

Worship at Home - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

**Psalm 100: 1-3**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he that made us, not we ourselves;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Hymn: Praise to the living God! (StF87)**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words  
<https://youtu.be/s5Gmo1JzbCU>

*Mediaeval Jewish Doxology  
translated by Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and  
Newton Mann (1836-1926)*

**Let us pray together**

Eternal One, we gather together across time  
and space to worship you; united by the words  
we read; united by our love for you.  
We celebrate your awesome majesty, your  
holiness, and your amazing love. We  
acknowledge you as Lord of our lives.  
We sing your praise and we bless your name.

Living One, we bring you our lives just as they  
are - not varnished or airbrushed - the things we  
are proud of and the things we would rather  
hide. And we acknowledge them for what they  
are. Where we have fallen short of the mark we  
ask your forgiveness knowing that it is your  
nature both to forgive and to enable new life.

We give thanks for all that you have done in our  
lives and pray that we will continue to be open  
to your work in us in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Today's Reading from Acts: Acts 16: 1-15**

**Today's Gospel Reading: John 14: 23-29**

**Time to Reflect**

I wonder ... what picture do you have in your  
mind of Paul? Take a moment to think what  
words you would use to describe him .....

Our reading today marks a big turning point in  
his ministry. Paul and his mentor, Barnabas,  
have had a disagreement and parted company  
just as they were setting out on a new  
missionary journey. At first the going is obvious.

Paul revisits the towns from his previous journey  
and we're told that the churches there were  
strengthened in the faith by his presence. But  
then the time comes to move on ...

I wonder if the words you chose for Paul  
contained ideas like "hesitant" or "undecided"  
or "uncertain"? He continues to travel west  
along the trade road through Asia Minor taking  
Silas and Timothy with him, but he's lost the  
clarity of purpose that marks his earlier journey.  
First they travel through Phrygia and Galatia but  
they're stopped from preaching there. Then  
they try to go into Bithynia and are stopped. So  
they continue west until the road literally runs  
out on them as they reach the sea at Troas ...  
and we have no stories of preaching in the  
towns along the way because we're told that  
they bypass Mysia too. And only now, in Troas,  
when Paul has no options left does he receive  
the vision for his journey.

Sometimes we present the Christian journey as  
one of certainty ... just have faith and all will  
be simple and straightforward. But over and  
over again the Bible reminds us that reality isn't  
like that. Reality is confusing and messy and  
there are times when we feel lost.

Paul has lost his mentor, his home base, and his  
travelling companion and it takes time for him  
to get back on track. For a while there he's  
adrift and uncertain of the way to go. All he can  
do is put one foot in front of the other and  
continue, trusting that the fog will lift and that  
God will speak ... and so it is ... and it turns out  
that God was speaking and guiding him even in  
the fog.

In our Gospel reading Jesus and the disciples are  
approaching a time of great loss and uncertainty  
as they head for Jerusalem, and Jesus is trying  
to prepare them for this time. He will no longer  
be with them but they will not be alone. His  
Spirit will be with them and will guide them and  
remind them of the things they need to  
remember.

This was Paul's experience at his time of loss  
and uncertainty. It has been my experience too.  
Life is messy and confusing but if we listen and

follow one step at a time then when we look back we find that we were not alone even when we thought we were.

*Take a time to sit quietly*

### A time of prayer

Loving One, as we come to you:  
part of your church on earth,  
in prayer for our world:  
we are so often confused and bewildered by  
what we've seen,  
overwhelmed by the magnitude of all that we  
bring, and lost in the debris ...  
the very words we use,  
the names we have for you,  
tainted and spoiled by the sickness in the world.

Touch us that we might see the world as you see  
it; that we might hear the rhythms and know  
the prayer of your heart.

Guide us that we might truly understand your  
Word; that we might hold in our hands the  
compass by which to steer.

Lead us that we might follow in your Way;  
seeking justice for the outcast, freedom for the  
oppressed and forgiveness for those who are  
broken by life.

Heal us that we, in turn, might bring healing to  
others; that we might reach out in love to those  
who have been taught only hate.

Strengthen us that we might have the courage  
to live as your people in this troubled world and  
the grace to live with the consequences of that  
choice.

And the prayers that we bring for ourselves we  
now offer for the whole of your church on  
earth; that together we might truly hold out  
your peace, your wholeness, to the world in the  
name of Jesus who brought this gift to us.  
Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer *Our Father .....*

**Hymn:** Listen to "I watch the sunrise" (Stf 469)  
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0l0ipG58\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0l0ipG58_o).

*John Glynn*

### A prayer of blessing

Wherever you are today and whatever is  
happening in your life, as you turn to the  
Eternal One in worship and prayer may God  
bless you and keep you; may God look on you  
with grace and mercy; may God acknowledge  
you and give you peace. Amen.

Original Materials by Mary G Elms  
Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.  
Local Churches please insert CCCLi No here

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from  
around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home.  
This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship  
in the Connexional Team. For more worship resources see  
[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://The Bible (methodist.org.uk)) [Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://Singing the Faith Plus (methodist.org.uk))

### Acts 16: 1-15

Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was  
a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who  
was a believer; but his father was a Greek. He was well  
spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. Paul  
wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and  
had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in  
those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.  
As they went from town to town, they delivered to them  
for observance the decisions that had been reached by the  
apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the  
churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in  
numbers daily.

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia,  
having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word  
in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they  
attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did  
not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to  
Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a  
man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come  
over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the  
vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia,  
being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the  
good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to  
Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there  
to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of  
Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city  
for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the  
gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of  
prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had  
gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a  
worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the  
city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord  
opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by  
Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she  
urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to  
the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed  
upon us.

### John 14: 23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my  
word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to  
them and make our home with them. Whoever does not  
love me does not keep my words; and the word that you  
hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you.  
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will  
send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind  
you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world  
gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let  
them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going  
away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would  
rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is  
greater than I. And now I have told you this before it  
occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.