



Worship at Home service May 25th 2025

Prayer of approach

Lord, our homes are very precious to us. In them we can relax, be at ease and be ourselves. How exciting it is that you want to make your home with us and be close to us. We bow our heads in awe and wonder as we think on these things. **Amen**

StF no. 346 *Christ is the worlds light, Christ and none other*

1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
glory to God on high.

2 Christ is the world's Peace, Christ and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another;
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.

3 Christ is the world's Life, Christ and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother
He, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
glory to God on high.

4 Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;
give God the glory, God with us, my brother:
glory to God on high.

CCL 821965 Fred Pratt Green

Prayers of adoration and confession

Creator God, we believe that you formed us all in your image and likeness, a people united in our fellowship with you. We believe that your Son, Jesus, came among us preaching repentance and forgiveness and bringing the light of the good news into a world of darkness and gloom. We believe that your Spirit flows across the earth and stirs us into action, inspiring us to be disciples, to keep the gospel alive and relevant.

Heavenly Father, through the inspired words and actions of your apostles, the Gospel reaches the ends of the earth. You reveal yourself to a waiting world and bring new life and energy to us. We praise you and thank you, God of wonder! **Amen**

Lord, we thank you for Jesus, that you give us a voice. Forgive us for the times when we don't remain true to that voice and for the times when we don't listen to you. Forgive us for the times we don't listen to the voices of those around us, those we should respect. Forgive us for the times we are happy for people to be voiceless, because it makes things easier for us. Help us to be true to you in all we say and do. **Amen**

Reading: John 14: 23-29

²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

Message – Introduction

We often think of peace as the absence of noise, conflict, or problems. But what if peace is something deeper—something unshakable, even in the middle of chaos? A military chaplain shared the story of a young soldier who was caught in the middle of a gun battle overseas. Bullets were flying and there was chaos everywhere. But later, the soldier confessed something unexpected: *“I was scared, yeah... but strangely calm. Because my commander was right there with me.”*

That’s the kind of peace Jesus promises us in John 14: not a fragile calm that breaks when life gets fraught—but a peace that sticks, because He’s right there with us. Jesus knew His disciples were about to go through their own battlefield. He was about to leave them physically—but not leave them alone. In these verses, He prepares them (and us) for life without His visible presence, by giving us something better: the Holy Spirit, His Word, and His peace.

This is the reality for those who walk with Christ. Today, we’re going to look at how to live with a peace that holds fast, even when life feels like we’re living in a storm.

Obey to Abide

“Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.’” – John 14:23 (NIV)

If you’ve ever tried to assemble a piece of IKEA furniture without the manual, you know how quickly things can fall apart. That’s how many of us treat our walk with Jesus. We want Him near, and we want His peace—but we ignore His instructions. Jesus makes it simple, yet so profound: Love leads to obedience. Obedience leads to His presence. And his peace is the result.

This verse flips the script on how people usually think about obedience. It’s not about religious pressure or earning brownie points with God. Obedience is a response to love, and not a replacement for it. “If you love me, you’ll obey me.” In other words, you’ll want to do what pleases someone you love. And here’s the beautiful promise—God moves in. *“We will come to them and make our home with them.”* God doesn’t just want to visit our lives on Sundays. He wants to move in.

But obedience is the open door. If we consistently resist His voice, or close our ears to His Word, and ignore His commands, we shouldn’t be surprised when His peace feels distant. He’s not looking for perfection—but He is looking for surrender. Think of it like a relationship. If someone says they love you, but never listen to you, never spend time with you, and do whatever they want—do you feel close to them? It’s the same with God.

Are we making space for God to dwell? Is our life arranged in a way that says, *“Jesus, You’re welcome here?”* Because peace doesn’t flow from how well life is going—it flows from how close God is. And closeness starts with obedience.

Rely on the Spirit

“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” – John 14:26 (NIV)

Have you ever been in a new town or city and felt lost or anxious because you don’t know where you are. That’s how life can feel when we try to navigate without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His disciples that when He left, He wouldn’t leave them stranded. He would send “the Counsellor”—the Holy Spirit. The Greek word here is *Parakletos*—it means Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Guide. That’s a powerful job description.

Notice what the Spirit does: He teaches us all things. He reminds us of what Jesus has said. That means we don't have to figure everything out on our own. The Spirit brings Scripture to life. He whispers truth in moments of confusion. He nudges us when we're going off course. He gives peace when panic is setting in. If we follow Jesus, the Spirit lives in us. That's not symbolic. That's reality.

Many believers under-utilise the Spirit. We don't ask for His help. We try to solve spiritual problems with human strategies. It's like having the world's best Sat Nav in our car and never turning it on. Have you ever used Sat Nav? When you make a wrong turn it says, "Recalculating" That's the Spirit. He doesn't yell at us for messing up. He redirects. He teaches. He reminds. He brings us back to the voice of Jesus. God didn't design us to live life on our own. The peace we want is found by following the voice within us, not just the noise around us.

Receive His Peace

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." – John 14:27 (NIV)

We all know what worldly peace looks like: a quiet vacation, a balanced bank account, a drama-free week. But Jesus says clearly "I do not give to you as the world gives." That's because the world's peace is based on circumstances. It's fragile. It works until something goes wrong. But Jesus offers something totally different: His peace.

He says *"My peace I give you."* That means the same peace Jesus had while standing before Pilate... while sleeping through storms... while praying in Gethsemane—that's the peace He hands to us. This peace doesn't mean everything around us is calm—it means everything inside us is centred. That's why He says, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled."* He knows trouble will come. He's saying, "Don't let it into your heart."

Let's go back to the soldier we mentioned earlier. In the middle of gunfire, he had peace—not because he was fearless, but because his commander was right there. That's us with Jesus. Life might be exploding around us, but if we know who's standing beside us, we don't have to panic. Jesus says this peace is something we can receive. That means it's already available. It's not something we have to earn or create—it's a gift. But like any gift, we have to reach out and open it.

So how do we receive it? We should slow down and make space for His voice. Trust His promises, even when emotions scream otherwise. We need to remind ourselves: "He is with me. He has not left me. I don't need to be afraid". This world trains us to react in fear. Jesus trains us to live in peace. So, when things start to spiral, ask yourself—not "What's happening around me?"—but "Who's dwelling within me?" Because when you know the Prince of Peace is present, fear doesn't get the final word.

CONCLUSION

Peace isn't the reward for a perfect life. It's the fruit of a life centred on Jesus. In John 14:23–29, Jesus gives us a blueprint for living with unshakable peace: Love Him enough to obey; Obey so He can abide; Rely on the Spirit to guide; And receive the peace that only He can provide.

We don't have to live in fear or carry the weight alone. We don't have to chase temporary calm. The peace of Jesus is real. It's available. And it's waiting for us. *"Let not your heart be troubled... My peace I give you."* **Amen**

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

For God the Father, Creator of the world, we thank you. For God the Son, who willingly gave up his life for us, we thank you. For God the Holy Spirit, who teaches us everything and brings us peace, we thank you. **Amen**

We pray for peace in our world. Not just the absence of war, but also that many people will come to experience the deep peace of truly knowing you Lord, in their lives. We pray for the following areas of conflict in the world...

Come Holy Spirit and fill our lives with compassion.

We pray for those who feel they have no voice. We pray that they will become visible and know that they are cared for. We pray that they will find their own special voice in you. *Come Holy Spirit and fill our lives with compassion.*

We pray for peace where we live. We pray for people who have or currently are experiencing unhappiness or worse in their homes. *Come Holy Spirit and fill our lives with compassion.*

We pray for those we love, especially those who are troubled; and those who are ill in body, mind or spirit. We pray for...

We pray for God's peace for those who mourn and we pray for...

We pray for those who find it difficult to live without their loved ones. We pray for...

For all those we have named, Come Holy Spirit and fill their lives with your peace. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

StF no. 495 *Dear Lord and Father of mankind* (especially verses 4-6)

1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise,
In deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee,
Rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!
Interpreted by love!

4 With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of thy call,
As noiseless let thy blessing fall
As fell they manna down,
As fell they manna down.

5 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace,
The beauty of thy peace.

6 Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm!

John Greenleaf Whittier

Blessing

Lord, send us out into the week ahead with trouble-free hearts, rejoicing that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are with us wherever we are. **Amen**

This worship service has been prepared by Adrian Veale