

## Worship at Home - Sunday 10 October 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 Words

Wonderful creator,  
we come into your company  
to listen to your word, to hear your voice  
and know your grace in this place and in our lives.

**Amen**

**Hymn:** Be Thou my Vision (Singing the Faith 545)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/be-thou-my-vision-o-lord-of-my-heart-stf-545/>

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my  
power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish, 8th century*

*translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)*

*versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935) (alt.)*

### Collect for the day

God of all power and might

the author and giver of all good things,  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish in us all goodness and of your great mercy  
keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord

**Amen**

*Methodist Worship Book*

### Let us pray together our prayer of adoration

Loving God, we lift our praise to you who shaped this world and filled it with such beauty for us to explore in wonder

It is to you, Lord, that we lift our praises, from the beginning you had a plan for us and we are held in your hand.

We lift our praises to you, compassionate Father. It is you who grants us freedom from the burden of sin and, as a shepherd, brings us safely back to you.

**Amen.**

### Let us pray together our prayer of confession

Forgive us, Lord, when our faith is too small and we struggle to believe that you can help us, when we cry out in despair not expecting an answer.

Forgive us when others try to persuade us that you do not exist or when the words of others lead us to doubt.

Forgive us, Lord, when the journey of faith is hard and we are tempted to wander, when we do not use wisely the gifts that you have given us.

Forgive us, Lord and rekindle the flame that once shone within our hearts. **Amen.**

**Hebrews 4: 12-16**

## **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. <sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 10:17-31**

## **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>17</sup>As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or

fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

## **Reflection**

When reading a bible passage one of the things I sometimes do is to try and put myself in the reading, imaging what is happening around and what the feelings are of those mentioned in the passage.

In today's gospel reading, we hear of a man, described as the rich man, running up to Jesus to seek answers. I imagine that something in his life must have caused him to run to Jesus, kneel down and ask his question. The rich man has a desperation behind his question; a desire to know the answer, a desire to find out the answers from the teacher.

Many of us have had times in our lives when we have asked the same kinds of questions. The type of question I find myself asking in the middle of a sleepless night or in the middle of the day when I find myself longing to know all the answers, it's an in the moment kind of question about life, that moment in time, what do I need to do to receive God's grace and live a life filled with his plans for me. The rich man knew the answer to the question that he asked Jesus but he still felt the need to ask "...what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

When things go wrong or not in the direction we thought they would, we'd often like to turn back time, to long for something different but unless we're a time traveller, Dr Who or Doc and Marty McFly, that won't be happening to us.

The rich man is wanting a different quality of life, a second chance and Jesus' words may sound like a challenge, a list of things he has to do or a list of things he has to accomplish before he will inherit eternal life.

What if, instead of thinking of the list as challenges, we think of them as words of hope and words of recovery. I'm not thinking of rescue and needs as a prize; but as an alternative; the gift of being able to start again with God in our lives.

Jesus offers us hope and salvation in the grace of God. To receive God's grace, we may need to let go of the things that are holding us back. This may be our riches or the things we are doing in our lives that don't lead us in the direction that God intended. We need to invest in what God is offering us and take up his offer.

Like the rich man we may grieve for what we have to give up, for what we need to change, for the things we are asked by God to do differently. The rich man may have appeared to turn away from what he was being asked to do but we don't know this for sure, we don't know what he did after he left. He may have gone home and immediately changed his life, he may not have done it immediately, it may have been weeks, months or years later. We don't need to know what the rich man did; we need to think about our response, how we respond to God's call on our lives.

What is God asking you to do? Where do you need God's guidance and direction in your life? Are you living a life filled with God's grace or are there things you need to let go of, things you need to do more of? Do you see the hope that comes with having the Holy Spirit as your guide and Jesus in your life? There is so much on offer if we just listen to God's call.

*Take time to sit quietly.*

### **A time of prayer**

God, you are there in our hours of activity and hours of rest. You heal us and forgive us. God, you are there when we pray and reach out to you. It is through you we find blessing.

Receive our thanks and praise.

In this time of prayer, almighty God, we bring our anxieties, worries and troubles to you in prayer.

We pray for the people and situations close to home. May our eyes be open to the needs of our family and friends and the community around us. May we use the gifts you give us to meet their needs.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your world. We bring before you our concerns about situations in places in our news such as Afghanistan, and in other places which may not

currently be in the news headlines but are no less important. We pray for the families who have been forced to leave their homes to seek security and peace. We pray for those in positions of influence. May they make the right decisions as they work for justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We remember in our prayers those who are in poor physical or mental health and give thanks to those who look after them. We remember those suffering in other ways, especially those who mourn the deaths of family members and friends. And we pray for ourselves. We pray that we may hear your voice in the midst of our busy lives.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

### **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:** Will you come and follow me (Singing the Faith 673)

<https://youtu.be/S-Bq1YtpQL8>

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer

in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

*John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

May you hear God's voice, know his plans for you  
and feel the support his loving arms give. May you  
walk with God today, tomorrow and the days ahead.

**Amen.**

Original Materials by Cathie Steele

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