

Sunday 23rd August 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

When we see only trouble **Jesus, be our vision**
When we feel only uncertainty **Jesus, be our rock**
When we hear only bad news **Jesus, be our hope**
In all the circumstances of our lives
Jesus, our Companion, be a light to our path

Hymn: 378 Be thou my vision

Let us pray together

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mindful, compassionate, constant, thank You for loving us through every season of our lives. May we believe that You call us into a new day, that You call each of us by our name, that we belong to You. And gathered or scattered, You hold us together in love.

Generous and merciful God, the only way to come to You each day is in truth, for You know us completely. Shine Your light on us so that we can know ourselves and be real and honest before You as we seek to make our confession and turn from our wrongful ways.

Absolution: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore to all who truly repent, this is His gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven;'. Amen, Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Read Rev. Ken's Sunday Sermon: Our identity is it in Him?

Hymn: 515 The churches one foundation

Time to Reflect

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Holy and gracious God, we pray for others, prayers that bring to mind the world's realities. Please teach us not to be afraid, because it is here we find You, sharing this deeply troubled world with us.

Please bless all who are continuing to make a difference: Nurses, drivers, cleaners, carers, chefs, volunteers, entertainers, neighbours and countless more. **May they know your laughter and love.**

We ask You to bless all who are there to care for those who are at their lowest, especially in health and care services. **May they know your persevering strength.**

We pray for the hundreds of thousands who are grieving here and across the world: for the loss of loved ones, loss of livelihood, loss of confidence and hope, loss of any sense of wellbeing. **May they**

know Your comfort, strong and everlasting.

We pray for people who need the world to be a more just, and for those who have power to use their power and influence wisely. **May we and they know Your righteousness and holiness.**

Time to make our own prayers....

Thank You for all, profoundly known and loved, who enrich our lives every day.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Offertory: For the blessings God has given to us, for everything belongs to Him we give back to you a sacrifice of our love to you in what we have received for your glory. Amen

Hymn: 492 Give me joy in my heart

A prayer of blessing

Generous God, please fill Your holy gift of life with grace; please bless your fragile gift of life with joy; please help us always to cherish Your precious gift of life. Amen.