

## “Let us Pray” – Week 2 Praying with hymns, songs and music

This week the on-line version includes many links to YouTube so that you can listen to particular songs.

The week will focus on

- Praying with hymns
- Praying with more modern Christian songs
- Praying with the choruses we may have learnt as children
- Praying with secular music (more traditional)
- Praying using contemporary secular songs

You can still join in this week, but you may need to make use of resources you have. We know that the choices we suggest will not all be your favourites – music is personal, but

### Monday- Praying with Hymns

Do you have a cd of favourite hymns – Why not play this, this week, but think about the words of the hymns – they are hymns of praise (like some of the psalms) – *Rejoice the Lord is King, Praise my Soul the King of Heaven* etc. They may be hymns of reflection and response – *When I survey the wondrous Cross, My Song is love unknown, All things bright and beautiful.* Enjoy the music / tunes but think about the words

### Tuesday – Praying with more modern Christian songs

“worship songs” can be more direct in their lyrics, addressing God or Jesus directly and expressing praise and love and devotion. Here are two songs you may know which have profound words

<p>Meekness and majesty manhood and deity In perfect harmony the Man who is God Lord of eternity dwells in humanity Kneels in humility and washes our feet <i>O what a mystery meekness and majesty Bow down and worship for this is your God This is your God</i></p> <p>Father's pure radiance perfect in innocence Yet learns obedience to death on a cross Suffering to give us life Conquering through sacrifice And as they crucify prays Father forgive <i>O what a mystery meekness and majesty Bow down and worship for this is your God This is your God</i></p>	<p>I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? <i>Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.</i></p> <p>I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples pain. I have wept for love of them, They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone. I will speak My word to them,</p>
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Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible  
Love indestructible in frailty appears  
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly  
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne  
*O what a mystery meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship for this is your God  
This is your God  
This is your God*

Songwriter: Graham Kendrick

Whom shall I send?  
*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?  
*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

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Songwriter Dan Schutte

### **Wednesday – Praying with the choruses we may have known**

Some of the children's choruses have simple but profound Christian truths within them and the easy tunes remain in our heads for years. If you grew up with these, of whatever vintage, why not recall them and hum or sing them to yourself today.

Here are two from different eras.

*When a knight won his spurs in the stories of old  
He was gentle and brave he was gallant and bold  
With a shield on his arm and a lance in his hand,  
For God and for valour he rode through the land.*

*No charger have I, and no sword by my side,  
Yet still to adventure and battle I ride;  
Though back into storyland giants have fled,  
And the knights are no more and the dragons are dead.*

*Let faith be my shield and let joy be my steed,  
'Gainst the dragons of anger the ogres of greed;  
And let me set free with the sword of my youth,  
From the castle of darkness the power of the truth.*

This is a very visual song and its often dismissed as just a Children's hymn. But the message is a powerful one - the last verse is very much one of holding to basic Christian truths, to oppose anger and greed, to be set free by the Gospel and to defeat darkness with the truth of Jesus. It is a Prayer for Action. It is linked to the armour of God in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians Ch 6 : 10 – 17.

Wide, Wide as the Ocean.

*Wide, wide as the ocean,  
high as the heaven above;  
Deep, deep as the deepest sea  
is my Saviour's love.  
I, though so unworthy,  
still am a child of His care;  
For His Word teaches me  
that His love reaches me everywhere.*

Which songs did you sing as children? Have a look at the words – many of them are lovely, if simple prayers

- 🎵 One more step along the world I go
- 🎵 I am the Lord of the Dance
- 🎵 Trust and obey
- 🎵 Jesus loves me this I know
- 🎵 I've got that joy, joy, joy, down in my heart

Some have slightly dodgy theology – If Jesus was a human baby he did cry (so Away in a Manger is not correct in that regard!), but many contain some wonderful truths.

### **Thursday and Friday – Praying with Classical music and secular music**

Do you have access to the great choruses from Handel's Messiah? Which pieces of classical music set your heart soaring – why not play them and use them to thank God for his goodness and greatness?

Many of the musicals explore love and living in various ways. They may not be Christian but we may sense themes that are in harmony with our faith – though not every word or line may be perfectly Christian in its content.

*Climb every mountain ... till you find your dream*

Les Miserables is famously a story of redemption and love and many of its lyrics have a Christian theme to them. below is one of the songs which is steeped in biblical images.

Prayer is stimulated often by great music, and praise too, just as we can be moved by beautiful places and the beauty of our world. God has made our hearts to be moved and prayer is so much more than just words being spoken.

This week make space for music, for hymns and Christian music, but also for inspiring music and songs, and as you listen thank God for his goodness, thank God for the riches we enjoy, but also just let the music flow and nourish your soul..

<i>Do you hear the people sing Lost in the valley of the night?</i>	<i>Will you join in our crusade? Who will be strong and stand with me?</i>
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*It is the music of a people  
Who are climbing to the light.  
For the wretched of the earth  
There is a flame that never dies.  
Even the darkest night will end  
And the sun will rise.  
They will live again in freedom  
In the garden of the Lord.  
We will walk behind the ploughshare;  
We will put away the sword.  
The chain will be broken  
And all men will have their reward.*

*Somewhere beyond the barricade  
Is there a world you long to see?  
Do you hear the people sing?  
Say, do you hear the distant drums?  
It is the future that they bring  
When tomorrow comes!  
Will you join in our crusade?  
Who will be strong and stand with me?  
Somewhere beyond the barricade  
Is there a world you long to see?  
Do you hear the people sing?  
Say, do you hear the distant drums?  
It is the future that they bring  
When tomorrow comes!*

*Ah! Ah! Ah!  
Tomorrow comes!*

(Claude-Michel Schönberg, Alain Boublil)