



Welcome to Worship

You are before me, Lord, You are behind.
And over me You have spread out Your hand;
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
Too high to grasp, too great to understand.

Search me, O God, search me and know my heart;
Try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
Keep me from any path that gives You pain,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name.



As You have made the world, You made time and therefore are outside our timing
You know our past, You know our future.
Help us to be aware of the greatness of Your dimension, and the thrilling wonder that we are
valuable to You Who knows us through and through.

As we read how Jeremiah coped in the midst of trouble, may we follow his example
in opening our minds to Your message, and our hearts to Your love
that our lives may radiate the hope that is to be found in Christ alone.

We pray "Open our eyes that we may behold wonderful things out of Your word"

Through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Saviour to Whom with You O Father and the Holy
Spirit be all praise and glory now and for ever AMEN

The Old Testament reading is from a time when Israel had been invaded and Jeremiah was
being blamed for everything. He expresses how he coped

Lamentations 3.19-24

I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.
I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.



Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

Mk 5.24-34

A large crowd followed and pressed around Jesus. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realised that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' " But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

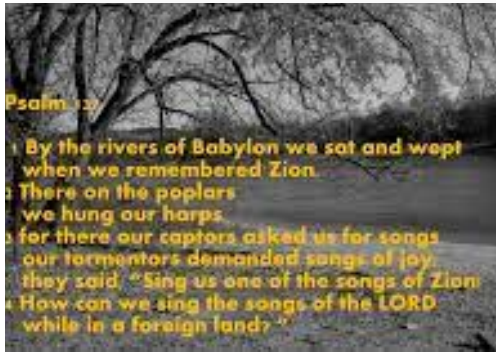
Put all your trust in God
in duty's path go on
walk in His strength with faith and hope
so shall you work be done
Give to the wins your fears,
Hope and be undismayed
God hears your sighs and counts your tears
God shall lift up your head

You see our weakness Lord
our hearts are known to you
give strength to every failing hand
and keep our footsteps true
Let us in life in death
your stedfast truth declare
confessing with our final breath
Your love and guardian care

If we had announced that we would be looking at Lamentations, possibly many would have been put off ... we have enough that is morbid, we want something to brighten us up! But considering when Jeremiah wrote in 587BC it is really quite a thrilling book.

There was trouble in the near east then as now. The introduction to the Greek version starts with "And it came to pass that after Jerusalem had been laid waste and Israel had been led into captivity that Jeremiah sat weeping and lamented over





Jerusalem with this lamentation ... " Some went in captivity to Babylon where they lamented in Psalm 137, an updated version of which by Boney M reached no1 in the charts in 1978.

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion ...

They carried us away in captivity requiring of us a song ... Now how shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?"

A. Problems about which he was honest

All too often people bottle things up. Hence the slogan

"afflictionwandering....bitterness and gall...

my soul is downcast within me."

It helps to know that someone is listening, that someone cares.

The woman in the gospel passage had been ill for 12 years, and in the custom of the day would have been deprived of social contact with others. But in the midst of the crowd Jesus took time because He knew that someone was in need reaching out to Him.



I wonder if we have problems what do we do do we bottle them up ?

Consider how Jeremiah coped :

B. Perspective which gave hope

i. Unfailing love the certainty of which underlined with the note of faithfulness.

how vital that is in what one young person called a scary and confused world.

ii. New every morning does not mean different, but fresh rather than stale

Is the faithfulness and love of God fresh or are we getting stale ?



Is this true of us ? Do we start a day spiritually stale, or do we have contact with God so that we can know His power ?

We are like a garden hose :

If our spiritual lives are dry, we need to understand and take in more of God's love !

If our spiritual lives are getting stale, we need to share God's love to folk around us !

iii. The Lord is my portion - real and appropriate to my need

Imagine a cake ... getting a portion which is appropriate to one's appetite!

How are Problems about which he was honest and

Perspective which gave hope linked ?

by "This I call to mind..." it is a deliberate focussing of direction of thinking and travel.

Like programming a computer so that anything which comes along dealt with in that light. A relationship with God is the operational framework for living, a contact with power.



Jesus knew that power had transmitted to the woman. May that be true of us today !

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my fears subside
Death of death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee



Help us always to call to mind Your unfailing love so that we may have Your hope,
and in so doing to know Your guidance.

Hear us as we pray for those who need to know Your hope in their difficult situations

.... those who are struggling with chronic ill-health,

... with terminal diagnosis,

.... with tensions at work or at home,

- with uncertainty through changes in courses, employment prospects or financial matters.

In being honest about their problems before you may they know Your perspective which gives hope.

We pray too ...

... for those who have responsibility for planning in the NHS and in education
that they may reflect that all people matter to You.

... for those who lead Christian Unions in colleges and universities

... for those who seek to make the good news of Jesus known by radio, by internet or by
social media in countries which are not open to more open ways.

We pray for the witness to Jesus in our country and community, praying for envisioning and
wisdom for those who lead in presbytery and in our congregation, for those who care for the
frail and for those who have a burden to share the good news of Jesus with young folk.

Hear us in our prayers spoken and unspoken..... and as we sum up all our prayers in the prayer
which Jesus taught all those who love You to pray

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.
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.

and until that great day when with all those throughout the ages who have loved You we see
You face to face may

the amazing grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the understanding love of God, and

the strong friendship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, Amen