**Blackburn’s Chapel Home Worship**

**Week of 5/4/2020**

**Gathering prayer –** Jesus, you have named us and claimed us as salt and light in a world that sometimes lacks the strong flavor of your love and compassion. May we be the light in the world, serving you with joy wherever you call us. Gather us by the Holy Spirit and send us out to do the will of the Father. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**Scripture – Psalm 62**

**Reflection Questions**

1. Silence and stillness is a key part of our spiritual lives. In what ways do you see silence and stillness as important in your life of faith? What are some of the things that get in the way of that stillness?
2. Verse 8 makes the connection between trust in God and pouring our hearts out to Him. Are you holding back anything from God today? What, if anything, keeps you from being vulnerable before God?

**Scripture – Matthew 5:13-16**

**Reflection**

1. Context is key with any biblical text. This passage comes towards the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. Put yourself in the crowds gathered and try and listen to the passage with ears that have never heard the words of Jesus before. How would that change the hearing of these words? Do you hear anything new in listening in this way?
2. Jesus renames and re-identifies people throughout the Gospel and the Sermon on the Mount is a great example of this. This new identity always points towards God and His plan for creation, not an identity of our own making. We are now salt and light, serving God by changing the world around us. In what ways are you living as salt and light? What are some things we could do differently as a church to exemplify these words of Christ?

**Worship in Song**

The Porter’s Gate – “Blessed Are the Merciful”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2el5YwegO0M>

**Closing prayer – A Collect for the renewal of life from the BCP, p. 99.**

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.