

Sunday 18th October 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

To You we rise, in You we rest
We stay at home, we go on quest,
Still You are our abode (from H and P 39,
v5 alt.)

Hymn: 608 All Praise to our redeeming
Lord who joins us by His grace
(for an organ version see: <https://youtu.be/VQQwzluYBaw>)

All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.

The gift which he on one bestows,
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

E'en now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesu's name,
in perfect harmony.

We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what heights of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet!
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayer of Approach

Heart-stirring God,
You know each of us by name
and day by day we discover your favour
afresh.
Your love is new every morning.
Your Presence remains with us,
whether we are called to travel or need
to stay put.
You are our rest-giver and the source of
our peace.

We marvel that you choose to be gracious
to us.
We are touched and humbled by the
mercy You extend.
We ask You to stir our hearts and teach us
Your ways so that we who belong to You
may know more of You.
Show us Your glory.
Open our eyes to it, stretching in beauty
over the face of the earth,
shining in the face of Christ Jesus and
smiling in the faces of every life lighted
by Your Spirit,
so that we and all Your people may give
You glory and worship You in Spirit and in
Truth.

Amen (prayer inspired by Exodus 33 vv.
12-23)

Prayer of Confession

(You can begin this prayer with your
hands held shut)

Giving and forgiving God, You are rich in
mercy and generous to all.
Help us to see clearly the priorities,
prejudices and anxieties in our lives.
Help us to face honestly the injustice,
greed and exploitation of the society in
which we live.

Forgive us when our concerns have been limited and we have behaved as if our lives and resources were ours to use as we wished.

Forgive us when we have failed to let Your big-heartedness open our hearts and hands.

(Open your hands)

Merciful God, give us the grace and courage to open our hearts and hands. Shape our lives and use us for we belong to You.

Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

Receive the riches of God's mercy and grace.

Know beyond any doubt that You are loved and forgiven in Jesus

Today's Gospel Reading

Matthew 22 vv. 23:33

Read Rev. Ken's Sermon:

Take a time to sit quietly

Think of Jesus giving attention to a tricky situation where you do not know how to speak or act for the best. Pray that as you put this into Jesus's hands you will receive a renewed perspective.

In the 'messy middle' what would it mean to embark on a scavenger hunt for signs of God's Presence? Give thanks for someone in whose life you see God at work. Is there a way you could encourage them by letting them know?

A time of prayer

Patient God

Help us to remember that we can't find the words, You listen to our hearts and Your Spirit pleads for us in sighs too deep to be spoken.

Lover of Justice, we hold before You the peoples of the world. Establish equity and grant wisdom.

Strong God, we hold before You the church through the world and our own churches. Strengthen hearts and renew vision.

Merciful one, we hold before You those we know in need. Reach out with healing and restoration, encircle in comfort and care.

Listening God, refresh our sense of Your Presence and strengthen and guide us day by day, until with all Your beloved people we see You face to face in Your Kingdom.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn:

A prayer of blessing

May God our Father inspire and strengthen us in our work of faith

May Christ Jesus our brother motivate and sustain us in our labour of love

May the Spirit our helper establish and build in us a steadfast hope.

That our living may be a reason for thanksgiving and bring Glory to God.

Amen.

Amended Original Materials by **Miriam Stevenson**

All

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