

Worship at Home - Sunday 30 October 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.

Call to Worship:

We gather to share good news.
We gather to proclaim Christ is risen.
We gather to proclaim that we will trust in Him. For God's love is victorious.

Hymn: Bless the Lord, O my soul (10,000 reasons)

Sing or read the words below, or listen here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtwIT8JiddM>

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes
Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find
Chorus

So bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Bless you, Lord
Chorus

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come

Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.
Chorus

Matt Redman

Prayer

Living God, Father of all peoples, wherever we are we will praise you. At home, at church, at work or at leisure, you are our God. We rejoice in your goodness in the past, and we rejoice that you bring new things to birth. Your love is constant and is sufficient for us. Lord, there are times when we have been reluctant to let other people join us in our faith and to share that love. How dare Jesus be there for people like him, or her, or Zacchaeus? Forgive us for the times we have excluded people from your grace by our words or actions. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; so that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Today's Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Time to Reflect

Is there a ministry with the rich? We usually focus on the vulnerable and disadvantaged. That is the gospel imperative and it's not an optional extra. Not that we are terribly good at it. I think it was Martyn Atkins who pointed out that, increasingly, neighbourhoods which are cash-poor are church-poor. Most denominations are in danger of abandoning those with whom Jesus most identified. But, those who are rich need ministry as well. Money can make life easier in many ways –

but it does not mean everything is straight forward. It often brings extra responsibility, perhaps to the people working under you. Managing people can be stressful. Maybe tens or hundreds, or thousands of people depend on the business being successful. If it goes under, then your employees will be made redundant. That has a knock-on effect in the community – less money to spend locally. If you go under, maybe your suppliers will also go under. Money often brings responsibility. So, we find ourselves in Jericho. And the crowd are going wild, excited to see Jesus. When Zacchaeus tries to muscle in – Zacchaeus, the tax collector, the man with power and the ear of Rome – when he tries to muscle in, the crowd are not having it. It seems Zacchaeus will not be allowed to meet Jesus.

So, in desperation, Zacchaeus climbs a tree. He just wanted to catch a glimpse of Jesus – but why was he so desperate? What drew him to Jesus? Yet Jesus notices the man who just wants to stay on the edge and a generous salvation comes to Zacchaeus and his household.

Jesus notices him and takes him seriously – the crowd don't like it, but tough. Salvation is for the rich as well. Zacchaeus is freed to be generous.

There are people in our congregations with heavy responsibilities. What does Jesus say to them? What is our ministry alongside them?

Take a time to sit quietly.

A time of prayer

We pray for all those who bear responsibility. For world leaders. Grant them a broad vision, wisdom and courage. May they see beyond mere national interest. Especially, we pray for the wisdom that will lead to peace. For leaders in industry – managers, trade unionists, board members. Grant them an awareness of the needs of their workforce. For those in the medical profession, we pray that through them your healing work will be done.

For tax collectors and all who serve the public. May they find joy in serving, and through their work may society grow stronger.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Our Father....

Hymn: Sing of the Lord's goodness (StF 65)

Sing or read the words below, or listen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLMDEN8Y5f0>

Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,
faithful to the end of days.

*Come then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.*

Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.

Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,
splendour of the living God.

Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp;
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days.

Ernest Sands (b. 1949)

A prayer of blessing

You are our God, and we are your people.
Bless us as we prepare to serve you and the people around us, so that all may catch a glimpse of your glory. **Amen.**

Original Materials by Richard Parkes
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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://methodist.org.uk)

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

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

1Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 19:1-10

19He entered Jericho and was passing through it.

²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.

⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."