

WORSHIP @ HOME



WHAT DOES YOUR SPRING WARDROBE LOOK LIKE?



Preparing for worship:

Christian meditation music <http://www.viewpure.com/g51ExyTuZbM?start=0&end=0>

Take a few moments to be still.

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'. Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting the candle:

O God, as light comes from this candle,
 May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
 Warming our hearts and brightening our way.
 May Christ our Saviour
 Bring life into the darkness of this world,
Amen.

Bible Reading:

A reading from Colossians chapter 3 verses 12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A message:



Maybe lockdown has helped us develop patience.

Responding to the changing emotion of our family members, understanding frustrations, hoping to see family and friends again, computers running slow due to busy networks, waiting for deliveries or standing in long social distancing queues,

waiting for Government announcements on what is to happen next, waiting for lockdown to be eased. . . Paul calls believers to put on patience and this is as important to us now as it was to the Colossians.

There are a variety of definitions for patience, but, put simply, it is about waiting calmly without complaint. This can be easier said than done! Consider when it is bedtime and all children in the household want to do is play for a little longer or continue to read by torch light under the covers, hoping you will not notice! Maybe a sibling has 'borrowed' something from your room which you now need. Perhaps someone you are working with has not completed something you have asked them to. When an individual is not listening, how do you respond? We have a choice in how we respond. Our natural response is to get angry, raise our voice and repeat ourselves. Is this responding calmly without complaint? We must make the choice to lovingly correct the child or brother/sister. We must make certain that the person we are working with fully understood the instruction. If we are following the example of Jesus, we respond in situations such as

these with the traits that Paul has told us to put on. When we put on the traits that he modelled, we grow in Christ.

Jesus was and is patient. We have just celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the start of the Christian Church, so what better example to look at than how Jesus responded to Peter's failings. Peter, after having lived with Jesus and claiming he would die with him if necessary, denied he even knew Jesus 3 times in that one night, before the cock crowed. It is difficult to imagine the shame that he must have felt in that moment. Yet, after Jesus' resurrection, He called Peter out of his failure and shame to be the rock on which the church was to be built upon. Jesus called Peter to shepherd His flock. To love His sheep. Jesus remained with Peter in his time of great need and, through his loving patience, brought him through it to be even stronger.

We like Peter fail. We may even deny knowing Jesus depending upon the situation. But God in His patience, in His Grace, in His love will restore us if we are trusting in Him. Jesus does this because his patience is perfect. When Jesus demonstrates his perfect patience, not only does he do so as fully human — showing us the kind of divine life that can be expressed in our own human flesh — but also he points us to the patience of his Father. It is not as though the Father is quick-tempered, while the Son is patience. Rather, the patience we see in the Son is the very patience of his Father. This is the sort of patience that we are to put on.

Patience is so important in these difficult times. It is more than waiting in a long queue with a smile on our face or rolling with changes that delay us in our day lives. Indeed, it is more than a good quality to put on. It is in fact a powerful representation of how Christ relates to us. So let us be patient with one another, strengthen each other in the gentleness of our responses and shine Jesus' light of hope.

A time for reflection:

Are we patient with one another?
How will you dress up in patience?

Closing prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank you for having the patience to let us try and fail so that we can actually learn and grow. We thank you that you are a loving, kind, gracious and patient God. It is in our failure that Your love, Your grace, and Your patience are put on full display. Helps us follow the example of Jesus and put on patience everyday. In so doing, may others can see the strength, love and hope that comes from knowing you.

ALL: Amen.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.**