

Divine Worship

Psalm 46 “Our Very Present Help”

Preparation

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”
Matthew 18.19-29

Silent Meditation

Call to Worship

Leader:

The LORD of hosts *is* with us;

People:

The God of Jacob *is* our refuge.

Leader:

Come, behold the works of the LORD,
Who has made desolations in the earth.

All:

The LORD of hosts *is* with us;
The God of Jacob *is* our refuge.

Psalm 46.7, 8, 11

Hymn of Praise

“Jesus Shall Reign” by Isaac Watts

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Jesus endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!

Invocation

Leader

Lord Jesus Christ, sovereign Lord and King of all creation, all peoples and nations, every circumstance and situation, and all of life: We come to praise You! We want to honor and adore You, and to know You better, Jesus; we want to see You in Your glory, and to enter Your Presence for fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore! We come to You from our uncertain world, certain of Your love for us, and determined to know, love, and serve You more. Receive us into Your Presence, O Lord, and hear us as we confess our sins to you in silence:

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Leader:

Now we know, Lord Jesus, that You have promised that, if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness, and so we thank You Lord, joining our voices to say:

All:

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!

All

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Psalm 46.4, 5

(St. Chrysostom: ["We Have Not Known Thee As We Ought"](#))

God's everlasting, joyous grace
gladdens the city where He dwells.
Safely in Him, we will not be moved;
when morning dawns, His love will be proved.
Fears and distresses Jesus dispels
for His beloved, chosen race.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

All

All may offer a word of thanksgiving for the many blessings of the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Offerings to the Lord

Here, all may bring an offering of praise and honor to the Lord: a passage of Scripture which has

been particularly helpful; a brief word of thanksgiving for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the Leader shall pray:

Lord Jesus, receive these offerings that Your Name may be exalted among us, among the nations, and throughout all the earth. Increase our love for You by these offerings, O Lord; and grant that we may have eyes to see and open hearts to receive Your many good and wondrous gifts which come down to us daily from You. Hear us, Lord, as we say together:

All:

The LORD of hosts is with us. Thanks be to God!

The Ministry of the Word

Psalm 46

Here the Leader may read the passage for today, or members may take turns reading verses until the entire passage has been read.

Leader:

The theme of this psalm reminds us of the Lord Jesus' promise in Matthew 28.20, that He will be with us always, no matter what, to the end of the age. To make this promise emphatic, the theme is repeated in verses 1, 7, and 11.

Psalm 46.1-7 reminds us that the Lord of hosts is with us, and that He is our safe and reliable refuge, whatever trial or difficulty we may be facing.

1. In view of this, what should we *not* do? (v. 2) How can we help one another in this?
2. Who is the City of God? What are the "streams" that refresh that City (John 7.37-39)? How can we encourage one another to partake of that refreshment?
3. The earth may crumble, nations may rage, and kingdoms may fall apart. But what remains firm and strong? (v. 6)

Psalm 46.8-11 counsels us to see the world from God's vantage point (cf. Ephesians 2.6). He rules over even the worst disasters, and He determines when they must end.

4. How should knowing this bring us comfort in these times?
5. What does it mean to "Be still" before the Lord? What are we hoping to "know" in that stillness? How does knowing this bless and help us?
6. God has exalted Jesus to His right hand, and given Him all authority in heaven and in earth (cf. Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 28.18). But He insists on being exalted "among the nations" and "in all the earth" (v. 10). What is our role in this great work? How can we encourage and assist one another in this?

Meditate in silence on the teaching of this psalm.

All (sharing):

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation on Psalm.

Hymn of Faith and Obedience

Psalm 46.1-3, 6-11

(St. Chrysostom: ["We Have Not Known Thee As We Ought"](#))

God is our refuge and our strength;
He is our help in times of need.
Thus though the earth beneath us should change,
the sea consume the mountain range;
Waters may roar with raging speed;
yet God will rescue us at length.

Kingdoms arise and rage and roar,
threat'ning the earth with sore distress;
Nations may fall, earth melt away,
His Word is yet our hope and stay.
God is among us, ever to bless;
He is our stronghold evermore.

Come see the works of God's Right Hand!
He breaks the nations of the earth,
Shatters their foolish weapons and pride,
sets all their sinful strength aside;
Them He will show His infinite worth
as they before His judgment stand.

Rest in the Lord and be at peace,
all who are mired in sore travail:
Lift up our God, praise Jesus our Lord;
proclaim to all the earth His Word!
God is our stronghold, never to fail:
thus may our hope and joy increase!

Benediction

Leader

God is our refuge and strength, our very present help in times of trouble. The Lord Jesus Christ has promised to be with us always. Go in faith, dwell in peace, and live for His glory.

All:

Amen! The Lord be with you!

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