**Opening Prayer**

God of all, we come to you just as we are – happy, sad, busy, bored, lonely, or fed up. We thank you that you welcome us just as we are and are always with us, even when we don’t realise. We come to worship you and praise you, faithful God. Amen

**Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here**

<https://youtu.be/pqYXTK4JYz8>

I need thee every hour,

most gracious Lord;

no tender voice like thine

can peace afford:

*I need thee, O I need thee,*

*every hour I need thee;*

*O bless me now, my Saviour;*

*I come to thee.*

I need thee every hour;

stay thou nearby;

temptations lose their power

when thou art nigh:

I need thee every hour,

in joy or pain;

come quickly and abide,

or life is vain:

I need thee every hour;

teach me thy will,

and thy rich promises

in me fulfil:

*Annie Sherwood Hawks (1835-1918)*

**Prayer**

Loving and gracious God, we rejoice to know your presence with us at all times and in all places;

*When we feel needy, you hear us and answer us.*

*When we feel threatened, you hear us and answer us.*

*When we cry out to you, you hear us and answer us.*

Loving and gracious God, you are good, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you;

*When we have gone astray, you love us and forgive us.*

*When we have messed up, you love us and forgive us.*

*When we have followed our own desires, you love us and forgive us.*

Loving and gracious God, your love for us knows no bounds, for you even came amongst us in Jesus to share our life;

*We turn our hearts and minds to worship you, receive our love.*

*We sense your transforming power at work in our lives, receive our love.*

*We long to be filled with your Spirit and become more like you, receive our love.*

Loving and gracious God, we worship you today. Amen.

**God’s word:** Read one or more of these passages and allow time and space for God to speak though his word: Genesis 21: 8-21, Psalm 85: 1-10, 16-18, Romans 6: 1b-11, Matthew 10: 24-39

**Further Reflections: Matthew 10:24-39**

“Even the hairs on your head are counted” - A lovely illustration of God’s love for me personally. Let me respond to the love expressed here. Spend a few moments contemplating this image.

Will I get a chance to acknowledge Jesus before others today?. Perhaps through a kind act if I cannot find the words. Pray for that opportunity and the courage to take it.

But Jesus mentions fear three times here: does fear sometimes make me betray the truth? Perhaps I may know what to do in a situation but I do nothing for fear of the reactions of others.

I ask to believe that God knows me fully and values me limitlessly, so I need not fear.

**Look at the following picture:**



*This is a photo at the Black Lives Matter demonstration, where this man recognised that a counter protestor was in danger and lifted him up and brought him to safety.*

What do you think when you see this picture? Jesus message of love God and love others can bring us into difference with other people, even those known to us. Has this ever been your experience? Has fear ever stopped you from publicly declaring your faith, either in action or word? Confess this to God now if this has been your experience.

Jesus message is often different to the message of the world and he asks us to put him and his teaching first – above all things, even if that means we are disowned by the ones we love.

Bring your fears to him now and pray for courage. Know that he loves and cares for you, he even knows how many hairs are on your head!!

**Prayers of intercession**

We live in a world where price is often confused with value; as we bring our prayers for others today, we hold in our minds those on whom little value is sometimes placed, knowing that God’s love for each one is immense:

Holy God, gentle and strong God, we pray today for babies and small children; those who live near to us, those who live far away in lands torn apart by war or famine, those who are sick…

Lord, graciously hear us.

Holy God, gentle and strong God, we pray today for young people; those scarred by the past, those who fear the future, those whose lives have been disrupted in recent months and who feel lost…

Holy God, gentle and strong God, we pray today for all who are sick in body; people in our families with cancer or degenerative diseases, people near and far affected by the Coronavirus and other illnesses…

Holy God, gentle and strong God, we pray today for all who struggle to hold onto good mental health; friends living with depression, anxiety, addiction… and for ourselves in these times of uncertainty and fear…

Holy God, gentle and strong God, we pray today for all who are dying and those who have been recently bereaved; we know that your love is stronger than death – surround them with that love…

Holy God, gentle and strong God, we pray today for any who feel lost, abandoned, neglected or unvalued, for whatever reason… we know that you came to seek and to save the lost and we pray that they may know your gentle and strong love surrounding them at this time.

Lord, graciously hear us. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

**Listen & Sing:**

I raise a hallelujah – Bethel Music <https://youtu.be/e3RRU25dpPg>

All I once held dear – Robin Mark <https://youtu.be/oxpPIa-BskY>

For All You Are – Casting Crowns <https://youtu.be/vD5TgNocEWc>

Will you come and follow me <https://youtu.be/Y7Y5RWel6eg>

**Family worship for Sunday** (for family worship: [**www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome21june**](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome21june))

**Blessing:**

May God be with you, bless you with the deep heart-knowledge that God is with you, and as you share the reality of yourself with God, may you know that you are held and beloved. Amen