

A Benediction of Hope

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Date: 23 March 1986

Preacher: Harry Robinson

[0 : 00] We sing our authatory hymn. It's number 68. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Shall we sit or kneel to pray?

[4 : 30] Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Creator of all things, we come before you.

Help us to see you. In the words of Soren Kierkegaard, Father in heaven, when the thought of you wakes in our hearts, let it not wake like a frightened bird that flies about in dismay, but like a child waking from its sleep with a heavenly smile.

Let us consider the prayer of Eric Milner White. God is what thought cannot better. God is whom thought cannot reach.

God no thinking can even conceive. Without God, men can have no being, no reason, no knowledge, no good desire, not.

Discovering. Thou, oh God, art what thou art, transcending all. Let us pray with the words of Christina Rosetti.

[6 : 03] of Christina Rosetti. O Lord, whom all thy good creatures bless and praise according to thy gift unto each of them, grant, we pray thee, that we on whom thou hast bestowed reason and speech may ever bless thee with heart and lips and may of thine infinite mercy inherit a blessing, even the eternal blessedness of heaven.

Lord, in thy mercy. Amen. In the words of George E. Cotton, O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ, to preach peace to them that are afar off and to them that are nigh, grant that all the peoples of the world may feel after thee and find thee.

And hasten, O God, the fulfillment of thy promise to pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Lord, in your mercy.

O God, our leader and our master and our friend, forgive our imperfections and our little motives.

Take us and make us one with thy great purpose. Use us and do not reject us. Make us all servants of thy kingdom. Weave our lives into thy struggle to conquer and to bring peace and union into the world.

[7 : 50] We are small and feeble creatures. We are feeble in speech. Feeble are still in action.

Nevertheless, let but thy light shine upon us, and there is not one of us who cannot be lit by thy fire and who cannot lose himself in thy salvation.

Take us into thy purposes, O God. Let thy kingdom come into our hearts and into this world. Lord, in your mercy.

Amen. May we adopt the words of George African in this prayer. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. vezesis by spottedekenis in the Father God from you near these 100 who are■ puisque to your art and finish through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Der LISA■■■■ ■■■■■■ in her hand, whether it be in heaven or even sleep, it be in heaven or even escape.

[9 : 19] Amen. The words of Francis Paget. Amen. Amen. Amen.

take counsel for the nation of the earth, that in tranquility thy kingdom may go forward till the earth be filled with the knowledge of thy love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Lord in your mercy.

May each of us meditate along with the prayer of F.B. Meyer. If my soul has turned perversely to the dark, if I have left some brother wounded by the way, if I have preferred my aims to thine, if I

have been impatient and would not wait, if I have marred the pattern drawn out for my life, if I have caused tears to those I love, if my heart has murmured against thy will, O Lord, forgive. Lord, in my mercy. Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In me there is darkness, but with thee there is light. I am lonely, but thou leavest me not. I am feeble in heart, but thou leavest me not. I am restless, but with thee there is peace.

[10:54] In me there is bitterness, but with thee there is patience. Thy ways are past understanding, but thou knowest the way for me. the prayer of Brookfoss Westcott.

Almighty and most merciful Father, who has given us a new commandment, that we should love one another, give us also grace that we may fulfill it. Make us gentle, courteous, and forbearing. Direct our lives so that we may look each to the good of others in word and deed.

and hallow all our friendship by the blessing of thy spirit. For his sake, he loveth us and gave himself for us. Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy. The prayer of Henry W. Foote. Almighty giver of all good, may our hearts sing with gratitude for the overwhelming number of blessings you have showered upon us.

[12:09] Make us to sing your song of love and thanks and delight. And in the night, feel the touch of your hand and be at peace. May you be our trusted Lord and King forevermore.

Lord, in your mercy. Let us join with the prayer of Peter Marshall. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is never in a hurry, we pray, O God, that thou wilt slow us down, for we know that we live too fast, with all of eternity before us.

Make us take time to live, time to get acquainted with thee, time to enjoy thy blessings, and time to know each other. Lord, in your mercy.

Finally, will you take your wine-colored prayer book? Turn to page 732.

Shall we pray together the prayer in the middle of the page for the family? And think not only of our own human family, but of the entire family of God.

[13:30] merciful Savior, who didst love Martha and Mary and others, power in their home of our sacred presence.

Bless, we beseech thee, our home, that thy love may rest upon us, and that thy presence may be with us. May we all grow in grace and in the knowledge of thee, our Lord and Savior.

teach us to love one another as thou hast given to them help us to bear one another's burden and so fulfill thy love who bless you Jesus who is the Father and the Holy Spirit deliver us in vain one God forevermore Amen Good morning everybody on behalf of us all I would like to extend sympathy to the family of Tim Hugman who died on Friday the memorial service for him will be held this Thursday at 4 o'clock you will notice that the altar this morning is bare of flowers which were to have been to the memory of his wife Marty and instead next Sunday the flowers will be in memory of them both

I have a great desire this morning and I suspect that you share it with me and that is to give a tremendous thank you to the choir for the beautiful music and for the accompaniment that we had this morning and especially to the work of Gillian Watson Donald who has done such a wonderful job in directing that choir these past few months thank you very much for your music applause and I also feel a great desire to thank the members of the outreach committee who gave us such a fine presentation this morning and who have allowed us to see the great work that they are doing and the possibilities that lie ahead which are endless thank you very much all of you for the work that you are doing the challenge that you give to us and I hope that our input will be helpful to you this morning after the service there are a couple of things for us thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you all thank you thank you all and we thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you contexts mirrors noise under let let