

WORSHIP @ HOME



WHAT DOES YOUR SPRING WARDROBE LOOK LIKE?



Preparing for worship:

Christian meditation music:

<http://www.viewpure.com/g51ExyTuZbM?start=0&end=0>

Take a few moments to be still.

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'. Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting the candle:

O God, as light comes from this candle,
 May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
 Warming our hearts and brightening our way.
 May Christ our Saviour
 Bring life into the darkness of this world,
Amen.

Bible Reading:

A reading from Colossians chapter 3 verses 12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A message:



We are called to clothe ourselves in humility. Humility is important. It is at the heart of Christianity. Saint John Vianney went as far as writing: 'remove humility and all virtue vanishes'. Throughout his life, Saint John Vianney provided an example of humility to his rural parish in France and beyond. He did not spend his life at the centre of things. He focused on his priestly and pastoral work. Bishop Norman explained his life in these words and applied it to our lives and that of churches:

'In the eyes of the world he did not shine at anything. Rather . . . it was the Lord who shone through him and drew people to him for wise council and his healing presence. It is increasingly becoming clear to me that this too is our vocation. For humility literally means being close to the earth, close to the soil, and close to people and their needs.'

Paul says in Ephesians 4:2: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." In Philippians 2:3 he says: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." There are many more Bible verses about the virtue of being humble. And even Jesus Christ "humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8).

It is important to remember that humility is not thinking less about oneself, but simply thinking of ourselves less. Humility is thinking more of others. It is the core of Christian

values. It is the key to how Christians relate to each other. It reflects our deepest understanding of what God has done for us.

The world values people according to their achievements. We even talk about what someone is 'worth', meaning how much money they have. But for Christians, someone's worth is based on the fact that we are all made in the image of God. We may all become frustrated with others from time to time, but all deserve our absolute patience and respect. Humble people do not mind if they lose an argument, because they are secure in the love of God. It does not mean they will not fight for what they believe, but they can be generous to their opponents.

Success can come in different forms. For some people it is worldly success, with good jobs and large salaries. For others it is the respect of their peers, or a happy family life, or a valued role at church. But humble people know that these are blessings from God, not entitlements. We have them because we have been given them, not because we deserve them. It does not say anything about who we are in the eyes of God. CS Lewis wrote:

"A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you."

Humble people do not look down, they look up, and what they see of the vast love of God for his creation conditions how they see everyone else.

A time for reflection:

How will you dress up in humility? Take off pride and put on humility by:

Believing your worth comes from God,
Accepting help,
Recognising your mistakes and the need to grow in character,
Always looking for the best in people,
Being compassionate and forgiving.

Live by the example of Jesus, the servant king. Be close to people and their needs. Strive to be like Him:

<http://www.viewpure.com/-xsV2TQopUI?start=0&end=0>

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord,

May we live each day for your glory. May we keep our eyes fixed on you and, though the example of Jesus' ministry, may we put the needs of others before our own. May we recognise everyone as Your children, and in so doing show love and compassion, never condemnation. Through humility, may we allow Your love to shine through us. May the light of our faith be bright and, through our meekness, may we receive the riches of Your grace.

ALL: Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.