

A SERVICE ON PSALM 13: PROTEST, PETITION, PRAISE

Welcome

Song: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" LUYH 526, Doerksen, 1998 Vineyard

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, just as you are before your God, come....

Opening Prayer

PROTEST . . . HOW LONG, O LORD?

Psalm 13:1-2

*How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?*

Song: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" LUYH 526

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, just as you are before your God, come....

Litany for Psalm 13 (*Each line is spoken by a different reader.*)

All readers: How long, O Lord?

Single readers:

- How long before I am free from this pain?
- How long will mere children become soldiers?
- Why must there be so much strife in my family?
- Why must my friend suffer so?
- How long before our children turn to you?
- How long will AIDS ravage Africa?
- How long must I live with this guilt and shame?
- How long before fewer children die each day?
- When will cancer die?
- How long before the world is suicide-free?
- (slowly) When will the church finally be all it can be?
- (slowly) How long before peace and joy rule in every heart?

All readers: (strongly) How long, O Lord?

Meditation

Prayer

PETITION . . . LOOK ON ME AND ANSWER

Psalm 13:3-4

*Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.*

Meditation

Song: "I Lift My Eyes Up" LUYH 652

I lift my eyes up to the mountains; where does my help come from?
My help comes from you, Maker of Heaven, Creator of the earth.
Oh, how I need you Lord. You are my only hope; you're my only prayer.
So I will wait for you to come and rescue me. Come and give me life...

We lift our eyes up to the mountains; where does our help come from?
Our help comes from you, Maker of Heaven, Creator of the earth.
Oh, how we need you Lord. You are our only hope; you're our only prayer.
So we will wait for you to come and rescue us. Come and give us life...

Prayers of Intercession (with time for silent prayer)

We pray for those who suffer with illness, for those who live with pain every day (*silence*). . . . O Lord, **bring them your comfort.**

We pray for brothers and sisters living in places of war and terror. (*silence*). . . .
O Lord, **fill them with your peace.**

We pray for justice and equality everywhere. (*silence*). . . .
O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Song: We lift our eyes up to the mountains; where does our help come from?

We pray for families living in hardship, that broken relationships might be mended and hurtful
pasts resolved. (*silence*). . . .
O Lord, **wrap them in your love.**

We pray for loved ones who have strayed from you, who live in doubt and fear. (*silence*). . . .
O Lord, **draw them by your grace.**

We pray for the disaster and turmoil in our world, for countries ravaged by poverty, illness, and
death. (*silence*). . . .
O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Song: We lift our eyes up to the mountains; where does our help come from?

We pray for those living with guilt and shame, for those who feel regret every day. (*silence*). . . .
O Lord, **send them your mercy.**

We pray for people living with strain and uncertainty. (*silence*)... O Lord, **give them your wisdom.**

We pray for your church, that barriers might be broken, that unity and truth might prevail. Empower us, Lord, to be witnesses in your world, to serve you in one ministry, to sit together at one table. (*silence*)... O Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Song: We lift our eyes up to the mountains; where does our help come from?
Our help comes from you, Maker of Heaven, Creator of the earth.
Oh, how we need you Lord. You are our only hope; you're our only prayer.
So we will wait for you to come and rescue us. Come and give us life...
We lift our eyes up to the mountains; where does our help come from?
Our help comes from you, Maker of Heaven, Creator of the earth.

PRAISE . . . BUT STILL I WILL TRUST

Scripture: Psalm 13:5-6
*But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the Lord's praise,
for he has been good to me.*

*Meditation
Prayer*

Song: "Psalm 23" Stuart Townend Copyright © 1996 Thankyou Music

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters, His goodness restores my soul.

Refr: And I will trust in You alone, And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me, Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness, And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy, I feast on His pure delights. *Refrain*

And though I walk the darkest path, I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, Your rod and staff are the comfort I need to know. *Refrain*

Benediction: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Amen!