

Worship at Home - Sunday 25 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

Loving God, we gather this morning across the world to worship you. As we sing your praises, hear your word, and bring our concerns to you may we know your presence with us. Amen.

Hymn: StF103 God is Love!

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7R5vzG6Vlfo>

God is Love:let heaven adore him;
God is Love:let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love:and he, enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love:and though with blindness
sin afflicts each human soul,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides and keeps them whole.

Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874-1939) (alt.)

Let us pray together

Loving and gracious God, wherever we go you are with us. We lift our voices in praise to you this day for all that you have done for us, all that you do for us and all that you will do for us. You never let us down and for this we praise and worship you.

We come before you this morning to say that we are sorry. Sorry for the times when we have let you down, Sorry for the times when instead of listening to you we have chosen our own path. We are sorry for the times when we have hurt others through our words and deeds or lack of them. We go forward into the new week knowing that we are forgiven.

We thank you that no matter what we face you are with us even when we don't realise it. Thank you for all that you do for us each and every day. Help us to continue to answer your call to serve you. When times are hard remind us Lord that you are there beside us. We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old or New Testament Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Time to Reflect

We serve a loving and faithful God. Nothing is impossible for God. No matter what we face we can face it in full confidence that he is with us even when it feels like he is not. We are reminded of this in both our readings today. In the Psalm we are reminded that he protects and takes care of us. It can at times feel like God is not there, that he isn't listening to us or that he has abandoned us. But he hasn't and he never will even though it can feel like he has.

The reading from the Gospel of Luke is a challenging one. Challenging because it reminds us of the importance of helping those who need our help. By helping those who need our help not only are we making a difference to their lives, but we are sharing something of the love of God with them too. By sharing the

love of God with others we are showing them that there is a God who loves and cares for them and wants to help them through us. In our reading from Luke we see how the rich man does not help Lazarus when he is able to. He doesn't show him the love and care that God has for him. We know that our God is a loving, caring, faithful God and he wants others to know that too. He calls each of us to share that love with others that they may come to know him and his love for them. He calls us to help others so that they may learn of the faithful God whom we trust and serve. At this time in which the country is going through a cost of living crisis it is more important than ever that we share the love of God with others. You may be thinking how can I help others? Just one small act of kindness to another person can make a big difference in their life. And that small act can set of a chain of events that results in them knowing and understanding the love that God has for each and every one of us.

God wants us all to know of his love for us. And he is always with us and will never leave us. So as we are reminded of God's love and faithfulness to us let us share that with others in any way that we can.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Faithful and Loving God we come before you now to pray for our world. The world that you created and gave us the responsibility to care for. A world in which there is so much pain, suffering and violence. We pray for peace across the world and for an end to pain and suffering. We pray for those areas of our world in need of our prayers at this time and bring them before you now. Help us we pray to care for your world and to make it a better place for all.

We pray for the church. Help us your church to share your love with others. Help your church to challenge injustice and to stand up for those who have no voice or no one to speak for them. Guide us in the direction that you want us to go that all may come to know how much you love them.

We pray for those who are going through a difficult or challenging time. They may not know where to turn for help and support. May they know your love and your presence with them. We bring before you those we know who need our prayers at this time. May all know how much you love and care for them. May they know that you will never leave them no matter what they face you are always there.

Lord God, we remember those who have died. We place them into your loving, waiting arms knowing that we place them into your care and welcome them home. Comfort those who mourn their loss. Give them all they need to face life without those whom they have lost. May they know that you are there beside them.

We pray for ourselves asking that you will help us to share your love with others. We ask that you will give us everything we need to answer your call. Help us to continue putting our trust in you knowing that nothing is impossible with you. When we struggle and feel that you have abandoned us remind us that you are with us. Whatever challenges we may face we face them together with you. We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to StF628 Faithful One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lhLiLXS5qQ>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Faithful One, so unchanging,
Ageless One, you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all I depend on you,
I call out to you again and again.
I call out to you again and again.
You are my rock in times of trouble.
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm your love is the anchor,
my hope is in you alone.

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

A prayer of blessing

Let us go out and make the world a better place for all knowing that God goes with us and is there with us wherever we go and whatever we face. 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://methodist.org.uk)

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

Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16

- ¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
² will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'
³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴ he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- ¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.

¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honour them.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

Luke 16:19-31

19 'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." ²⁵But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." ²⁷He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." ²⁹Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." ³⁰He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." ³¹He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." '