

Worship at Home - Sunday 6 February 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 as we gather to worship draw us closer to you. Make us open to receive the message that you have for us. Amen.

Hymn: StF 666 Master speak thy servant heareth

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

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

Master, speak! Thy servant heareth,
waiting for thy gracious word,
longing for thy voice that cheereth;
Master, let it now be heard.
I am listening, Lord, for thee;
what hast thou to say to me?

Speak to me by name, O Master,
let me know it is to me;
speak, that I may follow faster,
with a step more firm and free,
where the Shepherd leads the flock
in the shadow of the rock.

Master, speak! Though least and lowest,
let me not unheard depart;
Master, speak! For O thou knowest
all the yearning of my heart,
knowest all its truest need;
speak, and make me blest indeed.

Master, speak:and make me ready,
when thy voice is truly heard,

with obedience glad and steady
still to follow every word.

I am listening, Lord, for thee;
Master, speak! O speak to me!

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

Let us pray together

Loving God you are always with us.

We praise you for all that you have done
for us and all that you do for us each and
every day which isn't always obvious to us
but we continue to put our trust in you.
We offer you our praise and our worship.

We are sorry for the times we have let you
down. For the times that we have gone
our own way instead of responding to
your call. Help us to be the people that
you have called us to be. We go forward
knowing that you through Jesus tell us
that we are forgiven.

Guide, strengthen and equip us for the
tasks to which you have called us. Help us
to continue to answer your call wherever
it may lead us. We ask these and all our
prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament
Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’ ⁹And he said, ‘Go and say to this people:

“Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.”

¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.’

¹¹ Then I said, ‘How long, O Lord?’ And he said:

‘Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people,

and the land is utterly desolate;

¹² until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³ Even if a tenth part remains in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.’

The holy seed is its stump.

Today’s Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ ⁵Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’

⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.'¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Time to Reflect

Each and every one of us is called by God. Sometimes he can call us to a specific individual task which can also be rather challenging. It can take us completely out of our comfort zone. One thing that we are all called to do however is to share the good news with all we meet. Although in the circumstances that we have found ourselves in these last two years it can be quite a challenge to do just that. But it is important that we do so. That we give people the hope and the light that they need right now. Hope and light they can find in Jesus.

Our reading from Luke today talks about the calling of the first disciples. They had no idea what would happen when they were first called by Jesus but they took a risk, a chance. They left everything else behind to follow him. They weren't the people that you would have expected Jesus to pick to follow him and to help him in his mission. But they were the people that would change the world. Jesus equipped them to carry out the tasks that he had called them to just as he equips us all to enable us to do the same. You may be thinking what can I do? He won't call me. I can't do this or I can't do that. But actually you are wrong. For he calls and equips every one of us because he knows what we can and can't do and enables us

to fulfil his calling on our lives. We just need to listen and to trust. Then to go out and do what he asks us to do knowing that he goes with us and will never leave us. I am a Brownie leader and whenever one of the girls says to me I can't do this my reply to them is something along the lines of "can't" is not a word in the Brownie Guide dictionary. Yes you can do it. So just as you may think I can't do what God is asking me to do actually you can because he will equip and support you so that you can carry it out. For nothing is impossible with God.

So what is God calling you to do? Have you answered that call? If not then why not? Trust in him, continue to follow him and answer his call knowing that he is with you every step of the way. God calls each and every one of us to change the World in some way. So let us do just that. Let's change the world together bringing hope and light to all we meet.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving and gracious God we come before you to pray for our world. A world in which there is so much suffering and pain, violence and hurt. We often wonder how we can change things in the world. Help us to make a difference that the world may be a better place for all.

We come to you to pray for the church. We are still in the midst of a pandemic and people need hope more than ever. Help us to share that much-needed hope with others. We ask too for your guidance as we continue to respond to the pandemic.

Help your church to share your gospel with the world.

We come before you to pray for those going through a difficult time at the moment. We bring the names of those we know who are in need of our prayers lifting them up to you. We think of those in hospital, those for whom it is a difficult time at the moment. Be with all who need our prayers right now those we know and those we don't know. May they know your love.

We place into your loving arms those whom we have lost knowing that you welcome them home. May they now be at peace. Comfort the bereaved and may they know your peace, love and strength as they face the days ahead without those whom they have lost.

We pray for ourselves Lord. You call us each and every day to serve you. Equip us for the tasks to which you call us. Help us to fulfil our calling and bring about your kingdom. You know the challenges that each and every one of us face. We ask that you will guide us through each and every challenge that we face. As we enter into a new week we go knowing that you are with us every step of the way. We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to StF 660 Called by Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5f10N6umzc>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Called by Christ to be disciples every day in every place,

we are not to hide as hermits
but to spread the way of grace;
citizens of heaven's kingdom,
though this world is where we live,
as we serve a faithful Master,
faithful service may we give.

Richly varied are our pathways,
many callings we pursue:
may we use our gifts and talents
always, Lord, to honour you;
so in government or commerce,
college, hospice, farm or home,
whether volunteers or earning,
may we see your kingdom come.

Hard decisions may confront us,
urging us to compromise;
still obedience is our watchword --
make us strong and make us wise!
Secular is turned to sacred,
made a precious offering,
as our daily lives are fashioned
in submission to our King.

Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)

A prayer of blessing

Lord we are called by you to be your disciples and to share your gospel with others. Wherever we go this week and whatever challenges we may face may we know that you are with us. Help us to continue to faithfully answer your call now and every day. Amen.

Original Materials by Rebekah Fairhurst Bolton Methodist Mission

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Local Churches CCCLi 36610

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))