

Worship Material
God: a glimpse behind the curtain
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 26th May

Begin with opening prayer

Mysterious God,
be with us today as we seek to know you better.
May we learn from each other as we search for you.
Teach us to ask questions as well as to expect answers.
Give us fresh understanding of yourself today.
Amen.

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Bible notes

Isaiah's vision emphasises the majesty of the Lord. The details suggest 'the most holy place' ('holiest of holies') within the Jerusalem Temple. The outstretched wings of two carved cherubim, overlaid with gold and together 10 metres wide, served as God's throne. And cherubim were also embroidered into the great 'curtain of blue and purple and crimson fabrics' that hung there (2 Chronicles 3:10-14). At its dedication Solomon acknowledged, 'the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built'. And yet God said of the house, 'My name shall be there' (1 Kings 8:27-30). In Isaiah's vision, the Temple similarly cannot contain God, as the great curtain is put into perspective as only an intricate border at the bottom of the vastness of God's robe. But heaven and earth meet there, and the prophet is called to shape the kingdom of earth as the kingdom of heaven. The Temple is inadequate, and the prophet is unworthy. But God chooses to forgive his sin and speak through him. The scene is reminiscent of Moses' encounter at the burning bush. He too expressed fear and inadequacy in the presence of God. He was then sent to speak the word of the King of heaven to Pharaoh, one of the kings of the earth. God said to Moses, 'I am who I am'. 'The Lord', who appeared also to Isaiah, is beyond our understanding and yet promises to be with us.

Prayer

We thank you God for showing yourself to us.
We thank you God for being a caring and loving God.
We thank you that you are Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and you are with us today.
Amen.

A prayer to conclude

We praise you, God the Father,
life-giver and creator of all.

We praise you, God the Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We praise you, God the Holy Spirit,
guide and friend.

Surround us in your mystery,
and be with us this coming week.

Amen.