**Morning Praise @ Home 30th July 2023**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Ephesians 2: 4 – 10 Romans 12: 1 – 8

**Reflection from Ruth**

This morning we are focusing on Living in God’s story from the book Following Jesus - in the context of Romans ch12. Living our lives as part of God's story, as described in his passage, is an encouragement to wholeheartedly dedicate ourselves to God and be transformed by His renewing power. This passage offers practical guidance on how to live a life that honours God and reflects His love and grace to the world.

We read of the importance of renewing our minds. This transformation enables us to discern God's will and align our desires with His purpose. This passage from Romans provides practical instructions for living in accordance with God's will. It encourages us to exercise humility, recognizing that each believer possesses unique gifts and talents to contribute to the body of Christ. By using our gifts in service to others, we play a vital role in God's unfolding narrative.

Moreover, verses 9 to 12 focus on the importance of genuine love in our interactions with one another. Loving one another sincerely, showing hospitality, and living in harmony enhance our participation in God's story of love and reconciliation.

Living as part of God's story also involves responding to evil with good and seeking peace with all people. By doing so, we embody the transformative power of Christ's love and become witnesses to His grace.

What is important to note is that we should be living in *God's* story, not one that we have cobbled together. His plan is far greater than our limited human perspective, and will guide us towards *HIS* purpose for our lives. Embracing God's plan allows us to experience His love, grace, and protection, even in challenging times. Our own plans may be self-centred, short-sighted, and prone to disappointment, but God's plan leads to eternal significance and joy. In other words, following our own plan will ultimately lead to failure

As we read in the scripture, discovering our place in God's story is closely tied to recognizing and utilizing our unique gifts and abilities. God has created each of us with specific talents and strengths. When we align our gifts with His purpose, we can become powerful forces of His love and grace in the world. Embracing our individual roles, we complement and support one another, as we have all been given a role to play. As we serve with our God-given gifts, we can find fulfilment and significance in being part of His extraordinary story. **Amen**

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession led by Edwina**

In our prayers today we reflect on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The following prayer is from Archbishop Justin Welby:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

Lord, bring healing and wholeness to people and nations: let your mercy rule all that we do.

Give wisdom to leaders and commanders that they may be a force for good on the earth.

Lord, be with all medics and chaplains and all who support the suffering: give them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience.

Lord, sustain the anxious and fearful, and renew them with courage from on high.

Comfort all worried families whose loved ones are in danger and surround them with your love: protect them from all harm.

Lord, be with the sick and wounded and stand by all prisoners and captives. Let your mercy be shown to all, and your power to heal and save. Receive those fallen in battle, and all innocents who have died: surround their loved ones with compassion, and give them a patient faith.

Lord, confirm what is founded on truth and establish your love in our hearts: that justice may abound on the earth, and all peoples rejoice in your peace.

Finally a prayer for one another:

Dear Lord, give us open eyes to see the needs of others

Acute ears to hear the cries of those in distress

Ready lips to speak for those who have no voice

And determined feet so that we may always walk humbly with you and follow in your ways.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**