

**A Service of Evening Prayer by Zoom**  
**Sunday 23 April 2023**



*Sealed into her cell* by Lesley Mitchell, 2021

**Reflecting on Julian of Norwich**

***An opening prayer from Julian of Norwich***

God, of your goodness,  
give me yourself; you are enough for me,  
and anything less that I could ask for  
would not do you full honour.

And if I ask anything that is less, I shall always lack something,  
but in you alone I have everything.

***Response***

**My soul at rest in God alone, my salvation comes from God.**

***Prayer based on Julian's writing***

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.  
In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.  
You are our mother, brother, sister and Saviour.  
In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvellous and plenteous grace.  
You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.  
Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well,  
and all shall be well,  
and all manner of things shall be well.

***Response***

**My soul at rest in God alone, my salvation comes from God.**

## ***Psalm 27, verses 5-11***

One thing have I asked of the Lord;  
one thing I seek;

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;**

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord  
**and to seek him in his temple.**

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter;  
**he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.**

Even now he lifts up my head  
**above my enemies round about me.**

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness;

**I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

Harken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
**have mercy on me and answer me.**

You speak in my heart and say, 'Seek my face'.  
**Your face, Lord, will I seek.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.**

**Amen**

## ***Readings***

### ***Gospel Reading - John Chapter 4, verses 23-26***

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship God the Father in spirit and truth, for God seeks such as these. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth'. The woman said to Jesus, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called the Christ). 'And will proclaim all things to us'. Jesus said to her, 'I am the one, the one who is speaking to you'.

***A reading from Julian – Revelations of Divine Love, Chapter 5***

And he showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, on the palm of my hand, round like a ball. I looked at it thoughtfully and wondered 'What is this?' And the answer came: 'It is all that is made'. I marvelled that it continued to exist and did not suddenly disintegrate; it was so small. And again my mind supplied the answer: 'It exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it'. In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three truths. The first is that God made it; the second is that God loves it; the third is that God sustains it.



***Reflection on the life of Julian of Norwich***

*incorporating more readings and prayers from Julian's writing.*

***Closing Prayer***

Merciful God, Lord  
who gave such grace to your servant Julian  
that she served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ  
as you would have us do.

***The Grace***

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

***Amen***

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Compiled for the Hempsall Group of Parishes by Liam Pilgrim March 2022 (updated April 2023). Material is adapted from:

(1) Online Service, '*Julian of Norwich: All shall be well*', Peterborough Cathedral, 3 May 2020

<https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/userfiles/030520%20Julian%20of%20Norwich.pdf>

(2) Material on the website of Friends of Julian of Norwich, <<https://julianofnorwich.org/>>