

Worship at Home – Sunday 11 September 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

As you settle to worship our magnificent, gracious and loving God, take a moment to reflect on the Church Universal – through all time and in all places, with whom you join. Re-call the Church Triumphant in heaven, including those saints in Christ you have been blessed to know: They are joined with you in worship. Acknowledge the Church militant through out this land and all the earth: right now their worship joins with yours. The Lord is here! Alleluia!

Hymn: All people that on earth (StF1)

https://youtu.be/42_kOGDTpKg

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

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make:
we are his folk, he doth us feed;
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from earth and from the angel host

be praise and glory evermore.

William Kethe (d. 1594)

Let us pray together

God of all time, I offer you this time of my worship.
Christ of all corners I offer you this corner of my home
Spirit of holiness, I offer you my discipleship;
may your presence empower me to shed sin as a butterfly sheds its chrysalis.
Father Son and Spirit I am here for you right now. Amen

Read as a prayer of confession

StF 811/Psalm 51:1-11.

Offer to God the burden of any wrong in your life.

“This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1Tim 15a)
Hear then Christ’s word of grace “Your sins are forgiven”. Amen

Come divine interpreter (StF154) - read or sing as you prepare to listen for God in scripture

Come, divine Interpreter,
bring us eyes your book to read,
ears the mystic words to hear,
words which did from you proceed,
words that endless bliss impart,
kept in an obedient heart.

All who read, or hear, are blessed,
if your plain commands we do;
of your kingdom here possessed,
you we shall in glory view --
when you come on earth to abide,
reign triumphant at your side.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

Time to Reflect

Do you remember misplacing or losing something precious to you? How hard or urgently did you search for it? Did you eventually find it? How good did that feel? In these two stories Jesus responds to the religious folk who resented his companionship with "unsuitable" people – the "undesirables". Jesus reminds them that God may be happy with the 99 faithful sheep, but is not satisfied until the search has found the one outstanding lost one. The woman (standing in for God NB) can't settle with the safe 9 coins until she restores to their company the lost one.

Of course people are not coins nor sheep – we have our stubborn ways, our pride, our resistance to God's goodness. But God is always looking for "the lost" whether it be those who have never known God's love, those who have drifted away from God's grace or those who just feel "lost" in life. And (spoiler alert for next week's reading of the lost son) God always welcomes us back with open arms.

Take a moment to hold before God anyone you know who you sense is "lost" – whatever that means for them/you.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Good shepherd, I come to you for guidance in my prayers.

I pray for those whose loved ones were "lost" in the attacks of 9/11, and others whose lives have been shattered by violence.

Prince of Peace, bring a peace that passes all understanding to your suffering children.

I pray for your body the Church: Lord Jesus where we have become lost, find us; where we are stubborn, challenge us, and where we have stumbled restore us. Especially this morning I pray for my home church and those whose fellowship I miss this morning. Father of all comfort may we know that you are with them and with me.

God of all the world, before whom the leaders of the nations will stand in silence, I pray for the government of our lands, for the new Prime Minister and her/his new Ministers. Give wisdom and compassion to all who lead that the ways of our lives follow the ways of your Kingdom.

Lastly I bring to you those things that are on my mind and in my prayers.....

Nothing is too great nor too small for you, who cares for all. Thank you for your love and grace this morning

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to Love divine (StF503)

Sing/Read/Pray or listen here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q3jmXn6HTQ> or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

A prayer of blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of God star-maker, pain-bearer, life-giver be yours this day and always. Amen.

Original Materials by [Phil Challis](#)

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Footnotes

Luke 15:8 Gk drachmas, each worth about a day's wage for a labourer

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 and will end at the end of 2022.

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)

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

3 So he told them this parable: 4 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

8 'Or what woman having ten silver coins,[a] if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'