**THE TIMELESS PSALMS: Psalm 30 EPIPHANY 6B 2012**

**A CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather to praise and honour the Lord, our Saving God.

Today, we sing our reverent thanks to our loving God.

**As individuals and as a community, we praise and thank our God for giving us a sense of healing and wholeness.**

When we cried out to you in our sorrow and despair, you turned our night-time grief into morning’s joy.

**Listening God, we rejoice in the security you give us, because of your past mercy and goodness towards us.**

O Lord our God, we will thank you always and forever.

We will not be silent! Your love for us is so wonderful!

Holy God, you have turned our sorrows into gladness, and our despair into joy. O God, how great is your love! Amen.

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**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE & THANKFULNESS:**

Holy God, we come before you as a community of faith, conscious that there have been many times when we have expected the “good times” to continue; and that we arrogantly believed that we would will always be an approved voice in our community for love, peace and justice.

We regret that we assumed that people would always want to listen to us, as we spelled out our views on how life should be lived in relationships, each and every day. But with deep remorse, we now realise that we have not always taken a courageous stand against intolerance, injustice or violence.

Grace-supplying God, we give you thanks for the sudden jolt that has come our way, that has made us re-evaluate who and what we are in your sight, and in the sight of our local community. Regretfully, we needed that jolt to make us wake up to reality; to the way we have failed to be your people and your voice in a community desperate for the voice and hands of love, acceptance and compassion.

We have become comfortable and self-satisfied with our past actions on your behalf in this community, that we had forgotten that we need to make a daily commitment to your life of justice, love and peace for all peoples. We seek your merciful forgiveness, and make a renewal of our commitment to your mission of giving and not taking; and of respectfully sharing the good gifts God has so generously given to us.

Generous God, with joy, and thankful hearts and minds, we celebrate our new consciousness of our mission in this place and time, and seek your acceptance of our worship, witness and service in your name - to your honour and glory. Amen.

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**A PERSONAL MEDITATION:**

I will praise you this morning, my God, for you have lifted me from the pit of weariness and depression, and shown me that the sun is still shining on your world. For the time being, I have risen above the deep fog of depression, and I do thank you. In that blackness, I cried out to you and you heard me, and held my hand, so that I did not feel alone. Your presence helped me.

Creative pause:           I cried out to you, and you held my hand.

I will praise you at lunch time, my God, for you give me a sense of security that is so precious and helpful when I am very ‘down’. It is so comforting to know that you are a Listening God, whose ears are always tuned to the pain of your children in their needs. I thank you my God, that I have come through the morning well, with your presence guiding and strengthening me. Indeed, I will sing your praises to anyone who will listen to me, and then they will know that I am sincere in my thanks and praise of my God.

Creative pause:           You give me a sense of security that is so precious.

I will praise you this evening, because you have travelled this day with me. As the evening darkness settles and it is time for my rest, my prayers are offered so earnestly to my God. O my God, do not turn away from my when I am weak in the night hours, as it is then that I need you most of all. Yet, any separation I feel from God only lasts a moment, because of your loving and reassuring presence. As the hours of the night pass by, and my tears have all been shed, I see the morning light is coming, and I know in my heart and mind, that peace and joy will come with the morning light – and I will be able to start another day with my God. Praise and thanks are offered to my compassionate God – and I pray that I will never be silenced.

Creative pause:           I will not be silenced.

O my God, I will sing your praises forever – that is my prayer.

Creative pause:           I will sing your praises forever.

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