

Worship at Home - Sunday October 3 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.

Jesus welcomes us into his presence,
whoever we are and wherever we are.
Let us respond to his embrace,
and open our hearts and minds to God's
word and the touch of the Spirit.

Hymn: Uyai mose, Come, all you people
(Singing the Faith 22)

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

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

Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose zvino.

Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come now and worship the Lord.

*Alexander Gondo
From Psalm 100*

Let us pray together

God of mercy, your love for us is strong,
but our love for you is weak.

You call us to follow Jesus,
but we are slow to obey.

You care for all that you have made,
but we ignore the needs of others
and misuse your creation.

We are sorry for our sins.

Forgive us, and help us to please you by
the way we live; Through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

God is love and forgives our sins through
Jesus. Amen.

(Methodist Worship Book)

**Today's Reading from the Old or New
Testament:** Psalm 8

Divine Majesty and Human Dignity

To the leader: according to The Gittith. A
Psalm of David.

O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the
earth!

You have set your glory above the

heavens.

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'

Jesus Blesses Little Children

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Time to Reflect

The Gospel reading has much to say about relationships, and our reactions to aspects of it may vary.

I've only recently discovered the concept of 'kin_dom' instead of 'Kingdom', although I believe it's been around for a while, and is in the title of at least one book.

(The old model of civilization kingdoms were an area of land inhabited by people who were ruled by a king. Kingdoms had a top-down organizing principle. Kin-doms are self-organizing systems that are fostered in kin-ship – the recognition that we are all kin, working together cooperatively and collaboratively).

How do you react to the concept of 'kin_dom' as a counterbalance to 'Kingdom'?

In the Gospel, as the narrative proceeds, tension mounts. Jesus in many ways fits the pattern of a Rabbi but doesn't fit expectations. Even those who followed him closely struggle. He mixes with all the wrong people. He talks about the last being first and the first last – and even welcomes children!

What is it about children that Jesus is holding up as an example to emulate?

I think it may be to do with expectations. Children are much more accepting of people and situations, not held back by the accumulated assumptions, prejudices,

status and power of adults. So, they come open and in humility.

The psalm says that God made us 'rulers' over creation, only a little lower than God himself (v. 5). However, it is also 'through the praise of children and infants' that God silences the foe and avenger (v.2). It might look as though the psalmist is talking about 'Kingdom', but maybe it's more about 'kin_dom'.

In our kinship relationships it's all too easy for us to slip into a 'Kingdom' approach to one another, full of set expectations, demands even, instead of rejoicing in one another for who we are, loved children of God.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Father, we thank you that you welcome us as we are, inviting not harassing; nurturing not oppressing; ever giving, never grasping.

We pray for those who feel oppressed, by political leaders, within groups they belong to, or by individuals, that they be released and find peace.

We pray for children who have been badly affected by the pandemic, that they will find mentors and role models to encourage and guide them.

We pray for all those we regard as our 'kin', that they, and we, will welcome you and one another in love and grace. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Let love be real. (Singing the Faith 615) Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pqPXLj_HI

Let love be real, in giving and receiving, without the need to manage and to own; a haven free from posing and pretending, where every weakness may be safely known.

Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,

give me your love wherever we may go.

As God loves us, so let us love each other:

with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining, that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;

that helps us face the risk of truly living, and makes us brave to be what we might be.

Give me your strength when all my words are weakness;

give me your love in spite of all you know.

Let love be real, with no manipulation, no secret wish to harness or control; let us accept each other's incompleteness, and share the joy of learning to be whole.

Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments;

give me your trust when all my failings show.

Michael Forster (b. 1946)

A prayer of blessing

May you rest in the embrace of God, run to the love of Jesus, and reach for the Holy Spirit.

Go in the kinship of the Trinity, blessed child of God.

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://methodist.org.uk)

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

Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of
your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of
your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have
established;
what are human beings that you are
mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower
than God,
and crowned them with glory and
honour.

You have given them dominion over the
works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the
seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the
earth!