**Worship sheet for Sunday 14th March 2021**

**(Fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday)**

**Compiled by Rev. James Bamber**

**A moment to be still** – take a moment to ponder the following verses from Psalm 13

‘But I trust in your unfailing love…I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good to me.’ How do you respond to these words? What resonates? What are you bringing to worship today?

StF 88/HP 16: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen here:

[Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! (StF 88) (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/praise-to-the-lord-the-almighty-the-king-of-creation-stf-88/)

**Prayer of Praise and Confession** (©Roots)

Eternal God, source of all life and love, we praise you for your gifts to us and to all people. In creation you gave life to the world. In Christ you redeemed the world, offering the promise of resurrected life for all, foreshown in his rising from the dead. In the Spirit you give us new life here and now, and challenge us to live as resurrected people in the Church and in the world.

Give us hearts and minds ready to hear your voice and to do your will, day by day. Amen.

Read Psalm 130 and a time of quiet pray: As our souls and minds wait for you, O God, we offer all of our lives; the things we have done and the things we have not done, the things of which we are ashamed and the ways in which we have hurt other people. In your steadfast love, forgive and redeem us, as we claim the promise that in Jesus our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

**Take a moment to receive God’s grace afresh.**

**Bible Reading**: John 11: 1 – 45 (You could listen to it here (up to 5minutes19)): <https://youtu.be/FRphVcJXEk4>

Picture – sit with this image, notice and wonder, allow God to draw near through it.



StF 345/HP 216: And can it be. Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen here: <https://youtu.be/Tu2uA6U4Fxg>

**Reflection:** When God waits - when all wobbles I choose trust

Why does Jesus wait? Why doesn’t he go the moment he hears about Lazarus? In fact, why isn’t he on the road even before word comes to him? God isn’t a slot machine that we feed our prayer request to in anticipation of receiving the expected jackpot instantly; God can’t be controlled/manipulated.

Was it that in his humanity Jesus sat with the truth that he wasn’t in control…something we are have been learning more than ever in recent times. Sometimes we have to sit with life in all its messiness and discover that even there God is. When all wobbles I keep trusting – even when I can’t see the sun, the sun is shining, even when I don’t feel God, God is near.

Trust invites us in the midst of circumstances that don’t make sense to continue to look around and see a world filled with grace and possibility. Trust invites us to continue to seek to be resurrection people who live proclaiming God’s good news through our words and actions.

Where do we need to hear and heed Jesus’ command, ‘Come out’? How might our faith lived out in these days attract others? Where can we declare the truth of verse 35 that in all lives circumstances God meets us, rejoices with us and weeps with us. All losses matter whether in the course of the pandemic or beyond.A professor recalls a life lesson he learned through his five-year old son. The little boy in his first year of school spent much of the autumn term creating a ceramic present for his Dad for Christmas. Finally the last day of term came. As the little boy rushed towards his parents, clutching his treasure he tripped and the project flew through the air finally hitting the floor and smashing. The son was inconsolable, the dad embarrassed ruffled his hair and said, ‘It’s ok son…it doesn’t matter.’ ‘No’, said the professor’s wife…it does matter, it matters a whole lot.’ When the little boy had stopped crying they gathered up the broken pieces…with his Mum’s imagination and a glue gun a beautiful butterfly was created which sat on the Dad’s desk thereafter.

Loss and pain matter…through them we are held…however grief touches your life today may you know it matters to God and through all He weeps with you.

**Prayers for Others** (based on material in Roots)

Resurrecting God, we pray for the Church and the world.

We pray for your Church throughout the world: that we may use this season of Lent to deepen our understanding of Jesus’ suffering; that all may be free to live out their faith as they would wish. May your whole church worship you truly, now and always.

Your kingdom come: **Your will be done.**

We pray for the world and its peoples: that those who govern the nations may seek justice and peace for all; for those we meet each day. May the peoples of the earth come to see your light.

Your kingdom come: **Your will be done.**

We pray for those who suffer: for those who wait, for treatment or diagnosis for those who lack hope. May those who suffer in body, mind or spirit find hope in the resurrecting God.

Your kingdom come: **Your will be done.**

We remember those who have died, especially those whose witness has influenced our faith journey, praying that we may come to share with all the saints in resurrection life.

Your kingdom come: **Your will be done.**

**We pray for all who encounter Mothering Sunday as a pain-filled day for whatever reason; for those who have shared in the nurturing of our lives; for those who in partnership with God empower us to grow into the best versions of ourselves.**

Your kingdom come: **Your will be done.**

**Amen.**

StF 51/HP 66: Great is Thy Faithfulness. Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

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

**Blessing**

In your watching and waiting, the presence of God, in your weeping and wrestling the peace of God, in your working and witnessing the power of God. In all your comings and goings the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace today, tomorrow and for always. Amen.