

Monday 14th December

Anne Kitchener

Readings

Numbers 24:2-7,15-17A

Psalm 117

Matthew 21:23-27

“Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.”

“Bless the Lord, my soul,
And bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul,
Who leads me into life. Taize chant,

Psalm 117 (RSV)

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
And the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

Praise the Lord!

Two beautiful exhortations to praise our faithful God, written centuries apart, but with a common thread - we can rely on God!

The shortest psalm foresees the spread of the gospel to all nations and the need for all people to glorify God (Phil 2 v.10), both individually and corporately. It also instructs us to visualise eternity.

Mary would have been well versed in scripture. She reacted to the angel Gabriel's announcement with humility, obedience and praise.

Consider for a moment: How would Mary have felt a few days from the expected birth of her child? Anticipation, excitement, a need for preparation, but also fear of the unknown and the awesome responsibility of bearing God's son. Underlining all these emotions though, trust in a God who had never failed his people.

We are living through a significant period at present, which will undoubtedly make it into the history books of the future. As we journey through life and cyclically remember the first Advent, are we preparing for the return in glory of Christ, the bridegroom? (Matt 25 v. 1-13). Jesus and St. Paul frequently warned that we do not know the day or the hour!

Does that fill us with some of the same anticipation, anxiety and need for preparation which Mary must have felt?

Monday 14th

My Jesus, My Saviour

Lord there is no one like you
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name!
I sing for joy at the work of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

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Prayer

Prayer:

Grant, gracious God, that our hearts may so overflow with love and praise for you, that all that we meet may become infected by the reflection of our tingling anticipation of the spread of your Kingdom.

We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

My Jesus, My Saviour
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSQvoinDE4>

We pray for those who are worried and anxious. For those who are hurt by waiting for news.

We remember those who cannot rejoice. Be their comfort



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