

S.P.A.C.E.

5th August 2026

I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)



Mute Swans, courtship display

Photographed on a Gloucestershire wetland. Downloaded from <https://www.dreamstime.com/>

31 “At that time,” declares the Lord, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.”

² This is what the Lord says:

“The people who survive the sword will find favour in the wilderness; I will come to give rest to Israel.”

³ The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying:

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

⁴ I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.

⁵ Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.

⁶ There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, ‘Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’”

⁷ This is what the Lord says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations.

Make your praises heard, and say,

‘Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’

Jeremiah 31:1-7 (a lectionary reading for today)

Silence, Pray, And Communion Ending 9.30 a.m.

Silence

A time for thought...reflection...prayer

Praise

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

A prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, creator of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth

bringing light and life to all creation,

may we rejoice in this day you have made;

as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,

open our eyes to behold your presence

and strengthen our hands to do your will,

that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Psalm for today (Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills; ♦

from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, ♦

the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble; ♦

he who watches over you will not sleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ♦

shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord himself watches over you; ♦

the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ♦

neither the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil; ♦

it is he who shall keep your soul.

**8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in, ♦
from this time forth for evermore.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Prayer

Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Heavenly Father, though we repeatedly disobey your commandments
and lose sight of your goodness, still you love us.

Faithful God
we praise you

Though we reject your guidance, betray our convictions
and deny our calling, still you care for us

Faithful God
we praise you

Always you are there, watching over us
calling us back, welcoming us home

Faithful God
we praise you

Day after day we receive fresh blessings, new joys
from your loving hands
your grace inexhaustible, your love too wonderful for words

Faithful God
we praise you

A prayer of Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

O most merciful redeemer, friend, and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

And a prayer for those in need

Loving and faithful Lord, we bring to you those we know
who are sick in body mind or spirit
those struggling in their work, in their relationships,
or finding it difficult to make ends meet.
Bring them healing and hope,
clear thinking to troubled minds
and an awareness of your enduring love. **Amen**

The Collect for tomorrow, the Transfiguration of Our Lord, said together:

**Father in heaven,
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger,
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Ending

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**
Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The next SPACE will be on Wednesday 19th August

I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)

Mute swans mate for life (20 years or so) and so are often taken as symbols of everlasting love. Their courtship display involves a complex series of rituals. The head-dipping phase is probably the best known. The two elegant birds face one another, each aligning head and neck to form a heart shape when viewed from the side. It makes a very photogenic image, much-used to imply enduring love.

Today's bible passage was written in circumstances far removed from the tranquillity of a 21st century English nature reserve. While the prophet Jeremiah was writing his nation was crumbling around him, failed by its leadership. Those in power had ignored the wise but unwelcome words of a series of prophets who had foreseen that destruction, defeat and exile would inevitably follow unless the self-serving and ungodly leaders repented and mended their ways. In today's passage Jeremiah, writing from the ruined city of Jerusalem, was addressing those of his fellow countrymen who had recently been exiled to Babylon. Amid the gloom he brings them a message of hope. In the previous chapter Jeremiah speaks of a time of restoration:

The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,' (30:3)

Then Chapter 31 opens with a restatement of God's covenant promise to his people.

"I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people." (31:1)

The phrase "the God of all the families of Israel" introduces a subtle change of emphasis. The old Covenant had been made through patriarchs and prophets, and the relationship with God was maintained through a hierarchy of priests and kings. Now this relationship was to become more personal than national, as explained in more detail in v33-4:

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

³⁴ *No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,"*

The underlying reason for God's desire for a deeper and more intimate relationship with his people, despite all their past errors, is his love for them. It is a merciful love which forgives past transgressions and offers hope for a brighter future.

The idea of a new covenant anticipates Jesus' coming and his message of restoration through the action of a loving God, forgiving those who repent. But it is deeply rooted in the Old Testament, going right back to Deuteronomy.

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments." (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Above all God's is an enduring love, as Psalm 136 emphatically reminds us (it is the psalm in which each line being followed by the refrain "His love endures for ever").

And how should we respond to such love? St John provides the answer in his first epistle.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)