**LENT REFLECTIONS – GOD IS WAITING**

**Week 3: A Call to Bless Others**

**Call to worship:**

Lent is an invitation once again to immerse ourselves in the teachings of our Lord.

Matthew 1: 28-30 says “**Come to me all, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest**… learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls…”

**Old Testament reading**: **Proverbs 11: 25-26**

25 Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others, and you will be helped.

26 People curse someone who hoards grain, waiting for a higher price, but they praise the one who puts it up for sale.

**New Testament reading: Hebrews 13: 15-16**

15 Let us, then, always offer praise to God as our sacrifice through Jesus, which is the offering presented by lips that confess him as Lord. 16 Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God.

**\*\*\*\*Silent Reflection: GOD IS WAITING FOR US TO BLESS OTHERS\*\*\*\***

**Prayer**

From Christian Aid website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers>)

Loving God,

strengthen our innermost being

with your love that bears all things

even the weight of this global pandemic

even the long haul of watching for symptoms

of patiently waiting for this to pass

watching and waiting,

keeping our gaze fixed on you,

and looking out for our neighbours

near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls

the belief and hope that all things

are possible with your creative love

for strangers to become friends

for science to source solutions

for resources to be generously shared

so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need

that your perfect love that knows no borders

may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends

be our comfort, strength and guide

for the wellbeing of all and

the glory of God.

Amen.

**Hymn**

**SoF 830: I the Lord of Sea and Sky**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcxOkht8w7c>

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

I have heard My people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin,

My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them?

Whom shall I send?

*Chorus*

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night.*

*I will go Lord, if You lead me.*

*I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them,

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My word to them

Whom shall I send?

*Chorus*

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night.*

*I will go Lord, if You lead me.*

*I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame

I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them,

My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide,

Till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give My life to them,

Whom shall I send?

*Chorus*

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night.*

*I will go Lord, if You lead me.*

*I will hold Your people in my heart.*

**Grace**

2 Corinthians 8:9

“You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; rich as he was, he made himself poor for your sake, in order to make you rich by means of his poverty.”

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