**Call to worship**

I bring myself to worship.
On this Lord’s day, I am connected to people everywhere, bringing themselves to worship.

We are joined together, by the Spirit. Amen.

**Listen In Quiet: CELTIC CHANT:**

**Come be with me, all you who carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest:** [**https://youtu.be/mLy0qzcPXVo**](https://youtu.be/mLy0qzcPXVo)

**Opening Prayers** *Romans 7:18: “for I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”*

God of Grace
We come before you today with good intentions,
Longing to please you.

We come before you today leaving the messiness of our weeks behind,
Setting aside the things we often prioritise over you.

We come before you today with thankful hearts;
Grateful for your grace that is poured out not just for the best bits of ourselves,
But also for the bits we feel ashamed of.

We come before you today knowing that you change us,
Even if it is scary and unknown and beyond our comprehension, we open ourselves up for transformation.

We come before you today:
 take our good intentions,
 take the messiness of our lives,
 take our best bits
 take our worst bits,
 take our willingness to be changed,
 take us as individuals
 take us as a community
 and weave it all into the fabric of your kingdom.

May your words of grace, that our sins are forgiven speak to us this day. Take us, use us, change us, Lord.

Open our hearts in worship, so that we might see more of You. Amen.

**God’s word:** Read one or more of these passages and allow time and space for God to speak though his word: Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67, Psalm 45:10-17, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30.

**Further Reflections on Matthew 11:25-30:** *written by* [*Loretta Pehanich*](https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/author/pehanich/) *on ignatianspirituality.com*

*Read the following meditation….allow yourself to enter into this story……..*

Jesus and I played together as boys in the streets of Nazareth. I liked to run to the carpenter’s shop to watch his dad skilfully construct all kinds of things out of wood.

Joseph mastered the yoke so necessary to guide oxen in the fields. They fit each animal perfectly. Joseph would custom design a yoke for a farmer’s specific animals. Joseph measured height and shoulder width so that the yokes allowed oxen to work comfortably together. Under a well-constructed yoke, they could work easily as a team. People from all over came to Joseph for the best yokes.

That was the skill that Jesus and I watched between games and scuffles long ago.

I now live in Capernaum. Everything seems to be going wrong for me lately. Why? The law feels like a burden. How can I pray when all I see are troubles? We are barely making it; our savings are gone.

I went to the village to find some solutions, and there was my childhood friend, preaching. I paused and melted into the crowd, listening as he praised God his Father. He talked about how God hid things from the learned and wise but revealed them to childlike souls.

Jesus made eye contact with me, the corners of his mouth turning up just slightly, and I felt as if our childhood days suddenly came to mind, inspiring him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,” he said, “and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.”

I could almost smell the sawdust and hear the sandpaper swooshing across the wood as his father silently coaxed it into shape. I suddenly remembered Jesus’ mother coming out to us in the carpentry shop, bringing a pitcher of water and offering each of us a drink. Joseph would pause, wiping the sweat from his face with his sleeve, and lovingly peck Mary on the cheek before downing the water in one gulp.

There was an intangible something special about this family. Still it was hard for me to accept the rumours circulating that Jesus was the Messiah.

His words riveted me to the spot. “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light,” Jesus said, looking at me again. It was as if he could see my inner struggles, my overwhelmed life. My hunched shoulders suddenly lifted.

Of course, Jesus learned how to make a yoke from his father. Now he was preaching about a light yoke. Could my old playmate really carry off my concerns? Could he really be God’s anointed one?

Hearing Jesus gave me courage. My mind remembered inspiring words from the Torah. Yes, God can get me through these difficulties. I felt renewed hope.

I went to the village looking for temporary solutions to temporal problems. I came home with a longer-term solution: reliance on the providence of God.

**Look at the following picture:**

Is this you / has been you?

Jesus invites all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. This simple invitation goes straight to the heart. Spend time letting it echo within you, as you bring to Jesus all your weariness and heavy burdens, one by one.

**Prayers of intercession**

Living God, we come before you in this time of prayer.

We do not always understand the power of prayer and feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the task – the desire to speak to you openly and honestly about ourselves, our world, our faith.

As we pray Lord, we ask you to move us beyond our doubts and our uncertainties.

Move us by your Spirit.

Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

In this time of prayer, O God, we bring you a world in need, a world in pain, a world seeking for hope, for joy, for peace.

We hold up all those affected by the Coronavirus:
all working on the front-line to support those most in need;
all those enabling our lives to continue to function;
all those working in hospitals and health centres around the world;
all those seeking a vaccine and at the fore-front of research.

We bring to you all those whose lives have been made worse by this virus:
those who have lost loved ones;
those who are living with symptoms;
those living in fear;
those in situations, countries or environments that make it impossible to self-isolate or feel safe.

We bring you all the concerns and fears in our world that have been ignored, overlooked or moved lower-down the priority list because of global attention on the pandemic:
those without a home;
those living in poverty;
those living with other diseases or health conditions.

We pray for all those seeking a better world.

May we work together, in Jesus’ name, to bring about a better world.
May I find my place, my calling, and know the Spirit moving through me.

By the power of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Listen & Sing:**

Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling - Wesley <https://youtu.be/JGGcqhKShQ8>

Reckless Love of God – Bethel Music <https://youtu.be/Sc6SSHuZvQE>

Here is love vast as the ocean <https://youtu.be/v8YOPj5TnUM>

To God be the glory <https://youtu.be/-15v9iworAU>

**Comedy Section**

Mrs Beamish - Richard Stilgoe <https://youtu.be/Uc80G6Yzu04>

**Family worship for Sunday** (for family worship: [**www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome06jul**](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome06jul))

**Blessing:**

May the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest and remain with each of us sharing His worship today and always.