

## A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 6 June

May the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

*O God, beyond all thought a finite mind can grasp,  
we offer you the dawning day, each present need or task.*

*O God, beyond constraint of matter, time or space,  
There is no vacuum, void or ground unfurnished by your grace.*

*O God, beyond all sight, of light and love the source,  
We trust ourselves in life or death to your eternal course.*

St Paul says 'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit; put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.'  
So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

*A pause for reflection ...*

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence. Christ, have mercy.  
Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness. Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *God's Word:*

The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When Jesus's family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' — for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

*(Mark 3: 20-end)*

*Who would true valour see, let him come hither:  
here's one will constant be, come wind, come weather.  
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent  
his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.*

*Who so beset him round with dismal stories  
do but themselves confound: his strength the more is.*

*No lion can him fright; he'll with a giant fight;  
but he will have a right to be a pilgrim.*

*Hobgoblin nor foul fiend can daunt his spirit;  
he knows he at the end shall life inherit.  
Then, fancies, flee away, he'll fear not what men say;  
he'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.*

*Our prayers:*

Lord God, through your grace we are your people: through your Son you have redeemed us;  
in your Spirit you have made us as your own.

We pray for ... the Church. Make our hearts respond to your love.

We pray for ... the world, society, our local community.  
Make our lives bear witness to your glory in the world.

We pray for ... people in need. Make our wills eager to obey, and our hands ready to heal.

We give thanks for ...

Make our voices one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Lord of life, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

*A pause for silence prayer*

Our Father in heaven,	(or)	Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name ...		hallowed be thy name ...

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom,  
that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

*God is love: his the care, tending each, everywhere,  
God is love, all is there! Jesus came to show him, that we all might know him!  
Sing aloud, loud, loud! sing aloud, loud, loud! God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise him!*

*None can see God above; neighbours here we can love;  
thus may we Godward move, finding him in others, sisters all and brothers.*

*Jesus came, lived and died, for our sake crucified,  
Rose again, glorified; he was born to save us by the truth he gave us.*

*To our Lord praise we sing, light and life, friend and King,  
coming down, love to bring, pattern for our duty, showing God in beauty.*

May the Lord bless us and watch over us, the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us,  
the Lord look kindly on us and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.