

Transformation – NOW!
CALLED TO SERVE

Opening Prayer: Where you sit

by Thom M Shuman

We leave our seats at the concert or sportsground
and pray you won't catch our eye
as we pass you sitting with the homeless.

We wait for a few minutes at the doctor's
to get a jab so we won't catch the flu,
while half a world away you sit for a week
hoping medicine, which will cost you year's wages,
finds its way to your village.

We sit in our homes,
catching the latest 'reality' on our TV screens,
while you sit in the darkness rocking your child to sleep,
as she cries from the ache of an empty stomach.

Lord Jesus: when (like James and John)
we want to be at your side in glory,
remind us where you sit.

Hymn: Brother, sister let me serve you
sung by St Martin's Voices

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

Richard Gillard (born 1953)

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Bible Reading: I Samuel 3: 1-10

Reflection: We are your hands and feet

from Dirt, Mess and Danger ©Wild Goose Publications

Voice 1:

It is hard to keep on following you, Jesus Christ. It is difficult to be faithful, for you have this annoying habit of stopping in all the wrong places, all the distasteful places, all the awkward and bothersome places where I would rather not be. But I know it is the powerless who capture your interest; and the hungry who are closest to your heart.

Voice 2:

Where dirt and danger are present, you are right there too. Where selfishness and greed make a mess of things, you are in the middle of it, pleading for compassion and mercy. Where poverty and desperation give birth to even more misery, you are there, suffering with your people, experiencing the ache and the pain of hunger and the worry and the fear of having next to nothing.

Voice 1:

And when we, who are strong, go with you to those places we would rather not be; when we stir ourselves from apathy, and make the effort to shout 'No!'; when we respond to the impulse to demand 'Why?' and have the courage to protest 'This is simply not fair'; then there is where the love of heaven is seen In all its wonderful compassion.

Voice 2:

You gave us a vision of your kingdom. You have spoken about a mustard seed growing into decency and fairness; salt bringing out the true flavour of what living means; yeast that stands for truth which

conquers evil; love which transforms earth's people and points them to heaven.

Voice I:

We are your hands and feet in the world now. May we hold to these visions of your kingdom and do what we can to realise your great dream.

Hymn: Be still, for the presence of the Lord

sung by St Martin's Voices

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
Amen.

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Prayers:

Servant King, reveal to me
the things I cannot see -
the road ahead,
the work prepared,
the person I could be.

So fill us with your love
that it might cascade
into the ordinariness
of our working lives,
and others experience
the warmth of its flow,
spreading from hearts
and words and deeds;
an unbroken stream
bringing refreshment
to all that it touches

You call us to leave all things,
you who had nothing.
You call us to be servants,
you who came to serve.
You call us to share the load,
you who carried our sin.
You call us to speak your word,
you who lived it daily.
You call us to be followers,
and in your strength, we will

Be the Life I live
Be the Love I give

by John Birch

Mothers' Union prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

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Hymn: Take my life and let it be

sung by Chet Valley Churches Sung by Chet Valley Churches

Author: Frances Ridley Havergal (1874)

Tune: Mozart/Nottingham

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Closing prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things, and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer
all I have and am
to serve you,
as and where you choose

**Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

The Methodist Covenant Prayer – modern version

Material: as stated

Theme music: 'Overflowing grace' by Catherine Hilton

Theme image: Lucjan on Pixabay.com

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**Prayers next month will be on 11th July 2024
NEW GROWTH**