



The Methodist Church

Ministries: Vocations & Worship

Worship at Home - Sunday 24 July 2022

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Ps 85

⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in
their hearts.

⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who
fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Hymn: StF110 In the wonder of creation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-DTvOf3xiM&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYx-MLY_81soj1dufJ&index=18

Andrew T. Murphy (b. 1981)

Let us pray together

Lord God your love goes on. Your creation was born from your love and you saw that it was good. You led your people in love and when they were disobedient you sought ways to bring them back to your way.

In Jesus you showed the height and length and breadth and depth of your love as he gave himself for us on the cross.

You continue to show us your love through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We praise and thank you for your love and we become aware of how we have taken your love for granted or refused to receive that love. We are sorry and ask your forgiveness which you offer out of love. As we receive that forgiveness help us to receive your spirit that we may sin no more.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Today's Reading from the Old or New Testament Genesis 18:20-32

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 11: 1 - 13

Time to Reflect

Lord, teach us to pray.

What is prayer? At its most basic - communication with God. Prayer is not complicated - it is simple yet we can feel so inadequate when we

begin to pray. We may have total understanding of the disciples who asked Jesus to teach them. We spend our lives in the discovery of what prayer means. Prayer is not easy yet at the same time it is the easiest thing in the world. It is acknowledging the presence of God with us and joining with God in conversation. It is basic to Christian life and the disciples recognise this in asking Jesus to teach them. John Wesley in his "Notes on the New Testament" says, "this prayer uttered from the heart, in its true and full meaning, is the badge of a real Christian"

We pray it as it stands but it is also a blue print for all our praying, a template to copy and a framework to base all our prayers on. It is elegant in its simplicity starting with praise for God and for God's will to be done before moving to please for human need and finally moving back to God to acknowledge his power and glory.

There are 2 other passages of teaching in our reading - their theme is perseverance in asking for what you need rather than what you simply want and the assurance of prayer answered.

"You think it's just ask and have" I can think of many times when my mum said that to me. Yet isn't that also how we sometimes approach prayer, we ask and expect God to give us what we want immediately, not thinking that what we want isn't necessarily what we need and now is not the right time. Then we are irrationally disappointed. God knows what we need and like any loving parent provides what we need.

Disciples throughout all time ask "Lord teach us to pray". Jesus said - "Pray like this".

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

O God, give us your Spirit to keep us asking for what is good.

to keep us seeking for what is true.

to keep us knocking, until the door opens to show us the way. Amen.

For those who need bread because they starve during the daytime and go

to bed hungry,
because they lack the means to provide for
their families and communities,
because greed enables some to have what they
want while others do not get what they need.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven

For those who seek justice and kindness yet find
only ill treatment cruelty and injustice, in the
place of tenderness.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

For those who seek a place to call home, a
place where they can have a secure life
and the opportunities we so take for granted...

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven

For those who this week have suffered from
peoples inhumanity.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven

For those who are ill in body, mind and spirit
and those who mourn.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven

Lord we bring these our prayers to you in the
faith that you hear and respond. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

**Hymn: Listen to StF524 Listening God, you hear us
when we cannot speak
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it
here**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlpSOW-GlePI>

Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)

A prayer of blessing

**Generous God, bless us now with your grace that
gives and gives again. In the name of Jesus Christ
we pray. Amen**

Original Materials by [insert your name here](#)

All 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 Wor-
ship 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))

Genesis 18:20 - 32.

²⁰Then the Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sod-
om and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go
down and see whether they have done altogether accord-
ing to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will
know.'

²²So the men turned from there, and went towards Sod-
om, while Abraham remained standing before
the Lord. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you
indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Sup-
pose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then
sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty right-
eous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing,
to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous
fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the
Judge of all the earth do what is just?' ²⁶And the Lord said,
'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive
the whole place for their sake.' ²⁷Abraham answered, 'Let
me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but
dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are
lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?'
And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five
there.' ²⁹Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found
there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do
it.' ³⁰Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I
speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I
will not do it, if I find thirty there.' ³¹He said, 'Let me take
it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are
found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will
not destroy it.' ³²Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be
angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found
there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy
it.'

Luke 11: 1 - 13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had fin-
ished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to
pray, as John taught his disciples.' ²He said to them, 'When
you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

Perseverance in Prayer

⁵ And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend,
and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend,
lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has
arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." ⁷And he
answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has
already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I
cannot get up and give you anything." ⁸I tell you, even
though he will not get up and give him anything because
he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will
get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search,
and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for
you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who
searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will
be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child
asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if
the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you
then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your
children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the
Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'