

Newtownbreda 15th November

Lord you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born, or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Ps 90

In our world right now there seems to be very little that is everlasting. Regulations change, guidelines alter, what is permissible to keep us safe is in a constant state of flux. Yet in that uncertainty and unsettled state the Psalmist reminds us – God has always been our dwelling place – our home that God alone is everlasting and everlasting and everlasting. Restrictions and policies may change but we are now in the presence of the eternal unchanging unchangeable God so we come with assurance and confidence and find welcome.

Father what is home for us? For some it is a place of safety, for others a type of prison. Some seek it as a haven while others flee from it as it brings no comfort. Yet you have always been where we may dwell safely. You have always been a creating God so here and now we acknowledge your creative power and your constant presence and the welcome you give us as we once more dwell in your house together
AMEN

Living God we are richly blessed and so we pause and give thanks for Your goodness and grace.

But above all and beyond all, in all and through all – we are blessed by Your love – a challenging love, a rebuking love, a healing love, an accepting love, a forgiving love. Your love is all around us – in family and friend, in work and social, in community and church. Yet we often seek to limit that love.

So when we have loved only those who love us and ignored or turned aside from those who need a smile and a hand of friendship – forgive us we pray.

God of mercy your heart is full of forgiveness and you do not deal with us as we deserve. So when we have thought of ourselves more highly than we ought and forgotten to put our relationship with you first – forgive us we pray.

When we are discouraged, encourage us. When we take for granted all you have given us and do not share what we have with those who live in poverty forgive us Lord. Remind us that everything we have comes from you and everything we do is done for the work and the glory of your kingdom so give us fresh wisdom and discernment to find your way forward that we might commit ourselves to your will for our lives as we together say as a family – Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory forever and ever AMEN

IPH 236 Sing to God new songs of worship vs 1 & 2

IPH 571 Take up your cross the Saviour said vs 1,2 & 5

May the blessing of God enfold you, may God's love light.
Your way, may the grace of Christ guide your footsteps and
the Spirit empower you each day.