

Song before

I have heard so many songs,
listened to a thousand tongues,
but there is one
that sounds above them all.
The Father's song, the Father's love,
You sung it over me and for eternity
it's written on my heart.

Heaven's perfect melody,
the Creator's symphony,
You are singing over me
the Father's song.

Call to worship

'You, O LORD, reign for ever; your throne endures from generation to generation' (Lamentation 5:19).

Opening prayer & confession

O Lord our God, grant us the grace to desire you with our whole heart, so that desiring you, we may seek and find you, and so finding you, we may love you, and so loving you, may hate those sins which separate us from you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(After St. Anselm)

Lord God, we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We turn away in sorrow. In your mercy forgive us and cleanse us. Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us to joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening song

AS THE DEER pants for the water,
So my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye.

You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything.

Book review: Under the Thorn tree – Richard Bewes

Reading: Lamentation 5:1-2, 15-22

Remember, Lord, what has happened to us; look, and see our disgrace.

² Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners.

¹⁵ Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning.

¹⁶ The crown has fallen from our head.

Woe to us, for we have sinned!

¹⁷ Because of this our hearts are faint; because of these things our eyes grow dim

¹⁸ for Mount Zion, which lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it.

¹⁹ You, Lord, reign for ever; your throne endures from generation to generation.

²⁰ Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long?

²¹ Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old

²² unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: HOPE IN DESPAIR (5)
A desperate longing

Responsive song

Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power come shake
the earth again;
That men may see and come with
reverent fear
To the living God, whose kingdom shall
outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord, in all the earth Your
fame,
And in our time revive
the church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
where we are hard and cold,
In Your refiner's fire come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
and evil crouches near,
Still our living God is reigning,
He is reigning here.

Prayers

Gracious God, you bring hope when hope
seems lost, you breathe new life in places
of grief and devastation. We pray for the
people of Beirut and wider Lebanon
following the disastrous explosion.
Comfort all who have lost family and
friends, homes and livelihoods, those
who've lost trust and hope.

O Lord, hear my prayer

As we pray for Lebanon, we pray for a
new government for that nation, one that
will uphold values of justice, mercy and

love. We pray this for all governments,
including our own. During this coronavirus
crisis, give them wisdom beyond their
own earthly wisdom. Lord, may
governments be servants of their
countries, giving leadership with humility.

O Lord, hear my prayer

Gracious God, we pray for all who have
received or will receive exam results at
this time. We do especially remember
Keziah and Reuben as they await their
results this coming Thursday.

O Lord, hear my prayer

Lord, we pray for our community of
Bowthorpe and our city of Norwich. Grant
us a vision to see what can be achieved
when we share the gospel and our lives
with others. Increase our sense of
purpose, that we may be aware of where
and how you want us to serve you. Help
us to walk in the light of your presence
and to answer your daily call to follow
you.

O Lord, hear my prayer

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.**

Closing song

Lord of the church, we pray for our
renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim;
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our ending,

Wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and
failing,
The will that lacks the courage to be free,
The weary labours, all but unavailing, to
bring us nearer what a church should be.
Lord of the church, we seek a Father's
blessing,
A true repentance and a faith restored,
A swift obedience and a new possessing,
Filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
We turn to Christ from all our restless
striving,
Unnumbered voices with a single prayer:
The living water for our souls' reviving,
In Christ to live, and love and serve and
care.

Lord of the church, we long for our
uniting,
True to one calling, by one vision stirred;
One cross proclaiming and one creed
reciting,
One in the truth of Jesus and his word!
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
One church triumphant one new song
shall sing,
To praise his glory, risen and ascended,
Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Closing prayer and blessing

Lord, keep us in your grace that we may
desire you more and more and be
examples of hope to all we meet; for your
glory's sake. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with
you and all whom you love, now and for
ever. Amen

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