

**Song before: Praise You in this Storm**

*I was sure by now, God you would have  
reached down  
And wiped our tears away,  
Stepped in and saved the day.  
But once again, I say amen  
But it's still raining*

*As the thunder rolls  
I barely hear your whisper through the  
rain  
I'm with you  
And as your mercy falls  
I raise my hands and praise  
The God who gives and takes away*

*And I'll praise you in this storm  
And I will lift my hands  
For you are who you are  
No matter where I am  
And every tear I've cried  
You hold in your hand  
You never left my side  
And though my heart is torn  
I will praise you in this storm*

*I remember when I stumbled in the wind  
You heard my cry you raised me up again  
My strength is almost gone how can I  
carry on  
If I can't find you  
As the thunder rolls  
I barely hear you whisper through the rain  
I'm with you  
And as your mercy falls  
I raise my hands and praise  
The God who gives and takes away*

*And I'll praise you in this storm  
And I will lift my hands  
For you are who you are  
No matter where I am  
And every tear I've cried  
You hold in your hand  
You never left my side  
And though my heart is torn*

*I will praise you in this storm*

*I lift my eyes unto the hills  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord  
The maker of heaven and earth  
I lift my eyes unto the hills  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord  
The maker of heaven and earth*

*And I'll praise you in this storm  
And I will lift my hands  
For you are who you are  
No matter where I am  
And every tear I've cried  
You hold in your hand  
You never left my side  
And though my heart is torn  
I will praise you in this storm  
And though my heart is torn  
I will praise you in this storm*

**Call to worship**

'Lord, I have heard the news about you. I am amazed, Lord, at the powerful things you did in the past. Now I pray that you will do great things in our time. Please make these things happen in our own days. In your anger, remember to show mercy to us [...] but I will still be glad in the Lord and rejoice in God my Saviour.' (Habakkuk 3: 2, 18 ERV).

**Opening prayer and confession**

Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to you. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to you in our world. Remind us to be who you would have us to be, regardless of what we are doing or who we are with.

Hold us to you and build our relationship with you and with those you have given us on earth.

**Have mercy on us, O God, in your constant love; in the fullness of your mercy blot out our offences. Wash away all our guilt, and cleanse us from our sin. Forgive our nation for turning its back on you and your ways.**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore to all who truly repent this is his gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **Song: Kingdom Come**

*Even when the waters rise  
And the waves are crashing over  
We're hard pressed on every side  
But won't give up the fight  
Surely You are holding on,  
Even when the waters rise  
And the waves are crashing over  
We're hard pressed on every side  
But won't give up the fight  
Surely You are holding on  
Father let Your kingdom come  
Your will be done on earth  
Saviour can You hear us call  
We trust You are enough*

*Standing in Your victory  
Calling on the name of Jesus  
We won't stop until we see  
The lame rise to their feet  
Surely You have overcome*

*Father let Your kingdom come  
Your will be done on earth  
Saviour can You hear us call  
We trust You are enough.  
Father let Your kingdom come  
Your will be done on earth  
Saviour can You hear us call*

*We trust You are enough.*

*To be thrown into flames and still to say  
My God He saves  
My God He saves  
To see suffering and pain and still to say  
My God He reigns (x2)  
Father let Your kingdom come  
Your will be done on earth  
Saviour can You hear us call  
We trust You are enough  
Father let Your kingdom come  
Your will be done on earth  
Saviour can You hear us call  
We trust You are enough*

### **Reading: Lamentation 2: 3, 5, 11, 14**

3 In fierce anger he destroyed the whole army of Israel. He withdrew his right hand as the enemy attacked. He was like a raging fire in the land of Jacob; it consumed everything around it.

5 The Lord, like an enemy, destroyed Israel. He destroyed all her palaces; he ruined her fortified cities. He made everyone in Daughter Judah mourn and lament.

11 My eyes are worn out from weeping; my stomach is in knots. My heart is poured out on the ground due to the destruction of my helpless people; children and infants faint in the town squares.

14 Your prophets saw visions for you that were worthless whitewash. They failed to expose your sin so as to restore your fortunes. They saw oracles for you that were worthless lies.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### **Reflection:**

**HOPE IN DESPAIR (2) A Righteous Anger**

**Song: Great is the Darkness**

*Great Is The Darkness That Covers The Earth,  
Oppression, Injustice And Pain;  
Nations Are slipping In Hopeless Despair,  
Though Many Have Come In Your Name  
Watching While Sanity Dies,  
Touched By The Madness And Lies.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour Out Your Spirit We Pray;  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour Out Your Spirit On Us Today.*

*May Now Your Church Rise With Power  
And Love,  
This Glorious Gospel Proclaim;  
In Every Nation Salvation Will Come  
To Those Who Believe In Your Name.  
Help Us Bring Light To This World,  
That We Might Speed Your Return.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour Out Your Spirit We Pray;  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour Out Your Spirit On Us Today.*

*Great Celebrations On That Final Day,  
When Out Of The Heavens You Come;  
Darkness Will Vanish, All Sorrow Will End  
And Rulers Will Bow At Your Throne;  
Our Great Commission Complete,  
Then Face To Face We Shall Meet.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour Out Your Spirit We Pray;  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour Out Your Spirit On Us Today.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

Scripture tells us that creation groans with labour pains, waiting for healing and redemption—and the Spirit groans alongside us. We do not know how to pray; there are not words to express all

that we feel. And yet, we hold on to the promise that God is with us, and we bring all that we are and the people that we love before God. In the words of Julian of Norwich, ‘All will be well, and all will be well, all manner of things will be well.’

Let us pray

Loving God, we gather in worship, offering our praise, yet also acknowledging there is pain in our midst. In whatever situation we may find ourselves, you graciously welcome us into your presence. Held in your Spirit, we can admit that it is not always easy to pray. While we yearn to trust in your promise, we have experienced the reality of lies, deceit, and dishonesty. Some of us have been left wounded by the words and actions of others, so much so that our voices fall silent.

For those who, for whatever reason, cannot join in our prayers today, we pray on their behalf. Sometimes all we can do is cling desperately to these words as life around us changes. We pray for those among us who are in transition, those who are mourning losses, those who are sick, and those experiencing the turbulence of the seasons of life.

Our hearts are heavy with the pain of those among our church family who are hurting; and we weep for those who may have contributed to the hurt. We are confused, we are angry, we are sad.

Sometimes, in these circumstances, we don’t know how to pray. And so we bring our sisters and brothers to you. May this community be a place of safety for them and for all seeking refuge. May we find comfort and rest in your word.

In all manner of things, when praise resounds from our lips, when pain silences our souls, and all moments in between, your love endures and sustains. Give us the faith to trust in your love and hope in your Word that all will be well ...

All these things we pray in the name of  
Jesus, the one who suffered for our sake.  
**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

**Song: Abide with Me**

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me  
abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass  
away;  
Change and decay in all around I see—  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's  
pow'r?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can  
be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide  
with me.*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no  
bitterness;  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy  
victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing  
eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to  
the skies;  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain  
shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

**Closing prayer and blessing**

Lord God, we rejoice in your greatness and power, your gentleness and love, your mercy and justice. Enable us by your Spirit to honour you in our thoughts, words and actions, and to serve you, and each other, in every aspect of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, may the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship

of the Holy Spirit, be with us all; all those we love, all those we care for, and all those we pray for; now and ever more.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**