

Worship at Home – Sunday 15 May 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

Gracious God. We come to you knowing that we are loved by you. Help us to recognise that love and your presence with us as we worship. Amen

Hymn: StF 86 Praise the Lord! You heavens, adore him.

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://youtu.be/8yzfiYtznPo>

Praise the Lord! You heavens, adore him;
praise him, angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him;
praise him, all you stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws that never shall be broken
for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord, for he is glorious!
Never shall his promise fail;
God has made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high, his power proclaim;
heaven and earth, and all creation,
laud and magnify his name!

*Foundling Hospital Hymns c.1796
from Psalm 148*

Let us pray together

Almighty God.

We adore you. You are our Father and our Mother. In you there is life and all life comes from you. For this we give our thanks and praise.

In Jesus you showed us the way to love. You

died to save us. For this we give you thanks and praise.

Holy Spirit, living breath of God, You make us more like Jesus, you infuse our lives with love. For this we give you thanks and praise.

Yet we know we fail to live your way, we fail to love one another, we fail to show your love to a broken world. We are truly sorry.

Thank you that your gracious words to those who repent and your sins are forgiven. Amen. Thanks be to God.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm 148

Today's Reading from the New Testament

Revelation 21:1-6

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 13:31-35

Time to Reflect

"Praise the Lord" the Psalmist calls us. I hope that as you follow this act of worship you have been able to do just that- praise our Lord. I love that this Psalm gives the image of all of creation worshipping God. All of creation being made with a purpose and bringing glory to the God of heaven and earth.

Turning to our Revelation reading we see the image of a newly restored creation. With such suffering in the world that can seem like a pipe dream. How can that be? Is it even possible to live like that? Yet we have the promise of God that God will wipe every tear from our eyes in the new heaven and the new earth. We can praise God for that promise-

the promise of a hope of a great future in Christ. That all will be made new- and all will be well.

In the here and now that can be hard to see but Jesus gave us an idea of how that should look like here and now. He commands us to love one another. He has demonstrated what love looks like in dying for us. This is how the world will know we are his disciples- and will see the promise of a new world through the love we have for one another and the hope we share.

May we spread that hope to a world so desperately in need of it.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving God,

We rejoice in your love, we rejoice in your promise of a new heaven and a new earth. While we await that we pray for our world.

We pray for our country as we still try to work out the effects of Brexit and continue to learn to live with COVID. We also pray for those countries yet to have many people vaccinated. Help us to share so that the world maybe safe.

We pray for a world full of war and hatred where there are many tears- may you bring your love. Help us to love even our enemies and to serve you.

Merciful God we pray for your church that we may show your love for one another and to your world. In Jesus name.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to 'God I look to you' sung by **Cathy Burton** or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://youtu.be/IKsKeFoOUIE>

A prayer of blessing

Go in the love of God- Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer to spread that love to all people.

Amen

Original Materials by James Blackhall

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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))

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!
Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'