

Transformation – NOW!
NEW GROWTH

Hymn: I, the Lord of sea and sky
sung by St Martin's Voices

Daniel L. Schutte (born 1947)
© 1981 Daniel L. Schutte & New Dawn Music

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Opening Prayer: God of the elements

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God of the elements
bless us with resurrection.

Burn away in us
what needs to go.

Wash us clean
and clear and holy.

Blow us round
with warmth and wonder.

Root us deeply each day
in love and justice.

God of the elements
bless us with resurrection.

Amen

Bible Reading: Matthew 13: 31-32 (NIV)

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Reflection: Lord, I understand

Eddie Askew

Lord, I understand.
that what you've given me
is meant to be developed.

I understand.
Which isn't the same
as saying I like it.
I'd prefer life ready-made.
Bought off the peg.
A reasonable fit, but cheap.
Nothing too demanding.
A holiday cruise,
full of colour and romance,
but air-conditioned from the heat of commitment.
What you ask sometimes seems
more like a seat in a galley.
Rowing hard against the tide, and sometimes into danger.

A little exercise
a little love,
a little bit of giving,
is one thing — or three to be exact —
But your demands are so much more.
You ask my life and time,
my mind and heart.

You're never satisfied with less.
It seems a bit unreasonable, Lord.
Too much for you to ask
or me to give.

But then. Lord, I acknowledge
that your demands are made in love.
That in its fertile ground
my roots can spread
and grow up to maturity.
That what you offer me
isn't the grind of soulless self-denial,
but the affirmation of my being.
That in the contradictory freedom
that your service brings,
I can be so much more
than I ever was before.

I find I'm rich with talents
I never knew I had,
whether through laziness or lack of consciousness
I'm never sure.
And I can live beyond myself.

Lord, help me step out
in fearful faith today.
Ready to use my energies for you.
In hope.
In confidence.
With joy.

Hymn: For the fruits of all creation
sung by St Martin's Voices

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
© 1970 Stainer & Bell Ltd.

For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Prayers:

Lord, plant my seed in good ground!
Help me to grow in faith so my relationship with you is not shallow and weak, but a deep and mature faith.
Grant me a faith that can move mountains of doubt and oceans of fear.

Help me to believe in you, even when I do not understand the capricious nature of the weather and the cruelty in some people.

Lord I am yours.

Take me as I am.

Shape me. Make me.

Mould me into the person you would have me to be.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour we pray.

Amen

Revd Dr Nicholas Hood III

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: Lord, thy church on earth is seeking

sung by St Martin's Voices

Hugh Sherlock (1905-1998)

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Lord, thy church on earth is seeking
thy renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of thy love.
We would heed thy great commission:
go now into every place-
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.

Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within:
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell;
to all lands and peoples bringing
all the richness of thy word,
till the world, thy praises singing,
hails thee Christ, Redeemer, Lord.

Dismissal

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Go now
Go with God's blessing
Go in justice and love.

Go now
Go and love your neighbour
Go and respect the earth.

Go now
Go and befriend strangers
Go and make peace.

Go now
It is time
Go and walk with God.

Amen.

Material: as stated

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Prayers next month will be on 8th August 2024

FAMILY LIFE