
WORSHIP AT HOME

Prelude



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?

Imagine, God's
cornucopia as
your Soul. The
overflow of your
soul is the fruit of
mercy, grace,
and love.

Lighting the Candles

Lighting the Soul Candle

Father, yea though we walk in the dark valley of Covid-19, political discord, social distancing, and mandates we fear no evil, for you are with us.

Lord, come this moment as the lamp of our feet and the light of our path.

Jesus, light of Mercy, shine in our hearts and minds.

Holy Spirit, Light of Grace, gather us together in the sanctuary of our Souls.

Children of God, Let us worship the Father, through the Son, with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

Jesus says, The harvest is plentiful. The Laborers are few. Ask the Lord to send workers into his harvest field. Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

Special Music

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

Prayer of Confession

Belief becomes prayer the moment we ask for your council.

Belief becomes faith the moment we hear your still small voice and trust you above all the other voices demanding our obedience

**“Sud accumsan
libero pretium
pharetra quis.
Nunc elit lorem
magna vitae.”**

Belief becomes worship the moment our hearts and mind desire mercy, we gather in grace, and love one another.

Belief becomes Love the moment patience, kindness, generosity, and hope casts out fear and judgement.

-DIAM NOBIS

Prayer of Intercession

Let us not cease to gather together as some do.



Worship begins in the heart and mind. The heart and mind gather in the sanctuary of the Soul. In this Sanctuary worship is without end. Do not cease to gather together with God. Amen

Prayer gathers us together in the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayer flows through human hearts and minds.

Prayer heals the soul, not a building, institution, or doctrine.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father,

Thank you for prayer that gives us ears to hear your still small voice. (Listen until you hear.)

Jesus,

Thank you for faith that heals our blindness and gives us eyes to see You are mercifully with us always.
(Watch until you see.)

Holy Spirit,

Thank you for worship that transforms our hearts and minds into your Holy Sanctuary of Praise. (Wait until you are thankful.)

Special Music

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
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Reading of Scripture: Matthew 9

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Message

Throughout Matthew 9 we met the harassed and helpless. They are the paralyzed, tax collectors, sinners, blind, and demon possessed.

We heard the Teachers of the Law call Jesus a blasphemer. The Pharisees said that Jesus drives out demons by the Prince of Demons. Yes, they harassed Jesus. Are these the “poor in spirit” to whom Jesus promises the Kingdom of Heaven?

Was Jesus helpless? No! He clearly says that He is God with us. God with us desires mercy, not sacrifice. It would seem that Jesus sees the Teachers of the Law, Pharisees, and Disciples of John the Baptist as blind, paralyzed, demon possessed, poor in spirit, sinners. Humanity’s desire for winning, power, control, and wealth justifies harassing and sacrificing the helpless.

Before we demonize and vilify the winners, powerful, controlling, and wealthy we would do well to listen to Jesus’s vision of the Harvest. “The Harvest is plentiful...”

Jesus says he came to call sinners. Those who harasses their neighbor and leave them helpless are the blind sinners Jesus came to call, save, and heal. They have eyes but cannot see. They have ears but cannot hear. They believe in God but are blind and deaf to God with us.

To see one another through Jesus’ eyes we must desire mercy, not sacrifice. Mercy is not measured in dollars and cents! It is measured by Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. The Merciful have power, control, and wealth. They use their resources to bless the harassed and helpless. Their Kingdom resources are mercy, grace, and love.

Maybe you have heard it said that God’s ways are not our ways. Humanity loves winning, power, control and wealth. Have you noticed that these are attributes of the people we elect to leadership positions. One look at corporations, government, and religion reveals this fact. Jesus says he looks at our ways and sees sheep without a shepherd.

Shepherds tend, nurture, and care for the flock. Leaders often justify sacrificing the harassed and helpless on the altars of their opinion of right and good.. In the midst of such tension I hear Jesus call us to prayer. “Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send workers into His Harvest Field.”

Undoubtably I may be harassed for saying that today’s Harvest Field looks like people suffering Covid -19, business closures, lost jobs, our political divide, face masks, and social distancing. I wonder if Jesus sends workers to into this field to offer mercy, or justify sacrificing the harassed and helpless?

Lord of the Harvest, indeed the Harvest is Plentiful but the Laborers of Mercy are few. Forgive me, Lord for using the office of Elder to take your name in vain.

Amen

Tithes and Offerings

Postlude

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 will hold Your people in my heart