



Worship at Home - Sunday 8 May

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

Loving God, Creator, Son and Spirit we come to worship you,
Help us to encounter your love,
Your hope,
And your joy in this time
As those who worship in Spirit and in truth.
Amen

Hymn: StF 18 Be still and know that I am God
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7rG3O1qchA>

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust.
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

*Anonymous
Based on Psalm 46:10-11*

Let us pray together

Loving God we come, we worship and adore you as the one we can trust.
The one who created our innermost being,
Who dreamed all we are and can be before we ever drew a breath. The one who has a plan and a purpose for us, and not only for us, but for all of creation.

Today, as we bring our whole selves to worship we remember that there are times when we don't live into all that we can be, we forget you, we neglect others, and we neglect ourselves.

Today's Reading from the New Testament

Acts 9: 36-43

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 10: 22-30

Time to Reflect

We hear these reading in both the shadow of a pandemic, and in the shadow of war, as I write these questions they are both still very present, so I ask you to reflect carefully:

1. What are your expectations of God at work among us? How do you respond to Peter's faith and prayer?
2. Does God still raise the dead today?
3. Jesus says, my sheep hear my voice, how do you hear the voice of Jesus today?
4. What does it mean to follow?
5. Do you ever feel that God is keeping you in suspense? Take some time to talk to him about it.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Let's pray together.

Loving God you know our ways, and the ways of the world, and you call us to walk and work with you, so now we do so in prayer:

We pray for the church as it reaches into the world, that our work and words may be loving. That our work and words may be challenging. That our work and words might bring healing. That we might like Jesus be bringers of peace.

We pray for our world, and all of the places where war rages, sometimes we simply watch with horror, not knowing how to pray, so we ask for your Spirit to give voice to our voicelessness, and to help us to walk and work with you.

We pray for those in power, for wisdom, for kindness and for peace.

We pray for those who have been dispossessed, that they might find a home and a welcome.

We pray for those who struggle, that they might find a way forward.

We pray for those who mourn, that they might receive your comfort.

And we pray in quiet, bringing our deepest concerns in the confidence that you will hear them.

In the name of Christ

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to: StF712 Put peace into each others hands or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VI_sd5A-h8

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it, protect it like a candle-flame,

with tenderness enfold it.
Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

As at Communion, shape your hands into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, revere,
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance,
and share it like a treasure.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

A prayer of blessing

We go from this time of worship to be those who follow the way of Christ.

To be those who seek peace.

To be those who live lives of love.

May the God hold us grant us grace to live lives worth of this calling. May God bless and hold you throughout this coming week.

Amen

Original Materials by

Reverend Sally Coleman

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

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://The Bible (methodist.org.uk))

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

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

(Acts 6: 36-43)

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.

(John 10: 22-30)