

Transformation – NOW!
FAMILY LIFE

Welcome: We gather to worship

Today, we gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a parent, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, comforts us in times of need and gives us strength to persevere.

Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life! Amen.

Hymn: Father, Lord of all creation

sung by St Martin's Voices

Stewart Cross (1928-1989)

Father, Lord of all Creation,
Ground of Being, Life and Love;
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,
we, your people, make our prayer:
help us love as sisters, brothers,
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love the world may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us your love make known.

Reflection: Lord, in the quietness

Eddie Askew

Lord, in the quietness
reach out and hold me.
Draw me gently into your peace.
And in the loving silence at your heart
attune my ears
to hear the sounds I never listen to.

The harmony that lies in you,
the discords in the world you've put me in.
The laughter and the tears
in other people's lives.

Make me more sensitive to others' needs.
Sometimes, I hear the words that others speak,
but fail to grasp their meaning.
Help me to hear the worry
hidden in a throw-away remark,
the fear wrapped in a joke,
the insecurity behind unbending dogmatism.
Let me identify the cry for help
so casually expressed.

Help me to listen more
and think and think
before I speak
and then to think again.

And, Lord, teach me
to hear sincerity
in those who see and say things in a different way.
Give me the grace not to condemn or criticize.
but first to search for common ground.
and grasp the things that draw us all together,
not concentrate on what holds us apart.
Help me to take the richness
of another's thought
and hold it
precious as my own.

Above all, may I hear
the gentle echoes of your love.
reflected all around me.
Give me the joy
of listening to your voice,
the quiet rustle
as your arms enfold me.

Hymn: A New Commandment – Richard Shephard
sung by St Martin's Voices

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.
Let not your heart be troubled:
believe in God, believe also in me.

John 13. 34-35

Prayers: God of all living and loving

by Margaret Whyte

God of all Living and Loving:
We are thankful for families,
where scattered piles of stuff testify that we live fully in the moment;
where the noise of laughter and the silence of sadness
are freely shared;

We are thankful for families,
where we find sanctuary from danger and judgment;
where words of love and openness are the rule of life.

We are thankful for families,
where our differences are the spices of life;
where our unity is something that we can always take for granted.

We grieve for families,
where violence and rejection are living realities;
where hearts are broken, and dreams are shattered.

We grieve for families,
where walls of protection become fortresses of isolation,
where language is a weapon of destruction and hate.

Help us to understand,
those families whose identities are different from ours;
the ways of loving, parenting, partnering
and working together for peace.

Help us to dare,
to stand strongly against hate and divisiveness;
to encounter our differences with love and respect.

This we believe:
that love is stronger than hate;
that hope is stronger than despair,
and that good is stronger than evil.
We pray in the name of the One who is Loving and Living,
Amen.

Mary Sumner Prayer

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken:
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.

Mary Sumner's personal prayer ©Mothers' Union

Hymn: Father, I place into your hands

Chet Valley Churches

Jenny Hewer

Father, I place into your hands
the things I cannot do.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
the things that trouble me.

Father, I place into your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
we love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
and in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
and in your presence rest,
for we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
and do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
that you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
that you will draw to you,
for I know that I am one with you.
for I know that I am one with you.

Dismissal

by Katherine Hawker

Jesus offers a new-old commandment,
that we should love each other.

With the incredible power
and the unfathomable depth
of God's love for us
we can
we must
love one another.

And it is in this
our love for one another
that the world will know
whom and what we worship.

Come, children of God,
let us love one another.
Amen.

Material: as stated

Theme music: 'Overflowing grace' by Catherine Hilton

Theme image: Lucjan on Pixabay.com

Readers: Denise Smith, Christine Sharp, Karen Owen,
Ian Butterworth, Barbara Taylor

CCLI: 5097385

Prayers next month will be on 12th September 2024

SAINTS