

## Worship at Home - Sunday 28 August 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.

### Call to Worship

We come to worship a wonderful God.  
We come not as slaves, but as the truly free;  
not as petitioners, but as those already  
heard;  
not as interlopers, but as invited guests.  
Though we may be in dispersed locations,  
the love of Christ gathers us together,  
joyful and eager to worship.

**Hymn: Meekness and Majesty (StF 362)**  
*Sing or read the words below, or listen here:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-8rmvWNplo>

*Graham Kendrick. © 1986 Thankyou Music*

### Prayer

Lord of infinity, who also chose meekness  
and humility in Jesus, we worship you.

You are the Lord of this morning, whether it  
greet us with a burst of sunshine or  
refreshing showers, and the simple  
pleasures that delight our taste and smell,  
our hearing and our seeing, are also your  
gift to us and all creation.

We thank you that in worship we are never  
alone, but share with countless others  
in the music that heaven also enjoys,  
in the challenge of your Word,  
in the privilege of prayer,  
in the comfort of Christian fellowship.

Thank you, generous God, for this Lord's  
Day, and all that it speaks to us of your  
providence and your grace. **Amen.**

**Today's OT Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7**

**Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-11**

### Time to Reflect

Formal dinners have been in short supply the  
last couple of years, but we all remember an  
occasion like a wedding where the seating  
plan enabled us to know our place, and

perhaps also to judge our social standing on  
the basis of how far from the top table it  
was!

It was a trickier business for Jesus's  
contemporaries, who had to judge in  
relation to the other guests how close to the  
host their status dictated they should be.

Everyday wisdom, shown in those verses  
from Proverbs, dictated that it was far  
better for one's street cred to aim low and  
be promoted than high and get relegated to  
the margins.

"Pride goes before a fall" our own proverb  
says. Two ducks and a frog were great  
friends in the farm pond they shared. But  
one really hot August it was drying up. No  
problem for the ducks who could fly off and  
find another, but that was too far for the  
frog to jump. They hatched a plan. The  
ducks would fly side by side holding the ends  
of a stick in their beaks whilst the frog with  
its powerful jaws would hang from the  
middle. It worked so well that a farmer  
looking up exclaimed aloud, "What a good  
idea. I wonder who thought of that?". "I  
did", croaked the frog!

Pride comes before a fall. But Luke sees the  
words of Jesus here as a "parable" (verse 7),  
so it is not just advice on keeping up  
appearances. It is about life in the Kingdom  
where God is the host. It is God who decides  
our place. Genuine humility is not about  
calculating how to look good; it is simply  
desiring that God should determine our  
place.

George Whitefield and John Wesley  
disagreed on several points. A man who  
loved stirring controversy once asked  
Whitefield if he thought he would see Wesley  
in heaven. "I fear not", Whitefield replied,  
"for he will be so near the eternal throne  
and we at such a distance, we shall hardly  
get sight of him."

If we are willing to receive the teaching of  
Jesus as disciples we shall be free from the  
world's obsession with posturing for position.

*Take a time to sit quietly.  
Reflect on what humility means in your life.*

### **A time of prayer**

Lord, it is your call that gives us dignity and we would be nothing without you.  
We pray for true humility in your Church.  
We remember all who evangelize or serve in areas of poverty, apathy or animosity, and all who face humiliation for their faith.  
We pray for ministers who have lost their way, narrowed in their focus, succumbed to the temptation to self-aggrandisement, and for all believers who no longer fulfil their vocation. Make us all worthy of our calling.

We pray for people we categorise as “homeless” or “destitute”, but who are individuals as valuable in your eyes as anyone, and more precious in their vulnerability.  
And we pray for those who care for them and seek to make accessible to them the opportunities they long for.

We remember church-based community workers who on behalf of us all, but not in our stead, share good news with the poor. Make us all worthy of our calling.  
We remember all who are belittled by others, who lack confidence in themselves, who are timid and nervous.  
We ask your blessing on those who live with the hostility of war, oppression or abuse.  
We pray for sick and struggling people whom we know individually.  
And we acknowledge that we also need your healing for we are not yet perfect in love. Make us all worthy of our calling.  
Father, we thank you that you invite us and accept us into your kingdom, that through Christ you have triumphed over death.  
We remember our loved ones in eternity. May we too be found faithful to your call, in Jesus’s name, who encouraged us to pray:  
**Our Father....**

### **Hymn: Show me how to stand for justice** (StF 713)

*Sing or read the words below, or listen here:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8CIU66oFMQ>

*Or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind*

Show me how to stand for justice  
how to work for what is right,  
how to challenge false assumptions,  
how to walk within the light.  
May I learn to share more freely  
in a world so full of greed,  
showing your immense compassion  
by the life I choose to lead.

Teach my heart to treasure mercy,  
whether given or received  
for my need has not diminished  
since the day I first believed.  
Let me seek no satisfaction  
boasting of what I have done.  
but rejoice that I am pardoned  
and accepted in your Son.

Gladly I embrace a lifestyle  
modelled on your living word,  
in humility submitting  
to the truth that I have heard;  
make me conscious of your presence  
every day in all I do:  
by your Spirit’s gracious prompting  
may I learn to walk with you.

*Martin Leckebusch © 1999 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

### **A prayer of blessing**

As our worship continues through our service of Jesus Christ during this week, may he who is the same yesterday, today and forever fill us with his peace and joy. **Amen.**

Original Materials by Stephen Mosedale  
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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.  
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))

### **Proverbs 25:6-7**

Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, ‘Come up here’, than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

### **Luke 14:1,7-11**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

