

Worship Material
King of the turning world
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 23rd November

Begin with an opening prayer

Gently whispering God,
as we gather together today,
silence our loud and churning thoughts,
help us to let go of distractions
so we may sit here peacefully with you,
our Lord God and king.

Amen.

Read Psalm 46

Bible notes

The psalms are sometimes described as ‘the hymnbook of the Second Temple’. When this Temple was being built, the exiles who had returned to rebuild lived in constant fear of attack and conquest, so it is hardly surprising that many of the psalms call on God as defender. Psalm 46 confidently proclaims God as a refuge and strength and calls on people not to be afraid. Instead, they are to consult their knowledge of history. How many wars have ended? How many empires have fallen? Still God remains.

The psalmist reminds us that God is king, not just of his own people but of all the nations. Indeed, ‘I am exalted in the earth’ (v.10) reminds us that he is king of the planet and the environment too. Our reaction to the chaos around us should not be fear or a desperate attempt to put things right in our own strength. Instead, we should be still and know the presence and reality of God. The word ‘Selah’ that ends the psalm could be a note for musicians playing an accompaniment or it could be a note to pause and keep a time of silence to reflect on what has been said about God. Here it could be an invitation to do what has just been commanded ‘Be still, and know...’

Prayer

O God, with praise and thanksgiving we offer you our prayers.
You bring us together, bind us together, hold us together,

in you we put our trust.

We give thanks for your constancy in our lives.

We give thanks that in a world of turmoil and uncertainty,
you are our firm centre, the stability we need,
the peace in the midst of terror, the love that overcomes all hate,
the king who can never be overthrown.

We give thanks that in all that you have given us,
there is purpose, joy, hope and love beyond our comprehension.

Praise and thanks to you God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
king of our turning world.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

As we leave this place,
help us to carry in our thoughts all who need refuge
and safety from threat,
including those fleeing war and dangerous situations.

Let us pray for those suffering
because of damaged environments,
and help us to be mindful of how our actions impact others.

Thank you for being our place of refuge,
our king of a turning world.

Amen.