

## Worship at Home - Sunday 4 September 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

Come into the presence of our God, and know that He is waiting for you. Come into His presence just as you are, and rest, listen for His voice, and praise Him for His love for you.

### Hymn: StF563, O Jesus, I have promised

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://youtu.be/svgHDdzP5xY>

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
Lord, be for ever near me,  
my master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me;  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me, and within;  
but, Jesus, now draw nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
Lord, speak, and make me listen,  
O guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you,  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be too;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;

O give me grace to follow  
my master and my friend.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

### Let us pray together

Gracious Creator God, we praise You for all we can see and know of Your love for all You have made. We worship You, because in all Your power and majesty, You yet care for all who have been made in Your image. Thank You for knowing us individually, helping and blessing us.

Forgive us Lord, when we fall short in the human family You made us to be; and when we sin against You and thus cause You sadness. *(Silence)* ... When we truly repent, we can know that God hears us, and we can know our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God. **Amen**

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Luke 14: 25 - 33

### Time to Reflect

Does it puzzle you to read that Jesus told people that they would need to hate their loved ones, if they wanted to follow Him? "Hate" is such an ugly word today, but Jesus' was using it differently. "Large crowds were travelling with [Him]", and He needed to make them understand that changing from a "follower" to a "disciple" involved important, life-changing decisions. The twelve men He chose made that decision (remember Simon Peter, James and John "left their nets and followed Him"). They dedicated themselves to learning to be followers of Jesus, and went on to live out their calling. They didn't abandon their families - we read about Peter's mother-in-law later in the Scriptures. They changed their priorities in life by choosing to put Jesus first. They came to understand that the Son of God in their midst was doing His Father's will, and that their task was to do it with Him, and continue on after His death. No doubt many of the people following Jesus that day did turn back. We will never know.

But what we can decide is what we will do.  
Will we follow our loyalties to our own  
families and friends first, and follow Jesus  
afterwards, or will we choose Jesus, and, in  
serving Him, find that *all these things will  
be added to us?*

Take a time to sit quietly

### A time of prayer

Dear Lord, when You challenge people to  
leave everything and follow You, we are also  
challenged to live the way that You did, and  
care for others. So, today, we pray:

For those living in fear - of war, hunger, fire  
and floods destroying their homes and crops;  
For those who are in despair because they do  
not have enough to feed their families, keep  
warm, and pay their bills;

For those who are sick, and cannot access  
the help and support they need for  
themselves or their families;

For those who are mourning today, or alone,  
or who have no-one to help them with even  
simple tasks;

For ourselves, that we might feel the power  
of Your Holy Spirit working in us, enabling us  
to do whatever we can, wherever we are, to  
reach out to others.

Hear our prayers, Father God, for we ask  
them In Jesus' name. **Amen**

### The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn: StF706, Longing for light  
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to  
mind**

<https://youtu.be/TS7AlBeApwk>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

*Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)*

### A prayer of blessing

We go from this time of worship, knowing  
that we are on a journey, and that Jesus is  
leading the way. Let us follow joyfully and  
trustingly, knowing that He leads us home.  
Go in peace, and God - Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit - will be with you always. **Amen**

Original Materials by Sue Taylor Local Preacher / Cheshire South Circuit

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Local Churches please insert CCCLi 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 and will end at the end  
of 2022.

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))

### Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 14: 25 - 33 The Cost of Discipleship

Now large crowds were travelling with him;  
and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever  
comes to me and does not hate father and  
mother, wife and children, brothers and  
sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be  
my disciple. Whoever does not carry the  
cross and follow me cannot be my  
disciple. For which of you, intending to build  
a tower, does not first sit down and estimate  
the cost, to see whether he has enough to  
complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a  
foundation and is not able to finish, all who  
see it will begin to ridicule him, saying,  
"This fellow began to build and was not able  
to finish." Or what king, going out to wage  
war against another king, will not sit down  
first and consider whether he is able with  
ten thousand to oppose the one who comes  
against him with twenty thousand? If he  
cannot, then, while the other is still far  
away, he sends a delegation and asks for the  
terms of peace. So therefore, none of you  
can become my disciple if you do not give up  
all your possessions.

