

2nd November 2025 – Morning Service

Jill Martin

Call to Worship: 1 Chronicles 11: 1-2 (NIV)

All Israel came together to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, even while Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord your God said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”

StF 24 – Come now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God,

Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.

One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains

For those who gladly choose You now.

Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs

Prayer of Adoration

Father, we come to you in quietness, to be still in your presence and to reflect and bask in your generosity of love. We look at the world you have made and gifted to us to care for, the sky filled with stars and planets; lights in the darkness; the sun which gives us warmth and light to enable plants and vegetation to grow. The seas and oceans which sustain a multitude of life, large and small, rainfall falling as gentle drops and fearsome torrents. Life in all its seasons; animals, domestic and wild, all made by you, our Creator. Knowing your amazing power and skill you made us to be your people, your love for us is never ending and in your presence, we are amazed that you know us and love us. Father, we ask that you accept our worship today and every day our awesome and wonderful God. **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

As we reflect in your love, we bring to you our confession of how we have let you down in our words, thoughts and actions. We have failed to listen to your voice leading us, calling us into deeper faith in you. We have ignored voices calling us to hear their cries of injustice and hurt. Father, hear our voices as we confess to you our sins and mistakes. In your love let us come to you in humble trust and forgive us our sins. **Amen.**

StF 72 – Father God, I wonder

Father God, I wonder

how I managed to exist

without the knowledge

of your parenthood,

and your loving care.

But now I am your child,

I am adopted in your family,

and I can never be alone

'cause Father God,

you're there beside me.

I will sing Your praises,

I will sing Your praises,

I will sing Your praises forevermore.

I will sing Your praises,

I will sing Your praises,

I will sing Your praises forevermore.

Ian Smale © 1984 Thankyou Music

Reading: Psalm 32 (NIV)

Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord."

And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.

You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you
should go;

I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Reflection

David was made King of Israel, after Saul had chosen to ignore God's word: "Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord. He disobeyed the Lord's commands". David, the youngest son of Jesse was a shepherd living and working with his father's flock, taking care of the sheep and keeping them safe. In the time spent alone with the flock, David formed a very personal relationship with God and was moved to write many of the Psalms we read today. Through his words we can follow David's life, thoughts and observations, a man who was overlooked by his own father and dismissed because he was the youngest son, but the boy David was chosen by God to be the King of Israel, God's own chosen people.

David is celebrated as a great king, ruling wisely and justly. However, he made a grave error of judgement and took another man's wife, Bathsheba, wife of Uriah a member of David's army. When Bathsheba conceived their child, David did everything in his power to conceal and cover his sin. Finally, when all else he'd done failed, he arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle. After Uriah's death, David and Bathsheba were married. Their child was born but very soon after the birth, the child died. David was distraught, clothing himself in sackcloth and ashes.

It took God's words from the mouth of the prophet Nathan for David to understand the depth and severity of his sin and to truly repent.

David penned the Psalm we have read, a prayer of repentance and forgiveness, an honest and open confession of how he tried to hide his crime and guilt. God, in his love forgave David and allowed him to live again free from guilt.

Do we have the trust, faith and confidence to bare all before God? To reveal our deepest and hidden secrets? To allow God to take from us our shame and guilt and restore us?

"You that are righteous, be glad and rejoice because of what the Lord has done.
You that obey him shout for joy!"

StF 78 – Give thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong',
Let the poor say 'I am rich',
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Reading: Luke 19: 1-10 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Reflection

The story of Zacchaeus – did you learn the Sunday School song 'Now Zacchaeus was a very little man'? Plus actions? So, what do we know about Zacchaeus – well he was little but he was also a tax collector and rich. He had heard of a man called Jesus and was trying to find out more about him. This begs the question why? I wonder what questions he wanted to ask, what information he wanted to find out.

Zacchaeus was rich but I doubt he had many friends. As a Jew his fellow Jews would have nothing to do with him as he was breaking every law a Jew should follow. He was working for the Romans, the oppressors who ruled over the Jewish nation. He took money from all the inhabitants of the Roman Empire to pay Roman taxes, often without any set tariff. He would keep back a portion of the money for himself and taxes could only be paid in Roman currency. Any tax collector would therefore be ritually unclean, but Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector, handling foreign currency and working for the oppressor.

To top it all Zacchaeus looked different. He was small, but he also comes across as quite brave. He was determined to see Jesus so he put aside his dignity and, realising he wouldn't see over the crowd, climbed a tree! Imagine the shame and embarrassment of being seen. Everyone would know him and have their own words and opinions to share. He achieved what he had set out to do. He was in the higher branches partially hidden by leaves and he could see all that was going on.

Now you can almost feel his embarrassment. Jesus, who he had never met, walked to the very tree he was in and stopped, then looked up straight into his eyes and told him to come down because he would be staying in Zacchaeus' house that day. Luke tells us that Zacchaeus hurried down. I imagine he was a little dishevelled, maybe bits of leaf and twig in his hair and beard. Perhaps a few pulled threads in his outer garment. Was it a controlled climb down or did he land in a crumpled heap at Jesus feet? The shame, everyone watching, probably in silence, then the muttering and grumbling began. "Whatever is happening? Did you see that? Doesn't Jesus know? That man is a sinner, and Jesus is going to his house!"

Zacchaeus stood up – perhaps he had fallen in a heap – and spoke to Jesus. He immediately started to make amends for his behaviour, giving half of his wealth to the poor and declaring that if he has cheated anyone, he will pay back four times as much.

Jesus declared to the crowd that salvation has come to Zacchaeus house on that day. He said that Zacchaeus is a descendant of Abraham and that he Jesus has come to save and seek the lost.

So as in David's Psalm, confess your sins and mistakes. Tell God your deepest secrets and feel the weight of guilt being taken from you. Rejoice in the freedom of being made new, secure in God's love and mercy.

StF 28 – Jesus calls us here to meet him

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| 1) Jesus calls us here to meet him
As, through word and song and prayer,
We affirm God's promised presence
Where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
Praise the Son who calls us friends;
Praise the Spirit who, among us,
To our hopes and fears attends. | 3) Jesus calls us to each other,
Vastly different though we are;
Creed and colour, class and gender
Neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
Join the hands of age and youth;
Join the faithful and the doubter
In their common search for truth. |
| 2) Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
Sharer of our flesh and frailness,
Saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
Tell his tales that all may hear;
Tell the world that Christ in glory
Came to earth to meet us here. | |

John L Bell & Graham Maule © 1989 WGRG Iona Community

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Father, we offer you our thanks and praise for all you have done and continue to do for us. Your supreme gift of your son, Jesus Christ. Your free gift of forgiveness and salvation, and your love for all. Nothing we can do can hide us from your love and care. **Amen.**

Father, we bring to mind our friends and neighbours; people sitting with us in worship. We ask that they may feel your love surrounding them.

We bring to mind the people whose names we don't know; those we pass by whilst we go about our daily tasks. We ask that we may be aware of them as your children, our brothers and sisters in your family.

We bring to mind the faces we see in our newspapers and television screens; those who cry out in fear and pain, the victims of violence and injustice. We pray that world governments will be guided by your Son's sacrifice and love and treat one another with mercy and love, sharing justice with all.

Father, alone we cannot change the world, but with you guiding us we can serve you and serve others in the way Jesus taught us to – loving one another. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

StF 645 – Will your anchor hold

- 1) Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?
- Ch) *We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*
- 2) Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
When the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,
Shall the angry waves then your barque o'erflow?
- 3) Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
When the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide you can never fail,
While your anchor holds within the veil:
- 4) Will your eyes behold through the morning light
The city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly-shore,
When life's storms are past for evermore?

Priscilla Jane Owens

Blessing

Lord be with us as we begin another week, guide us through each day and let us faithfully serve you. The blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us today and every day. **Amen.**