

Worship at Home - Sunday 14 November 2021

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

Holy God,
we gather with people in every time and
place to worship you.
Grant us the assurance that you are with
us
and join us all together by your Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn: StF 117 “Sing praise to God who
reigns above” [selected verses]
*Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or
listen to it here*
[Sing praise to God who reigns above \(StF
117\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/stf/117)

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul he fills,
and every faithless murmur stills:
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made
that will he ever cherish,
and will, unending, soon and late,
with loving-kindness nourish;
and where he rules in kingly might
there all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace, and joy, and blessing;
as with a mother's tender hand,
he leads his own, his chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

O you who name Christ's holy name,
give God all praise and glory:
O you who own his power, proclaim
aloud the wondrous story.
Cast each false idol from its throne:
the Lord is God, and he alone:
to God all praise and glory!

*Johann Jakob Schuetz (1640-1690),
Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897) and
Honor Mary Thwaites (1914-1993)*

Let us join with one heart and mind to give
God praise and glory.

Let us pray

To the God-in-community, we praise you.
We are held in your palm and connected
within your great company.
To the God of undiminished light, we
praise you that in the depths of our night,
you are light.
To the God of infinite love, we praise you

that all love is sourced in your fathomless depth.

To you, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we offer our praise to your glory.

Amen.

Today's Reading from the Hebrew Bible:

Micah 4:1-8

Peace and Security through Obedience

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

and many nations shall come and say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the Lord

from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between many peoples,

and shall arbitrate between strong

nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more;

but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,

and no one shall make them afraid;

for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk,

each in the name of its god,

but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God

for ever and ever.

Restoration Promised after Exile

On that day, says the Lord,

I will assemble the lame

and gather those who have been driven away,

and those whom I have afflicted.

The lame I will make the remnant,

and those who were cast off, a strong nation;

and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion

now and for evermore.

And you, O tower of the flock,

hill of daughter Zion,

to you it shall come,

the former dominion shall come,

the sovereignty of daughter Jerusalem.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Time to Reflect

I wonder what emotions Remembrance Sunday stirs in you. Perhaps pride of the service and sacrifice of a family member. Grief for a life cut short and opportunities missed. Lament that we perpetuate war as a way of trying to solve conflict even though we often commit ourselves to "never again."

Our readings today remind us that God dreams of a day when guns of killing will be refashioned into tools to tend the earth and Jesus had a word of blessing for the peacemakers who will be the children of God.

Images that suggest that war is not God's ideal but a symbol of how our stubbornness and pride, our pursuit of power takes us away from God's ideals. But more than that, they are images of a hope that can be realised when we commit to live in peace and always pursue peace.

What are the metaphorical, or literal, weapons you can re-fashion into gardening tools? Only when we do that is there is a chance of "never again."

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

For our prayers, we invite you to read quietly the words of Marjorie Dobson's hymn: By a monument of marble (StF 131)

By a monument of marble,
or a simple wooden cross,
here we gather to remember
sacrifice and tragic loss.
Blood-red poppy petals flutter,
each a symbol for a life,
drifting in a crimson curtain,
shadow of our constant strife.

Hold a silence to remember all who have died because of war

Solemn silence now surrounds us
as we stand in memory.
Why must factions stir up conflict?
This eternal mystery
troubles hearts and stirs the conscience,
urges us to think again;
face the curse of confrontation,
yet reduce this searing pain.

For the sound of war still thunders
through our planet, on this day.
Every hour new victims suffer,
even as we meet to pray.
God, we need your help and guidance
in our constant search for peace.
Move us on to new solutions
as we pray that wars may cease.
Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will

be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: Listen to Beauty for brokenness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8utbDFP9AE>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for all people,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,

scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned —
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

Refrain

Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

Refrain

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

May the peace-pursuing God be gracious
to us
and bless us,
and make God's face to shine upon us.

Amen.

Original Materials by Christopher J Collins

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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))