
WORSHIP AT HOME



Prelude

When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; what ever my lot, thou has taught me to say, It is well with my soul.

In the end their is a beginning.

Lighting of the Candles

We are the Light of the World!
 Lord Jesus, **let your light of mercy shine in our hearts.**
 Lord Jesus, **let your light of grace open the eyes of our souls.**
 Lord Jesus, **let the light of your love transform our minds.**

Welcome

In the name of our Father in Heaven, we welcome you. **Love, you are welcome here!**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you. **Mercy, you are welcome here.**

IN the name of the Holy Spirit, we welcome you. **Grace, you are welcome here.**

Prayers of Petition

During this time of silence remember those among us who are sick, shut-in, oppressed, and fill with fear.

6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **7** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:6-8

Sin is like a virus. It seeks to infect, kill, and spread.

Robert

Prayer of Confession

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!
 Let us pray.



What are you ready to let end? Where do you desire new mercy, hope for grace, and long for love?

We confess that we are like foxes who have holes and birds who have nest. We have housing we call home. We have a building we call sanctuary.

The Son of Man has no place to lay his head! **We lay our heads in the Law of Moses. We lay our heads in religious factions, politics, science, and the latest fad.**

The Son of Man says, "Let the dead bury the dead!" **Lord Jesus we confess that you are the first born of the dead! Let us die with you. Let us be buried with you. Let us rise with you. Let us find sanctuary -life, voice, and Peace in you.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord of Mercy, we thank you! **"This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

Lord of Grace, we thank you. **"Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find."**

Lord of Love, we thank you. **"In we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new."**

The Lord's Prayer

Music

I hope you take time to sing or hum your favorite hymn. Listen to music of any kind. Music gets us out of our heads. Music and poetry opens our hearts. It prepares us for the waking of our sleeping soul!

Reading of Scripture: Matthew 8

18 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. **19** Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

20 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

21 Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

22 But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. **24** Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. **25** The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”

26 He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

27 The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

The Sermon

Dealing with Storms.

Some of us are like cattle. We see the storm coming and walk the other way. I seems cattle never learn that storms move faster than they can walk or run. Walking with the storm gives it more time to batter us.

Some of us are like Buffalo. We see a storm coming, face it, and walk through it.

Jesus stills storms.

I thought that Covid- 19 would bring us together. I thought Temple Builders would rise up. I thought they would make their sanctuaries a place where the “poor in spirit” could enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Sin is like a virus. It has one purpose. It infects to kill and spread. Jesus offers sinners sanctuary!

Hear Jesus speaking to sin. “Let the dead bury the dead.” Friends has fear stolen our “little faith”? Jesus suffered our sin. He died. He rose again. Jesus is the first born from the dead! IN Romans 6 Paul gives witness to Christ’s Sanctuary. “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Sin is like a virus. Its purpose is to infect, kill, and spread. Sin is like a storm. The wind hears his voice and obeys. When the wind obeys the sea calms.

Who is this man. He speaks to sin. It hears his voice and obeys? Is he the Sanctuary Temple Builders seek?

I thought that Covid-19 would bring us together. I thought Advocates of Social Justice would rise up. I thought they would flood Facebook and twitter, buses and dinners, universities and lobbies with words of mercy. Mercy sets the captives free.

In Ephesians 6 Paul speaks as an Advocate of Social Justice. **10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Who is this man? His word healed Lepers, blessed Centurions, and set Peter's mother-in-law free. Is he the voice of Social Justice?

I thought Covid -19 would bring us together. I thought Peacekeepers would rise up. I thought the time had come that Peacekeepers would be Peacemakers. I thought they would teach us to beat our swords into plowshares. Listen as James talks about Peacekeepers rising up to be Peacemakers **3** When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. **4** Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. **5** Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. **6** The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Who is this man? He says he didn't have a place to lay his head. He didn't lay his head in the laps of Moses, the Sadducees, Pharisees, or Scribes. He didn't lay his head at the feet of The High Priest, The Emperor, or Governor. Is he the voice of the Peacemaker?

I thought that Covid 19 would bring us together. I really thought "little faith" was enough to get unto answer Jesus' question. Why are you afraid?

Temple Builders does your fear rise out of worrying about losing your sanctuary?

Advocates of Social Justice does your fear rise out of worrying that your voice falls on deaf ears of people who never change?

Peacekeepers does your fear rise out of worrying that if we don't keep your rules there will be hell on earth?

Hear what Jesus says to those who worry. Matthew 6: **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

I hear God offering Temple Builders Romans 6

I hear God offering Advocates of Social Justice Ephesians 6

I hear God offering Peacekeepers Matthew 6

Put the Temple Builders, Advocates for Social Justice, and Peacekeepers together and we see a sign from Revelation, 666. Now $6 + 1 = 7$. 7 is the perfect number. ON the 7th day God finished all his work and rested. On the 7th day Jesus rested in the tomb. ON the 7th day Jesus finished God's work. He is first born of the dead. He rose on the first day of the week. Today is the first day.

Temple builders, listen to the Risen Lord. Hear the word he gives you in Romans 6. Obey the word and you will make straight the way for people to die to sin and rise in Christ

Advocates for Social Justice, listen to the Risen Lord. Hear the word he gives you in Ephesians 6. Obey the Word and you will make straight the way for people to experience truth that sets the captives free.

Peacekeepers, listen to the risen Lord. Hear the word he gives you in Matthew 6. Obey the Word and you will make straight the way for people to name their fears, rise in faith, and seek first the Kingdom of Heaven.

Some of us are like cattle. We walk and run from the storm.

Some of us are like Buffalo. We walk with the storm.

Jesus calls us to be witnesses of Him calming the storm.

Who is this man who has no place to lay his head and tells us to let the dead bury the dead?

Benediction

The following was posted on Facebook. "Jesus says, do not worry. I have found that worrying really works. Most of the things I worry about never happen." Such is the nature of human logic! Take time to name your worry. Naming it will open your heart to many fears. Naming your fears answers Jesus' question. "why are you afraid." Don't miss that He is with you. He is the one whispering inside you. Listen! Hear! Obey! Worry becomes joy! Tears become a smile! Fear becomes faith! The Witness tells everyone willing to listen.