

Worship at Home - Sunday 29th 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

Sovereign God, beyond, around, within:
May we be conscious of your presence
now.
We worship you.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 335

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Sing/ Read /Pray /Proclaim the words or
listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhEUCSzaU8M>

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice! Again I say: rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules both earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
God's trumpet-call shall sound:rejoice!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together.

Great God, universe-maker and life-giver:
Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus Christ, Lord
and Saviour: we worship you.
Nearby God, touching and embracing God,
God within: we worship you.
God of promise, God of hope, God of new
beginnings: we worship you.
We ask your forgiveness for things we've
done wrong; for words we've spoken that
weren't right; for thoughts that shouldn't
have happened; for resentments we have
held.
Forgive us and change us we pray.
Faithful God, loving God of grace, forgiving
God: you do forgive us
We worship you.

Today's Reading from the New Testament

Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Today's Gospel Reading: John 17: 20-26

Time to Reflect

We're at the time of year when, in some sports, issues of promotion, relegation and qualification have become very serious concerns. Nagging fears and fragile hopes have become reality. In other sports the same kind of hopes and fears are considerations that will wax or wane over the coming months.

How is it that a team of highly talented individuals can do anything other than win and succeed? How is it that such a team can lack unity of purpose and cohesion and fail? Yet, every year, there are mystifying examples of failure where there should have been success. There are coaches and managers who have shown the ability to blend a team of individuals into a highly effective unit, for them to be one in purpose, goal and achievement. Now, at another time, or in another place, they fail to do so.

In the Gospel reading Jesus asks, prays, that those who believe in him may be one. Oh, that it was so! Oh, that we were one! Every community of faith, one in purpose and goal!

There must be a reason that we aren't as one; that we aren't as successful as we ought to be. Is it the manager, the coach, the players? Or maybe it's everyone who is deficient?

There are, indeed, wonderful and amazing performances, successes. Should success not be everywhere? We have such good news!

Sadly, where there is success, there are some that quickly fade, or even implode spectacularly maybe, embarrassingly, sometimes news worthily.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all rediscovered, or discovered for the first time, a fresh dynamic sense of oneness? Wouldn't it be tremendous if Jesus' prayer was answered in us?

In the world of sport, some of us would be dropped, transferred out, cast aside, replaced by someone better for the job. Thank God that this isn't the case with those who name Jesus as Lord and Saviour. There is a future to be looked to, to be worked for; the future of the kingdom fully established upon earth and in all its peoples.

There is reason today for confidence and fullest hope.

May we be as one, a real team, playing life for each other, for others and for Jesus Christ. As the celebration of Pentecost comes towards us may we be moved to hear afresh, to feel anew, the encouraging, the urging power and words of the Holy Spirit.

Now, take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Listening God: we have many concerns for others and the world in which we all live, your people and your world. In prayer we place before you our thoughts born out of compassion, sadness, and sorrow. Out of anger, frustration and disappointment. Out of fear and uncertainty, hope and longing; a desire for a just and fair world.

Understanding God, receive our prayers.

Help us, we ask, to be your answers to prayer. May we live to your glory. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: *Listen to, maybe sing, or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind*

Singing the Faith 346 Christ is the world's light

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne5MOMp6W_Y

Christ is the world's light,
Christ and none other;
born in our darkness,
he became our brother.
If we have seen him,
we have seen the Father:
glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's Peace,
Christ and none other;
no one can serve him
and despise another;
who else unites us,
one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world's Life,
Christ and none other;
sold once for silver,
murdered here, our brother --
he, who redeems us,
reigns with God the Father:
glory to God on high.

Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;
give God the glory,
God with us, my brother:
glory to God on high.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

A prayer of blessing

In the dark, fearful, uncertain and confusing times; God is with us. In the bright, joyful, confident and clear times; God is with us. May God continue to bless us in all times.

Original Materials by Trevor Pratt

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

Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

‘See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

‘It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.’

The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’

And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come.’

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

John 17: 20-26

²⁰ ‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ ‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’