

Worship at Home - Sunday 6 November 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

Lord we come before you this morning to worship you. Wherever we may be in the world draw us closer to you and to each other. Amen.

Hymn: StF 83 Praise my soul

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXF-VU3Gw0>

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like thee his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Let us pray together

Loving God in this season of remembrance we come to worship you. We come to offer you our praise and thanksgiving. We join with those who have gone before us in giving you, our praise. We offer you our praise and worship remembering those who down the centuries have worshipped and served you in so many ways and in so many places.

Lord we are sorry for the times in which we have let you down, for the times we have chosen to go our own way instead of listening to and following you. We come to say that we are sorry assured

that you will forgive us and that nothing will ever separate us from you.

Loving God, we bring you our thanks this day for everything that you have done for us. We thank you for those who have made a difference to our lives and encouraged us on our journey of faith. Help us to be like them in sharing our faith and making a difference to the lives of others. We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old or New Testament Hebrews 12:1-2

Today's Gospel Reading Luke 20:27-38

Time to Reflect

Our gospel reading today is not an easy one to read. It is one in which the Sadducees challenge Jesus theologically about what happens after death. In this season of remembrance as we reflect and remember all those who have gone before us it can be a challenging reading for us. The Sadducees don't believe in resurrection the passage tells us so they are seeking to trip Jesus up theologically. They think that their question will be one which he will not be able to answer but they are wrong. Jesus answers their question in two parts. First he deals with their question surrounding marriage and the writings of Moses then he answers the question which they are hoping will trip him up which is about resurrection.

Jesus states that things will be different after death. He doesn't say that partners will not know or love each other after death but that the idea of marriage that we have on earth will not be the same in heaven. From this in this period of remembrance we can draw some comfort knowing that we will indeed be reunited with those we love in heaven even if the relationships will be different to the concepts that we understand and know here on earth.

As we remember, reflect, and give thanks during this season of remembrance for all those who have gone before us we are reminded that we will see them again one day. Many of them have had an influence and an impact on our Christian journey of faith. Those people whom you remember who inspired and influenced you in

your journey of faith like those before me who influenced my faith are at God's side praising him and watching over us just as they did whilst they were still here. Who do you remember? Who showed you a little of what God is like? Who can you share a little of what God is like with? Let us as the writer of Hebrews puts it 'run the race set before us' knowing that those we love and those who have gone before us are cheering us on as we go.

During this time may we take the opportunity to give thanks not just for those who have died but those who are still with us who have and continue to have an impact on our faith journey. It is important too however to consider how we ourselves can have an impact and an influence on the faith journeys of others. Take the opportunity not just to give thanks but to think and reflect on the difference you can make for someone else as we journey together along the journey of faith.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Lord God, we bring before you today our concerns for the world in which we live, your world which you created and put into our care. We pray for those areas of our world where there is suffering, where there is war and violence, for those places struggling to cope due to natural or manmade disasters. Be with those working to bring relief to those who need it most. Give them the strength and courage to carry on even when they feel they can't. Help us to support others in any way that we can.

We pray for the church. In this season of remembrance remind us of those who have gone before us who have run the race set before us, who have passed to us the torch of faith that we may carry on the work that they were a part of. Remind us that they are cheering us on as we continue that race, as we continue to share our faith with others just as they did. Strengthen and support us we pray as we continue that race.

We pray for those who need our prayers at this time. We lift before you those who are struggling, those going through challenging or difficult times at the moment, those who are sick and those who care for them. Be with them all and may they know your love, care and your presence with them at this time. Give them the strength and encouragement that they need at this time.

In this season of remembrance Lord, we bring before you those who have died. We give you thanks for their lives, for the part that they may have played in our Christian journey. We know that your loving arms are wide waiting to welcome them home for their work is complete. Comfort those who mourn that they might be able to face the days ahead without those whom they have lost.

Finally Lord we pray for ourselves. We ask that you will equip and strengthen us for the race which we are a part of. Help us to continue carrying the torch of faith that others might

come to know of you and your love for them. Help us to make a difference to the lives of others. May we know your presence with us now and always. We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father*

Hymn: Listen to StF 746 For all the Saints who showed your love or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYT5-mA6WN4>

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b1958)

A prayer of blessing

Wherever we go and whoever we meet this week may we be aware of God's presence with us. May we be open and aware of opportunities to share our faith with others. We are called and commissioned to share the good news and we do so knowing that God goes with us. Amen.

Original Materials by **Rebekah Fairhurst**

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.

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))

Hebrews 12: 1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 20:27-38

27 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him²⁸and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; ³⁰then the second ³¹and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.³²Finally the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

34 Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'