



Lord, we praise you for your power which holds us and holds everything;
For your grace which touches and renews us;
For your love that gives us life and makes us whole;
For your sovereign will, that maps out our journey and then gives us the freedom to choose.

Lord, we honour you for your holiness which measures our lives, and for your mercy that lifts us up and whispers, "You can begin again".

Lord, we bow before you in love and adoration.

There is no God like you, no God besides you.

You are our God and we will have no other.

You are our God and we will worship you with all we have and with all we are, now and for ever.

Amen.

Lord, sometimes we look as though we are listening to others. We may even make all the right noises! But we confess that our attention is often anywhere but where it is supposed to be. We know you are a listening God, and still we are too busy or a bit frightened about what you might say to us.

Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.

Sometime we are too distracted by our own concerns. We care only for ourselves, and listen to only those who say what we want to hear. Particularly at this pandemic situation and the guidance that are changing for our own good.

Forgive us Lord, for missing the vital information.

Sometimes we don't listen to people because we don't like them, or because they are different from us. Sometimes we have bad or unhelpful thoughts.

Forgive us Lord for our negative feelings.

Sometimes we fail to come to you Lord to experience your presence;

We fail to acknowledge that you are a caring God;

We fail to recognise that you are a listening God and a speaking God.

Forgive us Lord for our failures.

We know you are a forgiving Lord, accept our prayers we pray. **Amen.**



O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.



I often pray. It offers me a feeling of peace;
But how do I know God is really listening?
Does God really care? Does God answer prayers?

God cares and is listening to our prayers because He promised to be with us always. He loves and cares for us unconditionally because, He is love. Be confident that He hears us whenever we ask for something that pleases him. "And since we know He hears us when we make our requests, we also know that He will give us what we ask for. (1 John 5:14) How encouraging to know that by faith and hope we can patiently await God's perfect timing,

God is not half-listening to us (as we may do when someone is talking to us). God gives us His full attention because He loves us and wants us to place every fear and negative emotion we have into His hands. Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! Be anxious about nothing, but in everything, by prayer and humble request. With thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4: 4-6)

When we trust God, and believe His words, He will honour our prayers. This is a promise of God: If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, ask what you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:7)

We know God loves us because He sent His son, Jesus Christ into the world to give us His life for our salvation.

How can we then approach God? How do we know He hears, that He listens and answers our prayers?

We must approach God with confidence, with thankfulness and praise for all His goodness. We need God every moment of the day, and by praying we declare our dependence on Him, We should carry everything to God in prayers. We must pray when we are Joyful, when sorrowful, when concern about others or asking for forgiveness.

It is a privilege to be able to spend time talking with our Heavenly Father; whether it is a personal prayer, intercessory, praying for others or situations, we must pray in expectation that God hears. He listens and will answer.

We aren't promised deliverance from every difficult situation we face; but we can be confident that God hears our prayers and will walk alongside us through everything.

God son, Jesus Christ, during his ministry often would find a quiet place and pray to his Father. Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, and told -them a parable to show them that they should pray always, pray and not give up Luke (11:2) 18:1)

So I say to you; ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks; the door will be opened. (Luke 11:9-10)

God is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

Talking of God Together

7.

**Psalm 50: 1-3a
(NIRV)**

The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks.
He calls out to the earth
from the sunrise in the east
to the sunset in the west.

From Zion, perfect and beautiful,
God's glory shines out.

Our God comes, and he won't be silent.
A burning fire goes ahead of him.

10. Prayers of Intercession

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your only son Jesus Christ our Saviour to save us. We thank you that through his teaching and preaching that we can get closer to you.

We thank you for Bible fellowship we have with our friends who share your love with one another. We thank you that each one of us has so much to give - and receive - from each other. Thank you for each new experience that you give us. Thank you for this marvellous opportunity to worship at home this way even though we cannot see anyone face to face. Thank you for all your grace and mercy.

Amen.

After the words, Lord in your mercy; could we all respond: Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, as we bring before you the needs of the world, remind us that we are here to serve and not to be served. In these new and troubled times, as we fight Covid 19, give us the wisdom to understand the way of the future and the strength and courage to do your will.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, carer of the sick, we ask your blessing and support on the unknown and hidden; those who care for their loved ones at home, or who pray silently for them at a long distance; for those who work until exhausted in the NHS and care homes; for the scientists and academics whose research into new diseases, have now opened new understanding.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, healer of the sick, as we pray for them in silence... We bring before you the sick of our community at Bell Road, our circuit and others known to us. May your blessing be upon them.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, friend of Lazarus, we remember those who have departed this life into your peace, Mary Ludlow and others, we bring before you their family and friends who painfully grieve their loss. May they know the peace of your love.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit give us the insight to see the evil practices of today in the society and to bring your justice and reconciliation. Modern slavery, or religious persecution worldwide; Christians or other faith communities who suffer in different parts of the world. May they know and be comforted by your presence.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for all those who have given the work and prayer of their lives to bring us to where we are today.

We remember our weekly worship with our families and friends, various zoom meetings and Bible studies. Teach us your ways and comfort us with your promises to overcome our life situations by your grace.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

In silence we bring our own concerns to the Lord (pause)

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Talking of God Together



11.

**Matthew 5:13-16
(NIV)**

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Talking of God Together



12.

**Jesus as our
Teacher and
Model by Janet**

Even though we are concentrating on Jesus' teachings and him being our greatest teacher and mentor, He has told us that he is the light of the World. And that is what he wants from us. As you heard from the Bible reading which was taken from the Sermon on the Mount which has very long teachings, Jesus taught about a lot of things. It is contained in chapters 5 – 7 of Matthew's Gospel. In that Sermon on the Mount is the Beatitudes which we have all heard about at some point in time. Jesus' teachings were illustrated through his Parables, stories which make things easier for us to understand and remember.

Jesus tells us in the passage we have just heard, that we are the salt and light of the world.

So how do we reflect this, we have Jesus' example to set the way for us. He is a compassionate and caring God which is demonstrated through his teachings. He wants us to be like that. These are the examples that we should follow.

Jesus says in John 8:12 - "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." What a glorious passage. And just think about it, if Jesus has described us as the Light and Salt of the world, and he says "I am the Light of the world", is that not what he is expecting from us? For us to reflect his ways and be like him.

How do we reflect this light, we have Jesus' example to follow. Jesus told us we must love the Lord our God with all our heart, to love others, and in loving others we are generally compassionate, kind, caring, listening and in amongst that is to help others. One of the parables that demonstrates this very well, is the story of the Good Samaritan. It took three people to pass by, before one person finally stopped and helped. It is through our actions that we bring Glory to God, and show his love to others. We ask God to teach us his ways, through the reading of his Holy Word. We are the light of the world as Jesus says. The last verse of the song you will hear soon, sums it up nicely, when it says;

"As we gaze on your kingly brightness, So our faces display your likeness, Ever changing from glory to glory, Mirrored here may our lives tell your story, Shine on me, shine on me."

We ask Jesus to enter our hearts, to let his love flow from us and be reflected in all situations and people we meet.

And so now we will listen to that hymn, Shine Jesus Shine, which will see us through to the end of this service I pray that it will be a blessing to you and that you will carry some of these thoughts, you heard many things about a Listening God, a Caring God, a God who Speaks to us. And through all of these things he has taught us much