

### Worship at Home - Sunday 3 July 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

Jesus is here among us now as we worship God together. We pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit we hear afresh God's word to us, calling us to take the good news to all the world.

#### Hymn: STF 407 Hear the call of the kingdom

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

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

Hear the call of the kingdom,  
lift your eyes to the King;  
let his song rise within you  
as a fragrant offering  
of how God, rich in mercy,  
came in Christ to redeem  
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to be children of light  
with the mercy of heaven,  
the humility of Christ;  
walking justly before him,  
loving all that is right,  
that the life of Christ may shine  
through us.

King of heaven, we will answer  
the call.

We will follow, bringing hope to  
the world,  
filled with passion, filled with  
power to proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the kingdom  
to reach out to the lost  
with the Father's compassion  
in the wonder of the cross,  
bringing peace and forgiveness,  
and a hope yet to come:  
let the nations put their trust in him.

King of heaven, we will answer  
the call ...  
*Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b.  
1980) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

#### Let us pray together

Creator God

Who gives us sunshine and showers  
to enable plants to grow, we praise  
you for the gift of nature. Just as the  
rain falls on the soil and produces  
green shoots, we praise you that your  
spirit constantly inspires and nurtures  
us. When we fail to produce our best

for you and shrink from our tasks,  
forgive our apathy and refresh our  
hearts with your love.

For all the times we turn away from  
you

For all the wrongs that separate us  
from you,

Forgive and restore us.

The Lord hears our prayer and pours  
out his mercy upon us. Amen

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Luke 10.1-  
11, 16-20

### **The Mission of the Seventy**

After this the Lord appointed  
seventy others and sent them on  
ahead of him in pairs to every town  
and place where he himself intended  
to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is  
plentiful, but the labourers are few;  
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest  
to send out labourers into his  
harvest. Go on your way. See, I am  
sending you out like lambs into the  
midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no  
bag, no sandals; and greet no one on  
the road. Whatever house you enter,  
first say, "Peace to this house!" And if  
anyone is there who shares in peace,  
your peace will rest on that person;  
but if not, it will return to  
you. Remain in the same house,  
eating and drinking whatever they  
provide, for the labourer deserves to  
be paid. Do not move about from  
house to house. Whenever you enter  
a town and its people welcome you,

eat what is set before you; cure the  
sick who are there, and say to them,  
"The kingdom of God has come near  
to you." But whenever you enter a  
town and they do not welcome you,  
go out into its streets and say, "Even  
the dust of your town that clings to  
our feet, we wipe off in protest  
against you. Yet know this: the  
kingdom of God has come near."

### **Luke 10.16-20**

'Whoever listens to you listens to me,  
and whoever rejects you rejects me,  
and whoever rejects me rejects the  
one who sent me.'

### **The Return of the Seventy**

The seventy returned with joy,  
saying, 'Lord, in your name even the  
demons submit to us!' He said to  
them, 'I watched Satan fall from  
heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I  
have given you authority to tread on  
snakes and scorpions, and over all  
the power of the enemy; and nothing  
will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not  
rejoice at this, that the spirits submit  
to you, but rejoice that your names  
are written in heaven.'

### **Time to Reflect**

If the opening sentences of this  
reading are what remains with you  
("the harvest is plentiful, but the  
workers are few" v2), please do not  
be discouraged! For the next words  
remind us that God will be with us in  
our mission, provided that we

thoroughly steep our outreach in prayer. Seeking God's will through prayer before embarking on any Christian project is essential to underpin human efforts. God needs to be involved if Christians are to be successful in preaching his good news effectively. This may seem to be an obvious statement, but too often we rely upon our own resources and carry out our own ideas without first asking God what it is we are to do in his name. The disciples were sent out "like lambs among wolves" with the blessing and protection of the Lord, and the added encouragement of those he provided to offer support and hospitality. The seventy messengers were overjoyed with the success of their prayers and healings. But Jesus threw a note of caution to them, reminding them not to be too self congratulatory but rather to rejoice that they were doing God's work. For we do not preach the gospel in our own strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

We pray for God's guidance and inspiration for all church leaders and communities, for a strengthening of faith and a more effective sharing of the good news with others.

Compassionate Christ,  
You wept over Jerusalem; with how many tears must you view the troubles and conflicts in your world. We pray for

peaceful resolution of wars, for comfort for the sick, shelter for the homeless and refugees, for food for the hungry and tenderness for the young and old in need.

Loving God,  
We pray for those who are grieving, those who feel lost, those who are without faith. May they all feel the touch of your hand upon their lives, healing, blessing and making them whole in your love.

We pray for our own concerns, placing our anxieties at the foot of the cross and looking upwards in thankfulness to share our joys with you.

Accept these prayers and the prayers of our hearts for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn: Listen to** StF 410 Lord, your church on earth is seeking **or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnYUfhtz11Q>

Lord, your Church on earth is seeking your renewal from above;  
teach us all the art of speaking with the accent of your love.  
We would heed your great commission:  
sending us to every place --  
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,  
serve with love and share my grace.

Freedom give to those in bondage,  
lift the burdens caused by sin.  
Give new hope, new strength and  
courage,  
grant release from fears within:  
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;  
love for hatred; peace for strife.  
These and countless blessings follow  
as the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city  
where the bruised and lonely dwell,  
let us show the Saviour's pity,  
let us of his mercy tell.  
In all lands and with all races  
let us serve, and seek to bring  
all the world to render praises,  
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.  
*Hugh Sherlock (1905-1998)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

May you find an opportunity every  
day to share the love of Jesus with a  
stranger, a friend or a neighbour, so  
that the kingdom of God on earth  
might increase more and more  
through the power of the Spirit.

And the blessing of God, Father Son  
and Holy Spirit be with you and those  
whom you love, today and always.  
Amen.

Original Materials by Reverend Claire  
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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)