



Written Service 24th July 2022

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
before the 'gods' I will sing your praise.
I will bow down towards your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.
When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me. Psalm 138:1-3

Hymn StF 678, H&P 765 Come all who look to Christ today

Prayer of Adoration

When we say prayers of adoration, we are saying to God how much we worship him and spend time reflect on his character, his holiness, goodness, love, mercy, grace and power. We can see that in Psalm 138, maybe you would like to read it whole Psalm as your prayer of adoration.

Alternative why not try thinking of words or phrases that express what God means to you...

I'll start you off...

Lord God you are remarkably generous..

Lord God you are an amazing creator...

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Why not expand on this prayer with any personal confessions from this last week.

Lord God

If I am honest with myself, I have made mistakes...

I do not put you first...

I build my life on foundations that won't last...

I think of myself before others...

Lord Forgive me

God has forgiven us through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus, freeing us from the guilt of past wrongs.

Amen.

Say the Lord's prayer

Bible reading Luke 11:1-13

Hymn StF 447, MP 1076 Jesus, be the centre

Have you ever watched a house being built, either one you have an interest in yourself or one on a building site that you pass. At first it might seem like not much is happening, but the builders will be making sure that the ground is stable enough to build on, a very important thing if you live in an area that used to have coal mines underground or live near the coast where the soil might be sandy. They will then start to lay the foundations and again, it seems a slow process not much can be seen above the ground. Then suddenly the walls start to grow at what seems a lightning speed and you soon have a recognisable house. While the slowness of building the foundation can be irritating when you want to see the finished house, It is essential that this time is taken, that the foundation are stable and made correctly. You really don't want your house to fall down after a year because of shoddy workmanship.

In our reading, we are given a foundation for prayer, adoration of our Father, God, acknowledging that he provides what we need, and not more than we need. There is opportunity for confession and the offer of forgiveness for others who have hurt us and an acknowledgement that at some times, we can be tempted or have times of trial and we ask that God helps us in those times. We of course recognise this prayer, we say a similar version regularly and we call it The Lord's Prayer and for us today it ends, as it began, with adoration. But it's not the Lord's Prayer I want to go in to today in depth, it's the idea of a strong foundation that I would like to share with you.

We need to building strong foundations in our personal faith, or it will come crumbling down when times are tough. We need to practice prayer to converse with God and read the bible to learn more about God; the Father, the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit as well as spending time reflecting on our experiences. Just as when building a house, the most time and energy is put into the foundation, we also need to put time and energy in to our relationship with God.

But a faith in God isn't just about my personal faith, or your personal faith, we are also part of a church community. What are the strong foundations in your church community, what are the things your church does well? Do they reflect the love of God to those in the community and outside it? Is there anything that needs to change? Just as we spend time as individuals in prayer and bible reading, are we doing that as a community to seek the way forward, to ask for what we need to live as Christians in the UK, and to confess our wrongdoings?

If we look wider again what are the strong foundations we want to have in our country? You may have noticed that there is a leadership contest going on at the moment, it's pretty hard to miss and there are lots of discussions about how each candidate would lead the country forward. What has stood out to you in those discussions that particularly reflect our Christian faith that we would like to build on. Maybe this last week with the high temperatures, one of the foundations moving forward should be doing what we can to limit damage to the climate, how can we help to make sure that what we put in place now, will sustain that effort for a long time. Maybe you are more interested in the country's finances, how do we make that those who need the support of the state can get it in a fair way.

There are lots of things here that you may want to mull over, but the important thing is that foundations we build need to be strong and stable. Then when the next storm comes, and it will, we can still trust that God is with us and we can approach him to ask for help and support. As a loving parent he knows how to give good things to us, even if they aren't the answer we expect.

Prayers for others

Please use the following prompts for prayer:

Pray for our national leaders in this time of change...

Pray for our young people ending the school year ...

Pray for those affected by the changes in the climate ...

Pray for those who have continued to work through the heat...

Pray for those who need to use a foodbank this week ...

Pray for your church community ...

Pray for your family ...

Amen.

Hymn StF 645, H&P 689, MP 770 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.