

Sunday 4th 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

You may like to be still, light a candle, listen to a calming piece of music as we gather in worship.

Holy God, as we come to worship You, help us to remember, that though apart, we belong to Your church, Your people, Your world, we are not alone. The Psalmist writes of the heavens declaring the glory of God. As we worship today may we, like the heavens, declare your glory, be assured of your love, experience your grace and be restored in our hope. Draw us together by your Spirit as we worship. Amen.

(Prayer based on the words of Psalm 19)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim these words...

Hymn: 503 O Praise him!

Let us pray together

Eternal God and Father, You are the source of all life, the fount of all wisdom, the well-spring of all grace. Your days are without end, Your loving mercies without number. We depend on You: and we remember Your goodness to us and to those who have gone before us in the faith of Christ.

We tell Your Good News in every generation:

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
God of Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel,
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
God of a pilgrim people, Your Church.

You are our God, ahead of us, leading us, guiding us and calling us;
You are the Lord God,
the all-wise, the all-compassionate.
To You we lift up our hearts and we worship You, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Methodist Worship Book, *Second Service*, p.40)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

Read Rev. Ken's Sunday Sermon: Have you not read the Scriptures?

Time to Reflect

A time of prayer

Holy God, we come to You today with our prayers:

We pray for our world...
Your kingdom come, your will be done.
We pray for Your Church...
Your kingdom come, your will be done.

We pray for all those striving for justice...
Your kingdom come, your will be done.

We pray for those living lives in fear
Your kingdom come, your will be done.

We pray for those we know and love who need our prayers...
Your kingdom come, your will be done.

We offer all our prayers in and through the name of our living Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

**Hymn: 267 Love divine, all loves
excelling**

Offertory:

A prayer of blessing

‘Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.’ Amen

(Philippians 4:4-7)

Amended Original Materials by Rev Miriam Moul

All Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCCLi No here

Bible Readings

Matthew 21:33-46

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³ ‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ ⁴¹They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

⁴² Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realised that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.