

Worship at Home - Sunday 31 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

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord.” (StF 66, Edith McNeil)

Lord, as we come into your presence, help us to remember that your love and faithfulness endure, and that we can rely on you whatever may come our way.”

Hymn: StF 341 All for Jesus

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

[All for Jesus - all for Jesus \(StF 341\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

W. J. Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)

Let us pray together

God whose love is steadfast and sure,
We praise you.
God who lays for us solid foundations,
We praise you.
God who can be depended on,
We praise you.
God, the first and the last,
We praise you.
God who shows us the way,
We praise you.
In everything we do, may we praise you.
Amen.

Today's Reading from the New Testament
Colossians 3:1-11

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-21

Time to Reflect

On the afternoon I had planned to prepare this service, I was in a shop and found that I had

lost my bank card. I struggled not to panic as it was the worst time for it to happen. I thought how much chaos the next few days would be thrown into. Fortunately, I found the card and the panic was over. Little things can have a major effect on us.

Today's passages remind us to think what is truly important to us. Yes, we need money to survive personally and as a church but that is not the be all and end all. So, what do we set our minds on as individuals and as a church? Events over the last few years may have crystallised some of those thoughts. We realise how important friends are when we are deprived of them. We realise how important peace is as we hear of unrest.

Too often, our church councils are full of debates about minor things and people get very agitated about them. Yes, there are practicalities that need dealing with but we should not let them replace what is truly important. Money replaced God in the life of the man in the parable. What replaces him in our personal lives? What replaces him in our church lives? Yes, we need to pay the bills but, more importantly, we need to live out the Kingdom, engage in the mission that God has given us and share his love. Our priorities must be God's priorities - how else will the world see a better way to live than the man with his barns?

As you read this, I will be helping lead a children's residential activity. One year as I was planning for such an event, I wondered whether it was really worth the time I was putting in. I felt God say that it was worth it because the activity touched lives and helped build into eternity. Let us not build things that will decay but things that will last - and we can only do that if our priorities become God's priorities. Let's not build barns to store

things that will decay but lives that speak of God's everlasting love.

A time of prayer

Let us sit quietly and bring to God those in need of a special touch at this time ...
Let's bring to him those who have messed up priorities ...
Let's bring to him those who can see no further than the next meal ...
Let's bring to him those who cannot see out of their grief and pain ...
Let's bring to him those who are looking for the way to go ...
Lord, guide, lead, heal, comfort; show those we have brought to you the way ahead. May they build on you.
And may we, in our churches, get our priorities right too. Show us where to go and where to build. Help us to bring your love to those around us.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father*

Hymn: StF 447 Jesus be the Centre
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=884tPls01e0>
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Michael Frye

A prayer of blessing

Let us go into the world and live our lives for our God. May we live our lives for him and experience the spiritual riches he has to offer. Let us share them with those around us.

Original Materials by Alan Darlington, local preacher in the Sherwood Forest Circuit
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 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://methodist.org.uk)

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Colossians 3.1-11

The New Life in Christ

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12.13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'