



## Zoom to Church: 16th August

'My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations'

Isaiah 56: 7

### Gathering- Welcome and Notices

*We make the sign of the cross*

**In my head,  
in my heart,  
and all around me,  
Jesus is here**



### SONG: Praise is Rising (Hosannah, Hosannah)

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You, we turn to You  
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You, we long for You  
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day  
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

*Chorus*

*Hosanna, hosanna*

*You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises*

*Hosanna, hosanna*

*Come have Your way among us*

*We welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You, we turn to You  
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new  
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day  
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

*Chorus*

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day

In Your Presence all our fears are washed away

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day

In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

*Chorus*

### **Confession – we say sorry**

Let's spend a few moments remembering these last days, what has gone right and what has gone wrong.

Sometimes we have reflected the glory of God, sometimes we haven't. Let's bring this knotty problem before Him, with all its complexity, and let it go in the hands of the one who loves us body and soul.

### **SONG: Be Still**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here;  
 come bow before him now with reverence and fear  
 in him no sin is found we stand on holy ground.  
 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
 he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:  
 how awesome is the sight our radiant king of light!  
 Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:  
 he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
 No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.  
 Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6 – 8**

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21 - 28**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David;

my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

## Sermon: Rosey Feuell



A House of Prayer for ALL Nations?? After the recent protests about race issues etc., I bet you understand what being excluded means, if you hadn’t in other ways tasted its sharpness already: wrong trainers, unusual parents, being unwelcome in someone’s space. The Israel Jesus knew was full of different groups, most with status and exclusion issues. I think, however, God began to tell the prophets that exclusion was not His plan centuries ago. People from other backgrounds seeking acceptance and help from God are to be welcomed, they signalled, no matter how good/bad these people’s efforts are. Certain joy in God’s House of Prayer is to be extended to all, the worship and prayer being crucial, not correct ritual and sacrifice as the Jews expected. :

“these [aliens] I will bring to my holy mountain and make ...joyful in my house of prayer; their ... sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples.” Isaiah 56: 7

In Jerusalem today stands the Church of All Nations, with the Lord’s Prayer posted in many languages – But I run ahead of the messengers that Matthew sends us.

There were many who saw signs of this gathering in, saw it many times over when Jesus ministered. Now we re-enter one such scene. A lad I call Kothar – the skilled - worked for a Canaanite woman in Israel’s far north – and he began to witness how things could change. Canaanites were excluded from Jewish ways, with all their blessings; they usually kept to their own territory, for they were supposed to worship all wrong: places, altars, trees, a council of gods. And these people, even the more sophisticated, were not tolerated around any place where the Lord Almighty’s blessings were named. This is Kothar’s story:

“One day I went with my mistress Shakila into the Jewish coastal territory, somewhere between Tyre and Sidon. Shakila was deeply troubled because her daughter’s mind had gone – or came and went – leaving her crushed and groaning in bed when she should have been up, learning her duties from her mother. Mostly she shrieked. Shakila was desperate, but also canny. She had heard Israel had a new teacher. Today, she said, we visit their territory, get His attention. We’d bring water melons to sell, and beat it to Tyre, find the Teacher. So we set off. I was sceptical; they might just throw us out of their preserve. Anyone could recognise Canaanites.

“Shakila was determined. As soon as we hit the old coastal market, she started shouting, clearly knowing how to secure help: “Son of David, Lord, help” – it went on, on. She kept it up despite stony stares and silence. We did find the Teacher man that way, but He too was silent at first. Then His companions seemed to whisper strategies: “Dispatch her with what she wants, hush her noise.” I was amazed. We’d barged into their territory and now she continued shouting, groaning. The Teacher seemed aroused, but told us first He was not really there for us, only for the “lost sheep of Israel” - were these sheep in fields or lost, crazy people? Shakila was not daunted – she knelt before Him and wouldn’t move: “Lord, ...help me!” spiralled her cries. He argued this might not be fair, giving outsiders *and dogs* what belonged to family tables – she swept that out of the way, contending dogs were allowed to grab what families chucked off the table. This was a turning point. He praised her faith, accepted her words, waving His hands towards her daughter – now stashed in someone’s house on our route. “Go,” He promised, very lovingly, very convincingly. “All done – you too get the blessings going.”

“I was stunned. I thought His followers might shove her off, or come to blows. Not at all. She was welcomed in the territory, dog or outcast no longer; she hadn’t made sacrifices, payments or pledges. It was a no-strings gift from Him, and she was speechless. I never caught her comment as we took the melons to the stall. His words about throwing bread to dogs were a platitude, watered down, a gentle first move – He saw she could meet it with far-seeing, genuine trust. She answered bravely, as we might when confronting officials who are not helping. It revealed her mindset; His power was gladly, admiringly, given to heal and change her situation. It brought acceptance of all nations nearer, prophesying of more to come.

“I, Kothar, think this did not happen for our sole sake, but so that many might see that this Jesus, who worked incognito alongside fishermen and helpful women - was a new activist – one fulfilling that prophecy about all people being welcomed to prayer with the One True God, and all kinds of oppressed groups invited far nearer in, - so that they might connect with God, be healed, like Shakila’s girl –restored to what they should be.

“I know now this Jesus fulfilled other ancient words and was a true reflection of that Loving Face Who as time began welcomed some, not to exclude others, but that through them and with them all might have a potential welcome. More and similar things happened around this Jesus – we heard it later in our territory too – and after He died, He was seen again, reassuring folk of endless life crowned by His friendship, whether with fishermen, centurions, or *dogs* of Canaan – a category now and forever exploded. Not dogs, eating the children’s bread, but children eating like the other invited children, enjoying each other’s nearness.”



***Church of All Nations, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem***

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**Prayer:** This kind of reflection on the Gospel goes back to St. Francis and St. Ignatius, putting yourself somewhere in the scene so as to appreciate more fully what Jesus was doing and how it can change us. Ask yourself: Where am I here, as the unlucky Canaanite woman tells her story and receives answers to all her longings?

### **SONG: All My Days (Beautiful Saviour)**

All my days, I will sing this song of gladness  
Give my praise to the fountain of delights  
For in my helplessness, You heard my cry  
And waves of mercy poured down on my life

*Chorus:*

*Beautiful Saviour, wonderful counsellor  
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history  
You're the way, the truth, the life*

*Star of the morning, glorious in holiness  
You're the risen one, heaven's champion  
And You reign, You reign over all*

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer  
I will sing of the land that never fails  
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleared  
Of death defeated and life without end

*Beautiful Saviour...*

Wonderful counsellor  
Beautiful risen one

*Beautiful Saviour...*

I long to be where the praise is never ending  
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades  
With countless worshippers sing one song

Worthy, worthy, worthy  
Worthy, worthy, worthy

### **Prayers**

Lord, Creator of All, Healer, Spirit, we come to you.

You are our God, you are in us and with us, and you know and feel the pain of our world. But we need to cry before you about it and ask for comfort and healing. Just as the Canaanite woman prayed to Jesus for her daughter, so we pray for our world.

When I say "Lord, heal us", let's all say "Lord, save us and heal us"

We bring to you the pain in our world: the things we have heard about and the things we haven't heard about. Our hearts have broken with news of powerful forces, both natural and manmade, hurting your beloved children this week. We pray for grace and your glory to shine through the darkness.

We pray for all those adrift between countries, afraid, hungry and cold, far from home, seeking security. We pray for them to find your love in tangible forms.

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring to you the pain of our country, reeling under attack from those who should be protecting us. Even in this country, where we least expect it, there is injustice, negligence and corruption. We pray for wisdom and enlightenment for those in positions of authority, strength for those fighting for justice, grace and peace and healing for the wounded.

We pray for all the children this week trying to work out what they are going to do next, trying to rearrange their lives after unexpected exam results.

We pray for the future of our country, that we may overcome these challenges and grow into a gracious nation.

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring to you the pain of those we know and love, close to home and far away. We mention by name those particularly on our hearts today...

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring to you our own pain, some of us have physical pain and illness, some of us are suffering in spirit, some in mind. Thank you that you are with us. Help us to know your presence leading us out of the darkness. As we know that you can heal us, so we can have hope for our friends, our country and our world.

Lord, heal us. **Lord, save us and heal us.**

We bring these prayers in sorrow, but always in hope, trusting in your love and eternal wisdom Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*We say together*

**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.**

## SONG: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
serve him with joy, his praises tell,  
come now before him and rejoice!

Know that the Lord is God indeed,  
he formed us all without our aid;  
we are the flock he loves to feed,  
the sheep who by his hand are made.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
and in his courts his love proclaim;  
give thanks and bless him all your days:  
let every tongue confess his name.

For God, our mighty Lord is good,  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

Praise God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit evermore;  
all praise to God the Three - in - One,  
let heaven rejoice and earth adore!

## Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

## Breakout Rooms: Question for Discussion

*We're going to try just one slightly longer breakout session this week and give you a question to think about together. Do take time to catch up with each other too!*

How can we make those we meet feel they are special and welcome whatever their status?

**If you have any prayer or pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to contact**  
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