

DEVOTIONS - 23 AUGUST 2020

These devotions (and attached music links and sermon) have been prepared in advance to be uploaded and used in my absence this Sunday. As such none of it will bear any resemblance to what is actually used at worship in Gladstone or Tannum Sands. - Allan

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, come among us today and restore our strength. Help us to be mindful of all that you do and to trust you to uphold us in your merciful hands. Shine upon us like the sun and illuminate our path so that we do not stumble or fall. Bless us so we may be a living testimony to your care and your compassion—your justice and mercy. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SONG [Great is your faithfulness](#) TIS 154

PSALM 124

- 1 What if the Lord had not been on our side?
Let all Israel repeat:
- 2 What if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us?
- 3 They would have swallowed us alive
in their burning anger.
- 4 The waters would have engulfed us;
a torrent would have overwhelmed us.
- 5 Yes, the raging waters of their fury
would have overwhelmed our very lives.
- 6 Praise the Lord,
who did not let their teeth tear us apart!
- 7 We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap.
The trap is broken, and we are free!
- 8 Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Let us worship God

SONGS [How deep the fathers love for us](#)

[Blessed be your name](#)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We give you all thanks and praise, O God, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice, for you have never allowed the gates of Hell to prevail against us.

You are the creator of the earth and sky; the author of all that is good, acceptable and perfect. When your people were bitterly oppressed, you acted to save them, raising Moses from the waters to grow and lead your people to freedom.

In your child, Jesus, you have again been with us to save us from the snares of the enemy. In him people saw the courage of John the Baptizer, the fiery passion of Elijah, the faithfulness of Jeremiah. Though he was killed, you raised him to life and revealed him to us as your chosen Messiah, the one in whom we are reconciled as one body, gifted and called to unlock your Kingdom on earth.

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, even if we had not seen your light and love in Jesus, we might be discontented with many of our thoughts, words and actions. But since you have shown your beauty in Christ, we are much more aware of how badly we have fallen short; of how far we are from fulfilling our potential.

We bring to you now all those things that comprise our lives. We bring the small diamonds of success and the clay of failure, the gems we are proud to remember and the waste material that makes us ashamed, the silver smattering of wisdom and the dross of our folly, the hopes that still shine like gold and the mud of pessimism. We confess all that we are and everything we have been, and put ourselves unconditionally in your hands.

Holy God, we thank you that the same Christ whose beauty highlights our fallen condition, also highlights your inexhaustible mercy. In your hands is forgiveness, in your hands is healing, in your hands is encouragement, in your hands is peace. Touch us now and we shall be made whole. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

If the Lord was not for us we would be forever ensnared in our sins. But in Christ we have been cut free from our sins on earth, and all who are freed on earth will be freed in heaven.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SONG [You rescued me](#)

BIBLE READINGS

[Exodus 1:8-2:10](#)

[Romans 12:1-8](#)

[Matthew 16:13-20](#)

SERMON [Who do you say that I am?](#) [Sermon.mp3](#)

SONG [Over all the earth \(Lord reign in me\)](#)

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful Lord, you have provided each of us with many similar, yet unique gifts. Thank you Lord, for the talents and abilities of people within this congregation. We are a blessed people! Now, we unite as one body to share in this worshipful act of the offering. Giving is such a joy-filled experience! Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to support the transformation of people's spiritual lives through the ministry and mission of this body of Christ. Amen. *(Based on Romans 12:1-8.)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord of all Nations, all of creation belongs to you. The wilderness and the forests, the waters and the heavens. You teach us to seek justice and deliverance, not only for ourselves but for all people. Swiftly bring your peace to those who live in fear. End fighting, stop abuse, cease prejudice, and bring us all into loving relationships with all who share this planet. (Isa 51:1-6)

Loving God, you invite us to worship you with true devotion. You care for the lowly and save us from trouble. Make us bold to tell others of your enduring love for all that you have made. Redeem your Church, bringing us into a right relationship with you, our creator. (Ps 138)

Gracious God, you have blessed us with many gifts: the ability to listen with compassion, to teach with certainty, to admonish with love and to give with generosity. Help us to know right from wrong so that everyone who meets us will know we are your own children. (Romans 12:1-8)

Living God, you sent your son, Jesus, into this world to bring us unto you. By his example, we learned to come to you with all our needs. Today we pray for the needs of these friends and loved ones:

This morning, we pray especially for...

Bless them and bring them within your loving embrace. (Matthew 16:13-20)

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG [Lord I come to you \(The Power of your love\)](#)

WORD OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Go now, strong in the mercies of God.
Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that knowing the will of God
your whole lives may become a sacrifice of praise,
holy and acceptable to God.

And may God, the Creator of earth and sky, be your help;
May the Son of the Living God ground you on solid rock;
And may the Holy Spirit equip you with all the gifts and graces of Christ.
Amen.