

### Song before

**Our Confidence Is In The Lord,  
The Source Of Our Salvation.  
Rest Is Found In Him Alone,  
The Author Of Creation.**

**We will not fear the evil day,  
Because we have a refuge;  
In every circumstance we say,  
Our hope is built on Jesus.**

**He is our fortress, we will never be  
shaken  
He is our fortress, we will never be  
shaken (x2)  
We will put our trust in God (x2)**

### Call to worship

[The Lord] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12: 9-10)

### Opening prayer & confession

Father God, you are the one who leads us from weakness into power, from darkness into light, from captivity into freedom, from anxiety into peace, from despair into joy. Yet we long to break free, choosing independence, convinced of our own wisdom, forgetting your love and grace. Forgive us, Lord God. You take our confession and gently, like the loving heavenly Father that you are, put it to one side to be forgotten. No grudges, no resentment, no ill-will. Not like us, who find it so easy to say sorry but so hard to forgive absolutely.

**Forgive us, Father, that we are often more willing to accept forgiveness, than to forgive. More willing to accept your love, than to share it with those who have hurt us. Teach us to forgive, as you forgive, and to love as you love. Amen**

### Opening song

**Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down.  
O Comforter and Friend,  
How we need your touch again.  
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down.  
Let your power fall,  
Let your voice be heard,  
Come and change our hearts,  
As we stand on your word.  
Holy Spirit, rain down. (x2)**

**No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
No mind can know what God has in store.  
So open up heaven, open it wide  
Over your church, and over our lives.**

**Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down,  
O Comforter and Friend  
How we need your touch again  
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down.  
Let your power fall,  
Let your voice be heard,  
Come and change our hearts,  
As we stand on your word.  
Holy Spirit, rain down.**

### Reading: Zechariah 4: 1-14 (NIV)

Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. 2 He asked me 'What do you see?' I answered, 'I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps.

3 Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.'

4 I asked the angel who talked with me, 'What are these, my lord?'

5 He answered, 'Do you not know what these are?' No, my lord,' I replied.

6 So he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.

7 'What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of "God bless it! God bless it!"

8 Then the word of the Lord came to me:  
9 'The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.

10 'Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen plumb-line in the hand of Zerubbabel'.

11 Then I asked the angel, 'What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?'

12 Again I asked him, 'What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?' 13 He replied, 'Do you not know what these are?' 'No, my lord,' I said.

14 So he said, 'These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Reflection: By the Spirit

Mark Elvin

What has challenged or encouraged you in the teaching from God's Word today? What will you take away from this and into the coming week?

### Song for reflection: Not by might (Eden's Bridge)

**Not by might, not by power,  
but by my Spirit says the Lord (x2).**

**Sometimes fears can hide your vision,  
The loss of purpose chains you down.  
You think I've forgotten all you're  
dreaming of,  
But how could I forget the one I love.**

**And it's not by might, not by power,  
but by my Spirit, says the Lord.  
Not by might, not by power,  
but by my Spirit, says the Lord.**

**These mountains shall be removed,  
I'll build my temple in you.  
And what I've promised shall be done.**

**And it's not by might, not by power,  
but by my Spirit, says the Lord.**

**I can see your heart is tired,  
And your courage has worn thin.  
You wonder how long  
you will have to hang on,  
But when my love comes in,  
you'll be strong again.**

**And it's not by might, not by power,  
but by my Spirit, says the Lord.  
Not by might, not by power,  
but by my Spirit, says the Lord.**

### Prayers of intercession

Let us bring our prayers to God trusting in his steadfast love and in his willingness always to hear us when we call on his name.

We pray for God's church in the world that she may remain faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and proclaim that Gospel to people of all nations.

We pray for our own daily living out of our faith that we may be faithful witnesses to our faith in Jesus Christ.

We pray for God's world with all its needs and hurts and for ourselves that we may respond to those needs with compassion and generosity.

As our schools prepare to return, we pray for all God's children in our community that they may be kept safe. We pray that God's steadfast love may be made known to them by the way in which we live and in the way in which we serve them.

We pray for all who are in need of God's healing and peace that they may know God's presence surrounding them in their pain and distress. We pray for the bereaved that they might know God's peace.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we offer these prayers to you now. We ask that through them and the prayers of all your people your will may be done in the church, throughout the world, in our lives and in the lives of all for whom we have prayed. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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.**

### **Closing song**

***Not by power, not by might,  
But by my Spirit, says the Lord (x2).***

**The weapons of our warfare  
are not of this world  
They are mighty through God  
Mighty through God  
The power of his mercy  
and the power of his love  
They are stronger than all,  
stronger than all.  
As we worship in unity, Jesus the Lord,  
Victory comes in his name by his word.**

***Not by power, not by might,  
But by my Spirit, says the Lord (x2).***

### **Closing prayer and blessing**

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Saviour and our Friend, Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and 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.**