

## Worship at Home – Sunday 24 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

Ps 85

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in  
their hearts.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who  
fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

### Hymn: StF110 In the wonder of creation

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-DTv0f3xiM&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYxMLY\\_81soj1dufJ&index=18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-DTv0f3xiM&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYxMLY_81soj1dufJ&index=18)

In the wonder of creation,  
when all nature shares one song,  
showing God's imagination,  
all may see his love goes on.  
Through the Holy Story spoken,  
of God's people called as one,  
gathered, exiled, saved and broken,  
this we learn:his love goes on.

In the Christ who died to save us;  
in God's risen, living Son;  
through the Spirit, whom he gave us;  
this we know:his love goes on.  
In the telling of the gospel  
Matthew, Mark and Luke and John  
join the Church in testifying  
through the years:his love goes on.

From the perfect days of gladness  
when the sun has brightly shone,

to the slog of working madness,  
all the while his love goes on.  
Through the times of harsh temptation,  
seeking strength but finding none,  
in our human desperation,  
mercy comes:his love goes on.

In the joys of celebration,  
of new birth or victory won,  
in the deep peace of salvation,  
tell the world his love goes on!  
Through the dark days of depression,  
when all sign of faith is gone,  
hope may find no fresh expression,  
but we trust his love goes on.

Through the hopes of our tomorrows,  
and the things we've left undone --  
future joys and present sorrows --  
through all time, his love goes on.  
In our Kingdom-shaped endeavour,  
when God's glorious work is done,  
to the promise of forever,  
God is here:his love goes on.

*Andrew T. Murphy (b. 1981)*

### Let us pray together

Lord God your love goes on. Your creation  
was born from your love and you saw that it  
was good. You led your people in love and  
when they were disobedient you sought ways  
to bring them back to your way.  
In Jesus you showed the height and length  
and breadth and depth of your love as he  
gave himself for us on the cross.  
You continue to show us your love through  
the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We praise and thank you for your love and we become aware of how we have taken your love for granted or refused to receive that love. We are sorry and ask your forgiveness which you offer out of love. As we receive that forgiveness help us to receive your spirit that we may sin no more.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

### **Today's Reading from the Old or New Testament** Genesis 18:20-32

<sup>20</sup>Then the Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' <sup>26</sup>And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.' <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' <sup>30</sup>Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' <sup>31</sup>He said, 'Let me take it upon myself

to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' <sup>32</sup>Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'

### **Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 11: 1 – 13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' <sup>2</sup>He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone  
indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

### **Perseverance in Prayer**

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish,

will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

### Time to Reflect

Lord, teach us to pray.

What is prayer? At its most basic – communication with God. Prayer is not complicated – it is simple yet we can feel so inadequate when we begin to pray. We may have total understanding of the disciples who asked Jesus to teach them. We spend our lives in the discovery of what prayer means. Prayer is not easy yet at the same time it is the easiest thing in the world. It is acknowledging the presence of God with us and joining with God in conversation. It is basic to Christian life and the disciples recognise this in asking Jesus to teach them. John Wesley in his “Notes on the New Testament” says, “this prayer uttered from the heart, in its true and full meaning, is the badge of a real Christian”

We pray it as it stands but it is also a blue print for all our praying, a template to copy and a framework to base all our prayers on. It is elegant in its simplicity starting with praise for God and for God’s will to be done before moving to please for human need and finally moving back to God to acknowledge his power and glory.

There are 2 other passages of teaching in our reading – their theme is perseverance in asking for what you need rather than what you simply want and the assurance of prayer answered.

“You think it’s just ask and have” I can think of many times when my mum said that to me.

Yet isn’t that also how we sometimes approach prayer, we ask and expect God to give us what we want immediately, not thinking that what we want isn’t necessarily what we need and now is not the right time. Then we are irrationally disappointed. God knows what we need and like any loving parent provides what we need.

Disciples throughout all time ask “Lord teach us to pray”. Jesus said – “Pray like this”.

Take a time to sit quietly

### A time of prayer

O God, give us your Spirit to keep us asking for what is good.

to keep us seeking for what is true.

to keep us knocking, until the door opens to show us the way. **Amen.**

For those who need bread  
because they starve during the daytime and  
go to bed hungry,  
because they lack the means to provide for  
their families and communities,  
because greed enables some to have what  
they want while others do not get what they  
need.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in  
heaven

For those who seek justice and kindness yet  
find only ill treatment cruelty and injustice, in  
the place of tenderness.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in  
heaven.

For those who seek a place to call home, a  
place where they can have a secure life  
and the opportunities we so take for  
granted...

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in  
heaven

For those who this week have suffered from peoples inhumanity.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven

For those who are ill in body, mind and spirit and those who mourn.

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven

Lord we bring these our prayers to you in the faith that you hear and respond. Amen.

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

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn:** Listen to StF524 Listening God, you hear us when we cannot speak  
**or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**  
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

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

Listening God, you hear us when we cannot speak,  
when despair and turmoil leave us faint and weak.

In love you call us back to you again  
and your grace reminds us how you feel our pain.

Searching God, you find us when we go astray,  
as self-centred living takes us from your way.  
In love you seek us, show us what we've lost,  
and your tears remind us what forgiveness cost.

Suffering God, you lift us from our deepest grief,  
when emotion blinds us to our own belief.  
In love you touch us with your nail-torn hand  
and your wounds remind us why you understand.

Risen God, you show us love too strong for death,  
evil deeds defeated by your living breath.  
In love you teach us never to despair,  
your new life reminds us, hope is always there.

*Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

Generous God, bless us now with your grace that gives and gives again. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

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Local Churches CCCLi 363610

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://www.methodist.org.uk)

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