

Sunday 4th July 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

As we meet for worship in different places we ask for God's presence with us and with those who can't join us.

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Let us pray together

Loving God, we praise, worship and adore you; we thank you for your provision to the whole world in the past, in the present and in the future; we give our small gifts of money to be used for Your work here on earth; we confess that we sometimes get things wrong; thank You that we can rely on Your forgiveness. Amen

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 6 1 to 13

"He sent them out in pairs, and these were His instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no money in your belts; wear sandals but not an extra shirt."

Time to Reflect

The bible is full of 'pairs' ... Moses and Aaron, David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha; soul-mates who supported each other as they grew, so Jesus sends His disciples out two by two so that they might support each other. With His instructions, Jesus is telling them that 'as God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you'. When I go on a trip I always take far too many clothes with me, most of which come back unworn. No chance of the apostles doing that, but, as in the middle east the temperature can drop substantially when the sun goes down, I've always been surprised that they didn't have an extra shirt, just a staff and sandals ... that reminded me of another journey, when the Israelites were getting ready to leave Egypt at the first Passover and they are told (from The Message bible Exodus 11:11) "Be fully dressed with your sandals on and your stick in your hand". As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. Being told not to take any food suggests that God will also fulfil that basic need. This is unsurprising; the Israelites spent years as desert nomads and so developed the custom of hospitality, and here is another parallel to the Exodus, with God providing enough manna each day for everyone. As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. However, what about money? The Israelites were told to "ask your neighbour and any guests in her house for objects of silver and gold, for jewellery and extra clothes" (Exodus 3:22) so that they didn't go into the desert with nothing. Some commentaries cross-reference this reading to Matthew 10 v 10 which says (MEV) "the workman is worthy of his keep" suggesting that for work, the disciples will be fed. As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. Aren't we blessed... this loving God who was and

is and will be forever has provided in the past, does so today and will continue to do so until the end of time. Thanks be to God Amen.

Time of silence

Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could
destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of
the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane
and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon
of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to
embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the
day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is
balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of
the day.

Jan Struther (Joyce Placzek) (1901-1953)

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Prayers for the world

Loving God who was and is and will be forever,
we pray for the world and its people, for all who
have struggled during the pandemic.

For Your church, for people of faith, for those
struggling with faith, for those with other faiths
and for those with no faith.

For all leaders that they may be fair and just and
for victims of natural disasters or who are
suffering because someone has ill-treated them.

For the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and for
carers, health workers and emergency services

For those who taught us the truths and duties of
the Christian faith. In a time of silence we bring
our personnel concerns.

Loving God who was and is and will be forever we
ask these prayers in the name of our Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: To God be the glory

- 1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:
*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;
and give him the glory -- great things he has
done!*
- 2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:
- 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he
has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:
*Frances Jane van Alstyne, (Fanny Crosby) (1820-1915)
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A prayer of blessing

As we end our time of worship may the love of
God be above us to shield us, beneath us to
uphold us and before us to lead us. Amen

Original Materials by Ann Seaton

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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. We aim to
continue to provide these resources until the end
of August 2021.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary^[a] and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense^[b] at him. 4 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” 5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.

The Mission of the Twelve

Then he went about among the villages teaching. 7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. 10 He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” 12 So they went out and

proclaimed that all should repent. 13 They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.