

# Prayer 11 July 2021

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Lord, we have come to worship you; you have touched and changed our lives.

You are our reason for being here – you are our reason for being!

Lord, there is no greater task to which you call us than to offer praises to your name.

There is no higher ambition that can fill our hearts and minds than to lift up the King of Kings.

There is no deeper love we can experience and no wider mercy on offer anywhere than that which we find at the foot of the cross.

We pray for Tom and Rosemary and all your people who have gathered for worship, here and around the world.

May your Holy Spirit set us free from mere formality and empower us for worship, full of free grace. AMEN

‘Living in love and faith’ is the topic of the series we are presently exploring on a Thursday evening. We all have our own thoughts and opinions and in the light of this series I am now praying....

Lord, you are changing everything.

I thought I know who you were!

I thought you were the one that I could treat like an elderly relative whom I visited faithfully once a week, or when I had time, when I was in the mood, or when I felt the need.

But you have broken into my life and made your presence felt everywhere, everyday and in every way.

You have shown yourself to be the one, true, living God and you will not let me rest until I know you more.

You are changing what I know about you.

I thought I knew what you expected!

I thought if I read your Word, if I gave to charity and tried to live a good honest life, that would give you what was expected of me.

I # thought if I gave you part of my life you would not ask for more.

But you have broken down my defences and now I realise that you never ask for a share of my life – my gifts, my skills, my money, my time or my home – you insist on having it all!

You are changing my expectations of you.

I thought I knew what you could do!

I thought that you were simply Creator, that long, long ago you set in motion all your creative power.

I thought that I could thank you for the wonder of your world and the beauty of all that you have made, and leave it at that.

I never thought about turning to you to guide me, to lead me through the many changing phases of my life.

But you have opened my eyes to see you as Lord – Lord of my body, my mind and the whole of my life.

You are changing what I know you can do in my life and my world. I thought I knew what I needed! I thought that I knew myself very well.

I knew where I was weak and where I was strong.

I thought, too, I knew what I needed to make my life whole and by filling it with more and more of this world's good things it would make my life complete.

But you have destroyed the illusion!

You have pointed to your Son on the cross and shown me that only in him can my life be made whole and only through him thought him can I enter the completeness of your heaven.

I thought I knew where you were. I thought that I could trust you in the religious parts of my life and leave you in church when I left. I thought you did not mind what I said or what I did or what I planned. I thought it was my life to do with as I wanted.

But you have gate-crashed my thoughts, my plans and my dreams! You have entered into every corner of my life and into every second of every day. You have shown me that you are the Lord and I must trust you to touch me and to change me and to go on changing me into the person you meant me to be when you gave me life.

I am beginning to know, Lord,

I am beginning to know who you are and what you are doing.

You change everything – you are changing even me!

I once thought I know so little, but now I realise just how little I really understood.

I once thought I knew what life meant, and what I was meant to do with it - but now I recognise my arrogance.

I once thought that everything depended on my but now I know and confess that Jesus is Lord and he is the one who changes everything, even me.