

## **EfM Worship – 14/12/09**

**Song:** One more step along the world I go

**Reading:** Philippians 3 v4b-16

### **Reflection**

There are many times in life that we stop and consider where we are, what we have accomplished so far and what we are going to do in the future.

Looking back through our spiritual biographies would show us many of these turning points in life; finishing school, moving house, changing job, the death of a significant person in our life, and for us as Christians, the point where we counted our life thus far as loss and accepted the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives.

As Paul said so well, that moment was not simply the end of the old life and arrival in the new, but the start of a journey of growth. V13-14 "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"

We are "Work In Progress" and as ever I find myself wondering "What am I supposed to accomplish? Who am I supposed to become?"

I found a quote from Rabbi Zusya. He said that "in the after life, God is not going to ask him why he wasn't Moses, why he wasn't Abraham or Gandhi, why he wasn't some bigger than life person. No, he said, God will ask me, 'why were you not Zusya?' Why didn't you become the unique person that God wants you to be."

I hope that each one of us finds out who that unique person is and what God wants of us.

**Song:** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

### **Responsive Prayers:**

#### **Prayer**

(Member 1) Good Christian friends, I bid you now pray for the saving presence of our living God.

(Member 1) In this world:

**He is risen**

(Member 1) In this community:

**He is risen**

(Member 1) In this gathering:

**He is risen.**

(Member 1) In the hearts of all faithful people:

**He is risen**

(Member 2) Today especially we pray and give thanks for the members of this group as we go our separate ways.

(Member 2) For expectations not met:  
**Lord have mercy.**

(Member 2) For grievances not resolved:  
**Lord have mercy**

(Member 2) For wounds not healed:  
**Lord have mercy**

(Member 2) For anger not dissolved:  
**Lord have mercy**

(Member 2) For gifts not given:  
**Lord have mercy**

(Member 2) For promises not kept:  
**Lord have mercy.**

(Member 3) And for this portion of your lifelong pilgrimage which you have made with us in this place:  
**Thanks be to God.**

(Member 3) For friendships made, celebrations enjoyed, and for moments of nurture:  
**Thanks be to God**

(Member 3) For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given, promises kept:  
**Thanks be to God.**

(Member 3) For trust and confidence shared; times of good humour and moments of gentle leadership;  
**Thanks be to God.**

(Member 3) For bread and wine, body and blood:  
**Thanks be to God.**

(Member 4) And so to establish a home where ever we each go with other members of the family of Christ.  
**Go in peace.**

(Member 4) To continue the journey with new friends and new adventures, new gifts to give and receive  
**Go in peace**

(Member 4) To offer wisdom and experience, competence and compassion, in the ministry to which you are called:  
**Go in peace**

(Member 4) With whatever fears, whatever sadness, whatever excitement may be yours;  
**Go in peace**

(Member 4) With our faith in each other, our hope in each other, our love of each other  
**Go in peace**

(Member 5) Now, we pray, be with those that leave this group and those who stay for next year; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour  
**Amen**

**Poem:                    The End of the Year**

I will miss you my friends  
As this year draws to an end  
We've shared our stories, our hopes and fears  
And learnt so much over the year  
We've talked for hours, on and on  
It makes me sad now that time has gone.  
But your friendship will stay with me for sure  
When we walk for the last time out of the front door  
We'll follow our own paths as guided by God  
But my prayers will go with you, and my love.

*Written by: Shirley Eason*

**Grace:**

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