



Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
 Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
 Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
 and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
 rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find.
 What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
 is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,
 in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
 Your bondage is freedom, your service is song;
 and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
 I praise and adore you for all you impart;
 your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
 your presence to cheer me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
 if ever I disown you, I stumble and fall;
 but, sworn in glad service your word to obey,
 I walk in your freedom to the end of the way.



O God maker of the universe in its huge vastness and in its intricate interconnecting detail,
 we praise You for your action in Creation, our Maker

O God lover of humankind with all its faults and failings
 we praise You for Your action in Jesus, our Re-maker

O God Whose power is available through the Holy Spirit promised to all believers
 we praise You as a promise keeping God
 asking You to fill our minds with Your rich truth
 to be shared in our world of false and fake
 to fill our hearts with Your understanding love
 to be shown in our world of self-centredness and conflict
 to fill our wills with Your powerful purpose
 to be supreme in the midst of the many things which vie for our interest

Through Jesus Christ our Lord Ame

Reading Ecclesiastes 2. 1-11 I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. **2** "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" **3** I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.
4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. **5** I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. **6** I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. **7** I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. **8** I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem[a] as well—the delights of a man's heart. **9** I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.
 My heart took delight in all my labour, and this was the reward for all my toil.
 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve,
 everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

**In Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2
 we see honest reflections on life**



I have tried ...
 ... philosophy/umpteen courses
 ... living it up/pleasure trips
 ... getting on/business projects

**Been there.
 Got the t shirt**

all of which were like a broken pencil - pointless!

Conclusions : "God has set eternity in the hearts of men"
 Get into a right relationship with God and then give Him control !



**Lord You have made us for Yourself
 and our hearts are restless til they find their rest in You**

Fill now our life, O Lord our God,
 In every part with praise
 That our whole being may proclaim
 Your being and Your ways

Praise in the common things of life,
 its going out and in
 Praise in its duty and each deed
 though humble and unseen

Not for the lip of praise alone,
 Not even a praising heart
 We ask, but for a life made up
 Of praise in every part!

So gracious Lord You shall receive
 from us the glory due
 And so shall we begin on earth
 The song forever new

Reading Colossians 2 6-10

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ. 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.

Instead of empty meaninglessness, the Christian faith is about fulness ...

- i. ... of God in Jesus for God has taken the initiative
- ii. ... of Jesus in us - no additional rites/experiences needed !

JP Philliips translates verse 10 as "our own completeness is only realised in Him"

Complete

- ... mentally : not in sense of knowing all the answers,
but knowing Jesus who is the answer
- .. morally : not in sense of being perfect, but recognising final authority in God
and the dynamic energising of Holy Spirit
- ... spiritually not by being big headed,
but in humble yet thrilling contact with this great God

In a world of FOMO (fear of missing out) "our own completeness is only realised in Him"

Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be
Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be
All of my ambitions, hopes and plans
I surrender these into your hands
All of my ambitions, hopes and plans
I surrender these into your hands

For it's only in your will that I am free
For it's only in your will that I am free
Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be
Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be
Jesus, all for Jesus



Lord, we would make that our prayer,
and bring to you aspects of our lives where we need Your filling
- minds with Your truth
- hearts with Your love
- wills with Your power

We seek to be available to You, to show the difference a Christ-filled caring life may make
to share the truth of Jesus in a world which seeks to ignore Him

Hear us as we pray for family and friends who may be affected by the false teaching of secularism
praying for the various Scripture Union camps and numerous congregational missions this summer.

Hear us as we pray for the various countries in the news where there is trouble
and for the work of the various international groups seeking peace and justice in the name of Jesus.

Hear us as we pray for those who are finding life hard, as they struggle with addictions, pressures of
caring, financial troubles, or chronic illhealth.

and as we sum up our prayers in the words Jesus taught, saying "Our Father ...:

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.
Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.
Shine, Jesus Shine

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.
Shine Jesus Shine