

East of Eden Mission Community Home Worship Sheet

Sunday 28th February 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Jesus lead us to the Father by your Spirit; help us draw near. As we come with awe and gladness, help us draw near. Amen.

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfHSK>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Let us pray together

God of all grace

We come before you to praise you, mindful that you are the God of our ancestors, the God who made and keeps your promises. In Christ you showed us love that was willing to die on a cross for us. The Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and we rejoice that she binds us together as a family of faith. For these things we rejoice.

We are thankful for the wonder of nature that captivates us. We are thankful for all those

people we love and care about and who bring great joy to our lives.

Yet we know that we do not live as your children or keep your commandments. If you kept a record of our sins, we could not stand. Joyously we know that through Christ's abundance grace we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Genesis 9: 8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you: never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.'

¹²And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.'

¹⁷So God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.'

Time to Reflect.

Here we are at the beginning of a new Church season in Lent.

Noah and his family have been restricted to an Ark for 378 days, not just 40 days. Which is so similar to how long this Pandemic has been making our lives difficult. When Noah disembarks and makes sacrifices to God, then God promises to establish a covenant which has the rainbow as a sign.

The grace of God at work in the midst of perilous times, this week we begin our journey toward Easter traditionally through a time of self denial repentance & sacrifice.

During these 40 days what is God asking of you, how is the Holy Spirit challenging your heart as you tread the path towards Easter?

Just as Noah and his family emerged from the Ark on the slopes of Mt Ararat, we are hoping to emerge from the shadow of this pandemic and enjoy our freedoms once again.

How have we been changed through this time, are we seeing our lives and faith through a different lens now?

Our tread then ought to be purposeful yet sensitive as we consider those sacrifices already made by many so that we might emerge into a fresh day of promise.

As Noah emerged into a new day ,so Gods promise was there, ready for him, just as God's promise awaits you each day.

His presence, his power, his grace, 'NEVER will I leave you, NEVER will I forsake you'.....

May God help us as we journey through Lent into a new day of promise.

Rev Keith

A time of prayer

(please add your own prayers where the ellipses are)

Loving God,

We pray for our world. Particularly thinking of those places we know that are on our screens on the news this week...

We pray for our communities and particularly those parts of our communities where hurt or division is felt...

We pray for those we know who are sick and suffering and ask that they know your presence...

We remember all who have died and their families and ask that you comfort the bereaved and hold those who have died in your eternal care...

Merciful God accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Listen to Faithful (Lou Fellingham)

<https://youtu.be/h0vm5JNfJ34>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

May we know the faithfulness of God in our lives, may we live with the assurance we are children of God and know ourselves to be loved. May we find ourselves faithful even amidst temptation.

And the blessing of God the Three in One reside with us always. Amen