

Worship at Home - Sunday 4 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

Come into the presence of our God, and know that He is waiting for you. Come into His presence just as you are, and rest, listen for His voice, and praise Him for His love for you.

your servant shall be too;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow
my master and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

Hymn: StF563, O Jesus, I have promised

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

<https://youtu.be/svgHDdzP5xY>

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me, and within;
but, Jesus, now draw nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
Lord, speak, and make me listen,
O guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory

Let us pray together

Gracious Creator God, we praise You for all we can see and know of Your love for all You have made. We worship You, because in all Your power and majesty, You yet care for all who have been made in Your image. Thank You for knowing us individually, helping and blessing us.

Forgive us Lord, when we fall short in the human family You made us to be; and when we sin against You and thus cause You sadness. *(Silence)* ... When we truly repent, we can know that God hears us, and we can know our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Amen

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 14: 25 - 33

Time to Reflect

Does it puzzle you to read that Jesus told people that they would need to hate their loved ones, if they wanted to follow Him? "Hate" is such an ugly word today, but Jesus' was using it differently. "Large crowds were travelling with [Him]", and He needed to make them understand that changing from a "follower" to a "disciple" involved important, life-changing decisions. The twelve men He chose made that decision (remember Simon Peter, James and John "left their nets and followed Him"). They dedicated themselves to learning to be followers of Jesus, and went on to live out their calling. They didn't abandon their families - we read about Peter's mother-in-law later in the Scriptures. They changed

their priorities in life by choosing to put Jesus first. They came to understand that the Son of God in their midst was doing His Father's will, and that their task was to do it with Him, and continue on after His death. No doubt many of the people following Jesus that day did turn back. We will never know. But what we can decide is what we will do. Will we follow our loyalties to our own families and friends first, and follow Jesus afterwards, or will we choose Jesus, and, in serving Him, find that *all these things will be added to us*?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Dear Lord, when You challenge people to leave everything and follow You, we are also challenged to live the way that You did, and care for others. So, today, we pray:
For those living in fear – of war, hunger, fire and floods destroying their homes and crops;
For those who are in despair because they do not have enough to feed their families, keep warm, and pay their bills;
For those who are sick, and cannot access the help and support they need for themselves or their families;
For those who are mourning today, or alone, or who have no-one to help them with even simple tasks;
For ourselves, that we might feel the power of Your Holy Spirit working in us, enabling us to do whatever we can, wherever we are, to reach out to others.
Hear our prayers, Father God, for we ask them In Jesus' name. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

**Hymn: StF706, Longing for light
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**
<https://youtu.be/TS7AIBeApwk>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

A prayer of blessing

We go from this time of worship, knowing that we are on a journey, and that Jesus is leading the way. Let us follow joyfully and trustingly, knowing that He leads us home. Go in peace, and God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – will be with you always. **Amen**

Original Materials by Sue Taylor Local Preacher/Cheshire South Circuit

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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 and will end at the end of 2022.

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))

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 14: 25 - 33

The Cost of Discipleship

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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Stf 563 O Jesus I have promised

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StF 706 Longing for light

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