

Worship at Home - Sunday July 10th 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

May God be with us in the stillness and in the routine of our day, and may God give us hope, peace and blessing this day, and all our days.

Hymn: StF8 God with us: Creator, Father
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkaih98SO2A>

God with us: Creator, Father,
bringing everything to birth;
Mother of the whole creation,
fire of stars and life of earth:
down the countless years composing,
from the earth's evolving night,
love's response to love, and forming
mind and soul to seek your light.

God with us: Redeemer, Brother,
Friend for ever at our side,
here, in flesh, you walked among us,
taking up your cross, you died.
Crucified, despised, rejected,
Perfect Love, who shared our shame,
streaming from the cross, your judgement,
full of mercy, clears our name.

God with us: Unwearied Spirit,
from the birth of time and space,
surging through unconscious being,
joyful, Life-Creating Grace:
through the centuries you find us;
you, as God, inspire our prayer;

Life and Power at work within us,
Love for ever, everywhere!

God, Transcendent, far beyond us,
closest Friend, unfailing Guide:

through the ages, wronged, affronted,
in your poor, still crucified!
God with us: convict, forgive us;
by your holy love destroy
all that hinders peace and justice:
fill this aching world with joy!

Alan Gaunt (b. 1935)

Let us pray together

Creator God, you are with us, your people in this world. May your love inspire us and your blessing unite us; that we may bring this day to you in confidence and in joy as we share your light, freedom, hope and forgiveness. We ask our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 10 v 25 - 37

Time to Reflect

This passage from Luke's gospel begins with a question from a lawyer and ends up with a question from Jesus. A lawyer stands up to test Jesus and asks Jesus about how he might inherit eternal life. Jesus asks him what it says in the law and the lawyer tells him that the first two commandments, to love God and to love our neighbour are the two most important ones. Jesus commends him for his answer and tells him that these are the best two of the commandments to live by. The lawyer though wanted to take this further and asked Jesus, 'Who is my neighbour?' to which Jesus replies by telling him and us, the parable of the Good Samaritan. This now a well known parable about a man being robbed, after which religious people go by on the other side leaving the man there until a Samaritan stops and helps, is one which speaks to us

today as we ask the same question, 'Who is my neighbour?'. We live in an interconnected world where our knowledge of one another is increased through travel and digital communications. In today's world our neighbour can be someone we see across the world as well as someone across the street. Jesus knew the complexity of the world but he also knew that at the heart of faith is the love of God and that faith encourages us to respond to people as well as to God. The question that Jesus asks of the lawyer at the end of today's Gospel reading shows that Jesus sees faith as having the potential for changing lives in many different ways. He asks the lawyer, 'Who is a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'. The lawyer replies, 'The one who showed him mercy'. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise'. Here we see the power of this story which is made more powerful through the intervention of someone who would have been expected *not* to help out because of long standing historical differences. Jesus is showing us through this parable that faith, life and love interact through prayer and practical action which show something of the hope that we find in our world. Perhaps we might revisit how we care for those in need both near to us and across the world, remembering this parable and reflecting too on the Micah challenge, to 'Live justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God'. Here we see that both the Old and New Testaments give us insight into how we might share the way of God through prayer and appropriate practical action in our world today.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Today is Action for Children Sunday. We begin with a prayer written for today by the team at Action for Children

Loving, creator God. Thank you for making us all to shine your light. Give us courage and determination to make a difference to children whose stars are dimmed. Bless the work of Action for Children as they seek to protect and reveal the star in every child. Amen

We pray for all those, especially children, who are caught up in the conflicts of our world remembering the people of Ukraine

and many others whose lives are being challenged by the conflicts around them.

We pray for the Church of which we are a part, giving thanks for the faith that we share together. May we continue to be inspired by our faith and continue to celebrate the way of God in our world today.

We pray for those who are important to us; our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for them and remember them today.

We pray for those in need, praying for those who are ill, those who live with challenging situations, those who mourn and all who seek peace in their lives this day.

We remember those who have died, giving thanks for them and the deep memories we have of them. May we be given the assurance of hope in the eternal nature of God's love now and always.

A time of silence to add your own prayers

The Lord hears our prayer. Thanks be to God

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Listen to Beauty for Brokenness (Graham Kendrick)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO1G-o7Yj-c>

A prayer of blessing

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory; and may God's blessing and peace go with us. Amen

Original Materials by Rev Philip Wagstaff
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Local Churches please insert CCLI 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://The Bible (methodist.org.uk))

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