

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.

Hymn – CMP 167 (Verse 3)

*Stand up!, stand up for Jesus!
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armour,
each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls, or danger,
be never wanting there.*

A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ “Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD,
“and not a God far away?”²⁴ Who can hide in secret places
so that I cannot see them?” declares the LORD.
“Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

²⁵ “I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ ²⁶ How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? ²⁷ They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. ²⁹ “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

Verses 23-24 ‘Am I only God nearby,.. and not a God far away,... who can hide in secret places’.

Here, Jeremiah is conveying that God is omnipresent,... present everywhere – near or far. He is emphasizing that God's reach is not limited by physical distance. This serves as a reminder to the false prophets that they cannot hide their deceptive practices from God or claim that He is unaware of their falsehood.

Verses 25-27 ‘the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship’. Jeremiah is denouncing the false prophets in the land who are deceiving the people with their fabricated messages, of dreams, leading people astray from God's true word.

Verses 28-29 ‘let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain’.

The metaphor of straw and grain highlights the stark contrast between a true prophecy, which brings sustenance and nourishment to the soul like grain, and empty dreams which are like straw, lacking substance and real meaning.

Prayer – Loving God, as we commit ourselves to trust and walk in the light of your word, may the richness of your word, speak in us and through us, that we may always uphold the truth of your living word. In Jesus we pray. **AMEN**

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, among the many distractions of the world, may we keep our eyes, our minds, our hearts fixed on our Lord Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, that we may come to the fullness of your eternal kingdom, through Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN

We give thanks that we share in the inheritance of your saints. Grant us and your whole church a spirit of discipline and perseverance, let us not grow slack in well-doing or in devotion to you. Lord make us a holy church,...a healing church,... a hospitable church. We remember any whose faith is wavering or who have lost vision.

Holy and Mighty God – **we keep our hope fixed on you.**

Lord God, we pray for the world that peace and reconciliation would become the forefront in the hearts and minds of those in authority. We pray for an end to all these wars and conflicts which have caused so much destruction and suffering. We pray that the needs of the hungry and homeless would be met with food, clean water and medicines. We pray for the peace negotiators that we would see a breakthrough in lasting peace for the many who so much desire peace.

Holy and Mighty God – **we keep our hope fixed on you.**

We pray for our Minister's for Rev Peter, Rev Richard who is still on sabbatical, Deacon Kathy and Deacon Clare, Lord bless their ministry in this circuit of ours. We pray that as the Stationing process gets under way shortly, we may get a new Superintendant minister to replace Rev Peter. Lord God, bring the right person to this circuit we pray.

Holy and Mighty God – **we keep our hope fixed on you.**

Lord, we pray for those new people in our church, who have recently started to come and worship, will find their home here amongst us. We pray that they will come to a knowledge of Jesus as we share and fellowship each week. Lord, bless them and their families, because it's such a joy to see new families present with us.

Holy and Mighty God – **we keep our hope fixed on you.**

Finally,...take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask you're blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort and help those in need we pray.

Pray the LORD'S Prayer

Peace

*Seek for peace, pray for peace, think of peace, speak of peace,
act in peace, live in peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

A prayer of blessing

*The Almighty God give you strength to run the race
that is set before you, give you power and hope to
persevere to the end. AMEN*