

**Worship at Home – Sunday 12 September 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**

Wherever we are, you are with us,  
Lord. Make us aware of your loving  
presence with us now. Grant us  
your peace, and fill us with wonder  
and joy. AMEN

**Hymn: StF 357** Jesus – the name  
high over all

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

<https://youtu.be/vTYRFT34dAc>

Jesus -- the name high over all,  
in hell, or earth, or sky!  
Angels revere, and nations fall,  
and devils fear and fly.

Jesus -- the name to sinners dear,  
the name to sinners given!  
It scatters all their guilty fear,  
it turns their hell to heaven.

Jesus -- the prisoner's fetters  
breaks,  
and bruises Satan's head;  
power into strengthless souls it  
speaks,  
and life into the dead.

O that the world might taste and  
see  
the riches of his grace!  
The arms of love that compass me  
would all the earth embrace.

His only righteousness I show,  
his saving grace proclaim;  
'tis all my business here below  
to cry: 'Behold the Lamb!'

Happy if with my latest breath  
I might but gasp his name;  
preach him to all, and cry in death:  
'Behold, behold the Lamb!'

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Let us pray together

Almighty God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, with all your  
people on earth, with all the  
company of heaven and with all  
creation, we praise and adore you.

You are the Creator and Sustainer of  
the universe, and yet you come to  
us and invite us to approach you as  
our loving Father.

We acknowledge our failure to love  
you as we should, the weakness of

our faith and the half-heartedness of our service, but we recognise that, through Christ, we are forgiven and made welcome.

So we come in his name to worship you, and pray your Holy Spirit will guide us and empower us to become the people you created us to be. AMEN

### **Today's Gospel Reading:**

#### **Mark 9: 27 – 38**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist, and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are

setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any want to be my disciples, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

### **Time to Reflect**

According to the Gospel writers, Jesus asked many questions; many more, in fact, than he answered! This was one of the things that made him an effective teacher. Rather than giving people simple answers that required no further thought, he asked questions that made them think for themselves. Not only did this help them find the answers to their own questions, it made them reflect more deeply about their relationship with God.

In our reading today, Jesus asked his disciples two questions. The first one was easy to answer: “Who do people say that I am?” The disciples must have had many conversations with folk they met who had their own ideas about Jesus. They were able to report that people thought perhaps he was John the Baptist reincarnated, or Elijah, or one of the prophets.

The second question was much more challenging: “But who do you say that I am?” The answer to this question required faith and commitment. Peter was the first to answer: “You are the Messiah”, that is, the anointed one sent by God to save his people. Peter had perceived the truth about Jesus, but still had much to learn about its implications, as we see in the following verses.

“Who do you say that I am?” is a question all of us need to consider. The answer we give will have an impact on everything else in our lives.

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

Think of people and situations, near or far, that particularly need our prayers today, as we use this intercession from the Methodist Worship Book Covenant Service:

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church: make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world: establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble: deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory: bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord our God, you have helped us by your grace to make these prayers, and you have promised through Christ our Lord that when two or three agree in his name you will grant what they ask.

Answer now your servants’ prayers according to their needs; in this world grant that we may truly know you, and in the world to come graciously give us eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN.

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

Hymn: Listen to StF 348 *He is Lord* or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

[He is Lord, he is Lord \(StF 348\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

He is Lord, he is Lord;  
he is risen from the dead, and he is  
Lord;  
every knee shall bow, every tongue  
confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is King, he is King;  
he will draw all nations to him, he is  
King;  
and the time shall be when the  
world shall sing  
that Jesus Christ is King.

He is love, he is love;  
he has shown us by his life that he is  
love;  
all his people sing with one voice of  
joy  
that Jesus Christ is love.

He is life, he is life;  
he has died to set us free and he is  
life;  
and he calls us all to live evermore,  
for Jesus Christ is life.

*Anonymous*

### **A prayer of blessing**

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw  
us to himself; may the power of the  
Lord Jesus strengthen us in his  
service; may the joy of the Lord  
Jesus fill our souls; and may the  
blessing of God Almighty, the  
Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,  
be with you and abide with you  
always. AMEN

*(Words by William Temple, 1881 –  
1944)*

Original Materials by **John Barnett**

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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)