**Sunday 29th May ‘At Home’ Worship**

**Coming soon…**

(Sourced from Roots worship resources)

**Call to worship**

Come to God with your longings:  
our heavenly Father knows them all.  
Come to God with your belongings:  
our loving Saviour holds them all.  
Come to God alone and together:  
the Holy Spirit is here for all.

## A gathering prayer

Father God, you give us so much, and yet we long for more.  
Help us to open ourselves to you today, and draw us closer to you.  
Help us to be open to one another, and draw us closer together.  
**Amen.**

**First impressions**

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|  | Click on the image to view a larger version or use the Jump menu to go to This week's images. For artist's details, see [this issue's illustrators.](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2022/119-may-june-2022-c/issue-119-illustrators) |

**Questions for the image**

* What aspects of longing can you find in the painting?
* How does it feel to belong?
* How can we share God’s invitation so that all can feel part of things/belong?

**Worship song** [Lord of all hopefulness Hymn (+lyrics) - Westminster Abbey - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNlLEl8rkSA)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace.  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord,  
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
At the end of the day.

**Saying Sorry to God**

Your call to the very first disciples, Lord, was ‘Come, follow me.’  
We follow you today, Lord.  
But sometimes we can fall out of step with you.  
Our longing to walk closely with you  
can get hijacked by our longing to belong to the ‘in crowd’ of the moment.  
And our behaviour makes us poor witnesses for you.  
**Lord, we are sorry; help us to live unselfishly.**  
  
At times our words may not be nice  
and we’re at fault of quarrelling with one another.  
**Lord, we are sorry; help us to live in unity.**  
  
Sometimes fear of the consequences of speaking out  
and sharing of you can silence us.  
**Lord, we are sorry; strengthen our faith.**  
  
Help us to make the most of every opportunity.  
To be better witnesses for you  
so that others will come and know the love and joy  
of belonging to your family.  
**Amen.**

## ****Assurance of forgiveness****

When we belong to the Lord.  
Salvation is ours.  
We are washed clean.  
Forgiven and free to live in joy with the Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Prayer for the Day**

Risen, ascended Lord,

as we rejoice at your triumph,

fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,

that all who are estranged by sin

may find forgiveness and know your peace,

to the glory of God the Father**. Amen**

Optional Children’s Worship Song [I belong to God](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KKs94pyBiE), Victory Kids Worship

**Bible passage**



## ****Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21 NIV**** Epilogue: Invitation and Warning

**12**“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. **13**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

**14**“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

**16**“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+22%3A12-14%2CRevelation+22%3A16-17%2CRevelation+22%3A20-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31097a)] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

**17**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

**20**He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**21**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

## Reflection

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**Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet**

**Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication**

‘You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant, and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.’ So writes Augustine in his ‘Confessions’, the world’s first spiritual autobiography.

These are heartfelt words of longing for God – and Augustine would no doubt echo the ‘Come Lord, Jesus!’ at the end of Revelation with equal passion. But what about us? Do we long for God, and for the ultimate and final coming of Christ?

At one level, wouldn’t it be great if, in one fell swoop, Jesus the king came in all his power and glory and eliminated all the evil and all the suffering in our world – all the violence, all the poverty, all the sickness, all the damage we’ve done to our planet? It’s right and good that we should pray, ‘Come, Lord Jesus!’ when we look at the mess we’re in, both locally and globally.

But even as we anticipate his coming, we can’t just sit and twiddle our thumbs. A church poster once proclaimed, ‘JESUS IS COMING!’, only for a local graffiti artist to scrawl underneath in spray paint, ‘LOOK BUSY!’ As Jesus says in the opening words of today’s reading: ‘See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work.’ So rather than bewail the mess we’re in, let’s keep praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’, and let’s see what small steps we can take, individually and together, to work for the coming of God’s kingdom, ‘on earth as in heaven’.

As we work away, the Spirit of Jesus sustains us: ‘let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.’ So, as we anticipate Jesus’ final coming for our world, we can respond to his invitation to come to him and drink: he comes to us here and now to satisfy our thirst – and to make us long for more. As Augustine put it, ‘I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.’

## Worship song

## Be still and know that I am God [StF18 CSB228 Be still and know that I am God - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lheJPRzAKyg)

## Be still and know that I am God, be still and know that I am God, be still and know that I am God. I am the Lord that healeth thee, I am the Lord that healeth thee, I am the Lord that healeth thee. In thee, O Lord, I put my trust, In thee, O Lord, I put my trust, In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

## ****We pray for others****

## Come, Lord Jesus, into situations of imprisonment in our world today. For those imprisoned against their will, exploited and abused... for those imprisoned by special needs that the world doesn’t understand or have time for... for those imprisoned by the darkness of depression and anxiety... for those imprisoned by addictions… for those imprisoned by their pursuit of wealth… for those imprisoned by fears of any kind. Come, Lord Jesus, and set your people free. ****Amen.****

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**And the glory are yours**

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Worship Song**

## And can it be that I should gain [And Can It Be - Stuart Townend [with lyrics] - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu2uA6U4Fxg)

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died He for me who caused His pain  
For me who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
That Thou my God should die for me?

He left His Father's throne above  
Emptied Himself of all but love  
And bled for Adam's helpless race  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free  
For O my God, it found out me

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light  
My chains fell off, my heart was free  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee

No condemnation now I dread  
Jesus and all in Him is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head  
And clothed in righteousness divine  
Bold I approach the eternal throne  
And claim the crown through Christ my own

## A sending out prayer

Lord, we have come together,  
and now you send us out with your blessing.  
As we go out,  
**come, Lord Jesus!**  
As we go home,  
come, Lord Jesus!  
As we go to work, school or college,  
**come, Lord Jesus!**  
Wherever we are,  
**be with us, Lord Jesus!**  
**Amen.**  
**Amen.**

## ****Go with God 24/7****

Spend time – preferably each day – thinking about your chosen task (see **Go with God** above). Pray to belong to the truth and to hear Jesus’ voice. If words are not your ‘thing’, use music or art or a long walk – or whatever helps you connect to God – as a way in.



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