

Worship at Home - Sunday 1 May 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

Almighty God, we gather in your presence once again. Lord, be with us and bless us so that this time of worship may edify us and bring you glory. Amen

Hymn: StF28 Jesus calls us here to meet him  
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuIQuvsFD00>

*John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)*

### Let us pray together

God of all, we come to proclaim your greatness, to sing of your might and to declare your majesty. We lift up our hearts and voices to praise you for all you have accomplished in Christ. We come to praise you for your faithfulness, your amazing grace and forgiveness.

We come to acknowledge Jesus as our Saviour and master - the way, truth and the life.

We praise you for the constant presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we worship you today, draw us closer to you and to Christ.

Merciful God, we are ashamed of our weakness and faults, selfishness, pride and envy, the feeble discipleship and the shallowness of our faith.

Help us to live as your people, worthy of our calling and bring you honour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Prayers adapted from Nick Fawcett's 'Prayers for all seasons', 1& 2.*

### Today's Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19

### Time to Reflect

Once again, we have a familiar text for this Sunday. I am reflecting on Jesus' question to Simon Peter, "Do you love me?" This question is

asked not once, not twice, but three times! Of course, many agree that this is a reversal of Peter's denial of Jesus three times earlier.

*But why did Jesus ask Peter this question?*

*Why did he not ask the other eleven disciples?*

*Was Jesus 'love-sick' after his resurrection?*

*What did Jesus want to convey to Peter?*

*Was it meant to be a clear reminder of Peter's betrayal?*

*Was there something that none of the disciples knew or anticipated...?*

It is worthwhile noting that Jesus used the Greek word '*agapas*' here whereas Peter used the word '*philo*' in his response. Biblical commentators think that after the betrayal, Peter became a little reserved and hence he used reciprocal 'friendly love' ('*philo*') rather than 'unselfish, unconditional, committed love' (*agapas*).

We know from the text that Jesus was not seeking apology or request for forgiveness from Peter; what he was sought was commitment, focus and passion to care for his 'sheep' as this decision would require Peter to be out of his comfort zone throughout his future ministry. It was important for Jesus to restore Peter before his ascension, and also to confirm whether Peter was willing or not! We read, "*Peter was grieved because Jesus said to him the third time, do you love me?*" (v. 17).

How will you respond if Jesus appears in your own situation and asks, do you love me? Are you prepared to hear what he tells you to do in our situations?

How much do we commit to Jesus' mission and kingdom? Are we saying to Jesus - what about him, her/others? Churches have changed in all kinds of way recently, particularly during the current pandemic. So is our commitment to see

church function, as it was pre-pandemic time even sustainable? How will those activities further the Kingdom of God? Should our discipleship be focused on maintenance of our church buildings? Let us ask the Lord to give us a renewed vision, a fresh passion and a courageous heart, so that we may do what He calls us to do in the current circumstances.

Take a time to sit quietly

### A time of prayer

All knowing God, we thank you for our calling as your disciples. We acknowledge that your love is beyond our understanding. So we pray for those who feel that they are unworthy of your love... May they be touched afresh as Peter was touched and restored by Jesus.

Lord God, we pray for those whose faith is tested daily due to poverty, persecution or any other difficulty. May they have the courage to trust in Jesus.

We pray for those too who find Christian faith not relevant, those who are searching you in other things. May they be moved by the Holy Spirit to 'know' you as St. Paul knew on the road to Damascus.

We pray for the leaders of nations, church leaders and, our Queen and the royal family. May they have your wisdom and discernment to act responsibly and work for the good of all.

We ask all these prayers in confidence and in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

**Hymn: StF674 Would I have answered**  
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqxQVzqODAU>  
**or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**

*Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr (1923-2007)*

### A prayer of blessing

Gracious God,  
take our faith, flawed though it is,  
our love, poor though it may be,  
and our commitment, for all its imperfections,  
and use us in your service  
to make known your gracious purpose,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Original Materials by Rev. Nutan Sandhya Joseph Suray  
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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.

### Gospel Reading: John 21.1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. <sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."