**67B THE TIMELESS PSALMS:**

**A CALL TO WORSHIP**

**REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING - YEAR B [Ordinary 34B] & [Proper 29B] 2012**

**PSALM 132:1-12**

Come, let us gather together to worship God in the house of the Lord.

**We come to give thanks for the heritage of our faith in the Lord our God.**

Come, let us gather together to praise and honour the King of kings.

**We come to give thanks for the faithful promises of the Lord our God.**

Come, we who love and serve the Lord, let us worship and bow down—and sing our praises before God, the Holy One, the Lord God Almighty,

All who love the Lord are called to be God’s agents for change in a renewal of a commitment to God of our worship, witness and service. Amen.

If used in shared worship, please provide an acknowledgement.

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**PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKFULNESS:**

**REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING - YEAR B [Ordinary 34B] & [Proper 29B] 2012**

**PSALM 132:1-12**

God of relationships, we come to praise and worship you this day, in the

place we call our spiritual home. We acknowledge and understand that

God is not confined to any one place, or to any specific time, but it is

here in this significant place, sometimes also known to our forebears,

where we can come together as a community of faith to praise and thank

our God for the wonderful blessings we receive every day. There are

also many special symbols from our past life together that add to the

richness and beauty of our worship of our Timeless God, and this brings

our heritage into our current reality, and for these, and many other gifts

of God’s grace and mercy, we give our most sincere thanks and praise.

Pilgrim’s God, we also come to offer our thanks and praise to you for the

many wonderful promises that you have made throughout the centuries.

You have promised your abiding presence with us in times of joy and sorrow;

you have promised that we will be upheld and strengthened in our struggles

by the God who is our Rock and Fortress; you have promised to be our

Guide and Hope when we have lost our way in life; and our Shepherd King

who tenderly cares for vulnerable creatures through life’s troubles. There

have been many other promises that speak to us in very personal ways,

when we are in need of a reminder about whom it is that we seek to worship—

our Awesome God - our Beginning and our End, and our Ever-faithful Lord.

Ever-loving Father, you challenged King David’s descendents to be obedient

to the central place of God in their life, just as we your followers of today,

are also challenged to faithfulness in our personal commitment to the God

whom we worship and serve. May we always seek to love and serve our God. Amen.

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**A PERSONAL MEDITATION:**

**REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING - YEAR B [Ordinary 34B] & [Proper 29B] 2012**

**PSALM 132:1-12**

There are many stories about King David. Some stories are flattering, and some that question his morality and his behaviour; and despite the passage of many centuries, David has not lost his aura as a *“man after God’s own heart”.* This claim always makes me wonder what it takes to become a person *“....after God’s heart”.*

Was it David’s complete trust in God; his commitment and obedience to God; his willingness for self-examination and then confession of his motives and actions; or his loyalty to his friends and leaders? It is my guess that it was the whole package—even though it was a mixture of good and ugly, that was pleasing to the God’s heart.

Creative pause:

What does it take to be a *“person after the heart of God”?*

As the youngest among a family of impressive brothers, David may have been the spoiled baby boy of the family, or he could have been the butt of boisterous and rough treatment by his elder brothers. Whatever his home life was like, and taking into account the usual glossing-over of the less-attractive elements of his character— David was God’s choice for the beginning of a dynasty of life-changing importance to all God’s people. For all his faults, David delighted in worshipping God and being loyal to God’s ways, and I am greatly encouraged by those “redeeming” features that were part of the whole package that was the person and being of King David.

Creative pause:

Do I really delight in worshiping and serving God?

This Psalm commemorates the arrival in Jerusalem of the Ark of the Covenant – that “box” that carried so many of Israel’s sacred and defining relics - and which signified to countless people the abiding presence of God as they had travelled through the wilderness, until they found their new home in the “Promised Land”. David dreamed of building a “home” for God, but that was not God’s plan. How many times have we all dreamed and planned great things for ourselves - and even for God - but which have never been realised! May we offer all our dreams and plans for God’s blessing!

Creative pause:

May we offer all our dreams and plans for God’s blessing!

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