

# Worship at Home

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## Call to worship

We come this morning to praise our God.

### STF 83: Praise, my soul...

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored forgiven  
Who like me His praise should sing  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same forever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847)

## Prayer

Lord, You created this world to rejoice and praise You.

Thank You for the gift of life and for every breath I take. I dedicate my breath to Your praise, both in times of joy and in times of struggle.

Let my life, my actions, and my voice bring honour to Your name.

Forgive me when I fail to praise You and help me to see that I was created to bring You glory.

I praise You for Your goodness and Your grace.  
**Amen**

## MP 566: Praise the name of Jesus

With additional lyrics (author unknown)

Praise the name of Jesus,  
Praise the name of Jesus  
he's my rock, he's my fortress,  
he's my deliverer,  
in Him will I trust.

Praise the name of Jesus  
We give Him all the glory,  
We give Him all the glory  
King of kings, Lord of lords,  
Prince of Peace.

He is worthy of praise,  
Praise the name of Jesus.

Roy Hicks, Jr (1943-1994)

## Reading: Psalm 150

### Reflection

This morning we think together of the word **'Praise'**, and we shall start with an amusing story.

A Christian farmer supposedly taught his horse to start and to stop, using words from the Bible. When he wanted the horse to go, he would shout, **"Praise the Lord"**. When he wanted the horse to stop, he

would shout, **"Hallelujah!"**. (Please remember these instructions!).

All went well until one day a thunderbolt caused the horse to take off, galloping at full speed. Realising he had lost control, the farmer panicked and forgot the words he had trained the horse to respond to. Up ahead was a cliff, and they were headed towards it at full speed. Desperately he tried to recall every religious word he'd ever heard of. He shouted, **"Amen! Jesus saves! Worthy is the Lamb! Holy!"**.

Nothing worked.

Just as the horse approached the precipice, he remembered and shouted, **"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"**.

The horse stopped right there on the edge. Relieved, he wiped the sweat off his brow and said, **"Whew, praise the Lord!"**



Apparently, the word **'Praise'** is found up to 259 times in the Bible, and its definition in the dictionary is:

*The expression of admiration, approval, or commendation for someone's achievement or character.*

These words to me seem inadequate to express the praise that our God should be given so, I explored the Biblical meaning and found this;

*Praise is the intentional act of acknowledging, valuing and celebrating God's character and deeds through joyful singing and thanksgiving.*

The Psalms are mostly a collection of songs filled with praises to our God, and our reading today, Psalm 150, mentioned the word **'Praise'** 13 times in its six verses!

**Verse 1 tells us...**

...where we should praise God: **"praise Him in His sanctuary, and mighty heavens."**

In other words, everywhere! So, at home, work, on holiday, etc... just everywhere we go.

### Verse 2 teaches us...

...why we should praise Him: *"Praise him for His acts of power, and surpassing greatness."*

In other words, praise Him because He is worthy of all our praises

### Verses 3-5 answers the question...

...how: *with a variety of instruments, and dancing;* while **verse 6 urges**, *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."* And that includes you and me.

The final three words sum it all up:

### **"Praise the Lord"**

In just those six verses, Psalm 150 gives us the **'Where, Why and How'** of praise.



I remember the first hymn I sang which encouraged me to **'Praise Him'**:

*Praise Him, praise Him,  
all ye little children;  
He is love, He is love.  
Praise Him, all ye little children;  
He is love, He is love.*

I wonder if you sang this song in Sunday school? Or perhaps you can remember what first encouraged you to **'Praise Him'**?

## Respond

So often I find praise difficult in my prayer time and asking for things so much easier.

I remember Revd. Terry Higgins, when he was preaching, often asking, *"What can you praise and thank God for in the week that has just passed?"*

Many times this question was met with silence, not because God had not been with us, but because we could not find the words to express how we felt, and sometimes because there was nothing that seemed big enough. God was just in the everyday things of life. But it is in the seemingly small, everyday things of our lives that our God is worthy of our praise.

Thinking of this word **'Praise'** during the last week or so, I was drawn to Singing the Faith to read the hymns in the section 'Praise and Thanksgiving'. I read a hymn I have sung many times before and this morning we can use these words as a prayer to our Great and Wonderful God.

### **STF 73: Fill thou our lives...**

**Fill thou our lives, O Lord our God,  
in every part with praise,  
that our whole being may proclaim  
thy being and thy ways.**

**Praise in the common things of life,  
its goings out and in;  
praise in each duty and each deed,  
however small and mean.**

**Fill every part of us with praise;  
let all our being speak  
of thee and of thy love,  
O Lord, poor though we be and weak.**

**So shalt thou, gracious Lord, from us  
receive the glory due;  
and so shall we begin on earth  
the song for ever new.**

Adapted from hymn by Horatius N Bonar (1808 -1889)



This week, take time to stop, look, and ponder on the things that God draws to your attention. Perhaps the beauty of a little flower, a tree, a buzzing bee, or even a weed; and then praise God for His creation and for all that you see and know of God in your life.

And may praises to our God be continually on our lips each and every day, as we thank Him for walking beside us, and holding our hand through the days ahead.

### **Let us continue in prayer...**

Take time now to thank and praise God for people and things in your life, before spending some time praying for the people, places and situations you are concerned about.

And now, conclude this time of prayer by thanking God for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the Holy Spirit as you say or sing The Lord's Prayer.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father ...*

### **Closing words**

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!**

**Amen**