

A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

CMP 821

*Down the mountain the river flows, and it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
Through the valleys and over the fields, the river is rushing and the river is here.
The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
the river of God fills our hearts with cheer,
the river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
and we rejoice for the river is here!.*

A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Revelation 21:1-6

¹ Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Verse 4-5 – *the* beauty and wonder of the God who comes,.. is that He comes as the God who comforts. Look again at **Verse 4** and think about every burden you've ever carried, every tear you ever shed, every fear that's ever gripped you, every worry about the future you've suffered under. John writes...He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." **Verse 5** In this new heavenly world there will be gladness never spoiled. "The first things have passed away... behold I am making all things new". The Lord God who comforts His people.

Verse 6 The water of life promised by Jesus (John 4:14) is seen in a later vision as a river coming from the throne of God. Eternal life is the greatest promise and gift ever offered to human beings. Yet it is freely available to anyone who thirsts for it.

Prayer – Lord God we offer these prayers below in Christ Jesus' name we pray.

We look for a new world, all beautiful and bright.
We look for a new world, where never comes a night.

We long for a new world, where there's no pain or tears.
We long for a new world, where no one dies or fears.

We'll go to the city that's built by Christ the King.
We'll kneel down before him, while God's good angels sing.

We'll live in the city, and never shall we leave.
This the Lamb has promised, to all who will believe.

All things New

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray and give thanks

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, give us wisdom and faith to trust in you. When we cannot see your presence, when the way is full of darkness and doubt, increase our faith and help us to know that you will never leave us or forsake us, for you are ever with us, Jesus Christ our living Lord.

- We pray for the United Nations and for all who work for peace and unity, for peace and reconciliation for those warring factions that peace may prevail. For the people of Ukraine and for all whose lives have been lost through this senseless war.

Lord, lead us from despair to hope, **from division to wholeness.**

- We pray for the many who are facing difficult times with increases in food prices, energy bills, that the government can implement ways of helping those in desperate need. We give thanks for the many food banks who provide essential food for the needy.

Lord, lead us from despair to hope, **from division to wholeness.**

- We pray for those who are seeking asylum, especially those fleeing desperate situations in their home countries. Pray for Ukrainians who have come to live with families around our town, for the welcome and generosity they have received.

Lord, lead us from despair to hope, **from division to wholeness.**

- We give thanks for our own homes and their love. We pray for homes of strife and discord, homes where there is neglect, abuse or violence. We pray for all families suffering from a breakdown in their relationships.

Lord, lead us from despair to hope, **from division to wholeness.**

- Finally....take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time.

Pray the LORD'S Prayer

Peace

The risen Lord gives new strength to his people and offers them life and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

A prayer of blessing

The joy of the resurrection be yours.

The power of the risen Lord protect you.

The peace of the Lord of life give you wholeness.

AMEN