

Sunday 20th September 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

Loving God I know that You are with me in every moment of my life but as I set this special time aside, I pray that I might feel your presence. [*Pause*].

I pray that You would send Your Holy Spirit, that in the stillness I might hear Your Word and be joined in fellowship with sisters and brothers who gather in Your name this day.

Amen.

Hymn: Only By Grace Can We Enter (StF 565)

Only by grace can we enter,
only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavour,
but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us,
you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us,
and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.

Lord, if you mark our transgressions,
who would stand?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed
by the blood of the Lamb.
Lord, if you mark our transgressions,
who would stand?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed
by the blood of the Lamb.

Only by grace can we enter ...
Gerrit Gustafson

Let us pray together

Gracious God, I praise you for who You are. For You are the Lord, the giver and sustainer of life whose nature is love. I

thank You that even when I rebel against You, Your unquenchable love seeks me out, finds me in the mud and mire and desires that I repent and be restored in fellowship with You once again. I thank You that in Jesus, You made the first move and have rescued me. I pray that as Your Word ministers to me, I might so open my heart to your grace that it might fill me, transform me and overflow into all my relationships and dealings with the world. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 20: 1-16

Read Rev. Ken's Sunday Sermon: We have left everything for you...

Time to Reflect

A time of prayer

Loving God,

I pray that the world might know Your grace. I pray for wisdom for the leaders of the world that powerful nations might respond with that self-giving generosity that You bring to the world.

On this peace Sunday, I pray for all those who respond to Your love by making the first move to call an end to conflict. I pray for those caught up in conflict, those who flinch at the sound of explosives or gunshot.

I pray for those returning to collective worship as churches and chapels are now open, may we never take for granted the

great privilege of collective worship and the freedom to come to a house of prayer in fellowship, to receive of the Holy sacraments and hear the Word of God preached by Your servants.

I ask Your blessing on those close to me that even in these distanced times that You would give me the opportunity to reflect that grace first shown to me.

I ask these prayers in the only way that I can; in the power of Your Holy Spirit and in the name, grace and character of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: "What Shall I do my God to love...?" (StF 436)

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

What shall I do my God to love,
my loving God to praise?
The length, and breadth, and height to
prove,
and depth of sovereign grace?

Your sovereign grace to all extends,
immense and unconfined;
from age to age it never ends;
enfolds all humankind.

Throughout the world its breadth is
known,
wide as infinity;
so wide it never passed by one,
or it had passed by me.

My trespass was grown up to heaven;
but, far above the skies,
in Christ abundantly forgiven,
I see your mercies rise.

The depth of all-redeeming love
what angel tongue can tell?
O may I to the utmost prove
the gift unspeakable!

Come quickly, gracious Lord, and take
possession of your own;

my longing heart vouchsafe to make
your everlasting throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

A prayer of blessing

God to enfold you,
Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight ;
so may God grace you,
heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness
into the light.

John L. Bell (b. 1949)

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