**Worship for Sunday** (for family worship: [**www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome17may**](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome17may))

**Pause in God’s Presence:**

God invites you…come be a while with me. Take a moment to quiet, to breathe deeply, to let go of distractions and allow God to meet you where you are.

Gracious God, just as we are in this moment we come – with our joys and hopes, our sorrows and disappointments, our questions and our certainties, with what we have done and with who we are. In you we live and move and have our being. In your love we find all we need for each moment of every day. You never leave us nor forsake us even though we do not always recognise or acknowledge you. For all that you are and all that you give we praise you loving God. **Amen.**

**God’s word:** Read one or more of these passages and allow time and space for God to speak though his word: Act 17: 22 – 31, Psalm 66: 8 -20, 1 Peter 3: 13 – 22, John 14: 15 - 21.

**Explore God’s Word:** You might like to colour in the picture provided and reflect on what difference God being present in your everyday makes. How is the Spirit present to you and through you? Could you send this prayer coloured in to someone who might benefit from its encouragement?



**Look and think:**



What might this picture have to say in view of the readings today? How might it speak of relationship?

How easy is it to balance the commandments in the Bible with the love which Jesus offers?

What sort of things do you regularly do for other people, just because you love them?

What is God’s invitation to you through this picture?

**Reflection:** Read the following slowly and be alert to where God is drawing your attention. Sit with Him and ponder what His meaning might be.

Advocate

Not a judge or prosecutor,
but a defense attorney.
I believe in you.
I see your beauty, your glory even,
better than you.
I will advocate for you
against those who accuse,
against every obstacle,
against the voice in your head
that says you're not good enough.
I will counsel you
in every challenge and disappointment.
You don't have to call for me;
I am here. Forever.
I will advocate for you
against your uncertainty,
your fear and shame,
for the sake of that person
that even to this day
is still hidden.
I am the Yes of God
within you.

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**Prayers**

God of attentive, loving listening, hear our prayers for your troubled world. We bring into your love those who seek truth and justice, who pursue the paths of peace, those who campaign and give voice to the plight of the voiceless. We pray for all seeking the good of all amid the challenges of Covid-19 and remember all who continue to struggle in this current pattern of living.

Lord of love, be a comfort to all who are sorrowful, a companion to the lonely, a challenge to the comfortable and a cherisher of all who feel unloved, who are abused or neglected.

Ever near God strengthen our resolve as your followers to love you as best we can, and strengthen our commitment to make your love visible where you place us. Live in us that our words might bring life and hope, joy and peace; our actions demonstrate kindness and warmth; our presence offer light and reassurance – for Jesus’ sake who taught his disciples to pray, Our Father…. **Amen.**

This week in your prayers remember our congregation at Great Barford and Rev James Bamber their minister.

**Listen & Sing:**

Brother, sister, let me serve you https://youtu.be/hlNoxoOocZs

Great is thy faithfulness <https://youtu.be/dTKIqmdfHSk>

Love divine, all loves excelling <https://youtu.be/eOLcOPXJE34>

I will rise https://youtu.be/fa8w7mGug0c

**Blessing:**

In peace go and live in God’s love, be ready always to share God’s love, trust always that His love will never end and the blessing of The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit enfold you and all whom you cherish and pray for today and every day. Amen