of love: Be fruitful. And in the name of the Spirit who inspires God's will in our hearts and our lives: Be celebrated. You are Christ's people, here and throughout the world now and forever. Amen

(Organist will play through first then everyone sings unaccompanied)

786-“May the God of peace”

May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place; may the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace. **Three-fold Amen**



Let's help and feed those who are hungry

Are you hungry?

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