

Worship at Home - Sunday 21 November 2021

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.

You may wish to read Philippians 2:5-11 before praying the opening prayer.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge you as our Saviour and King, as we worship you this day help us to understand a little more of what that means, so that we may live our lives in fullness of joy and in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen.

Hymn: At the name of Jesus (Singing the Faith 317)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here:

[At the name of Jesus \(StF 317i\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk)
[methodist.org.uk](https://www.methodist.org.uk)

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith
Electronic Words Edition, number 317

Let us pray together:

Jesus, while we acknowledge you as King, we know that you are a king unlike any earthly king. A king unlike any that we could imagine, for when we think of kings

we think of power and privilege, trumpets and fanfare, palaces, and riches.

And yet you left heaven to meet us your creation on earth. Choose a stable over a palace. And a cross in death.

You are a king who invites all to come as they are whether rich or poor; busy and hassled; lonely and bored; happy and joyful. You are always happy to see us even in our reluctance, always anxious to speak to us to remind us of your great love for us.

And knowing that you love us we bring our confessions to you,

For the times we have placed ourselves above others and above you,

For the times we have abused our positions and bent the rules to suit ourselves,

For the times we have looked down on others,

We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Even during difficult times, God is with us, loving and forgiving us. Let us receive that love and forgiveness now. Amen.

Today's Readings from the Old and New Testament

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and
Revelation 1:4-8

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 18:33-37

Time to Reflect

We come to the Sunday, which is the last in our lectionary year, the day we might know as "Christ the King Sunday". Next week, the 1st of Advent, we begin a brand-new lectionary year, as we make our preparations for Christmas and the coming of Jesus whom we call the King of Kings.

What comes to mind when you think of a king? What do you picture? What things do kings have and how do they act?

Did you picture a man dressed in fine clothes, a robe around his shoulders, seated on a throne, a crown on his head, and servants in attendance? A castle and riches? Did you picture someone in charge giving orders and instructions, perhaps a little bossy?

Today we are remembering Jesus as King but Jesus' life on this earth was very unlike that of what we imagine when we think of a king. It's very different from what our children play when they play kings and queens or dress up as them.

My children are all now young adults but when they were little, they loved the series of touchy-feely board books that all start "That's not my..." And finish with the sentence "That's my... it's ... is so...", you have probably seen them.

I wonder if we wrote one about Jesus being our King how it would go?

Perhaps something like this...

That's not my king his robe is too
glittery

That's not my king his crown is too hard

That's not my king his sceptre is too
short

That's not my king his throne is too
smooth

That's not my king his treasure is too
rough

That's my King his smile is so loving...

Maybe have a go at writing your own thoughts.

Today, as the people of Jesus, surely part of our responsibility is to support the vision of the one, we call King. To live it out in reflection of our king's values.

Jesus consistently reached out to serve the underserved, the neglected, the oppressed and the hurting. He is the king who fed the hungry and healed the broken. As members of his kingdom, we are surely called to do the same.

To think further on: What kind of King is Jesus and how are we to help bring his Kingdom to this earth?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Father God,

As we have thought about kings, we think of those who rule and have power and influence. We pray for our Queen and government, for politicians and those in big business. May they make wise and just decisions and remember that they are responsible to others and to you.

We pray for those who are rich and famous that they may keep in touch with reality and use their fame and wealth both for others as themselves.

We pray for those people who are our role models, whom we look up to and admire, we thank you for those people who have helped us make wise decisions. May they know your love and support.

We pray for all who feel that they are nobody – maybe because of lack of wealth, status, or due to an illness or disability. Let them know your healing and love, through our words and actions, for everyone is of worth to you.

We pray for ourselves, for we too will be special to others, stars in their eyes, we pray that we may live up to the best that we are able with your help, depending on your grace and strength day by day.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to StF286 What kind of love is this

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTs fZnOIReo>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

What kind of love is this
that gave itself for me?

I am the guilty one,
yet I go free.

What kind of love is this,
a love I've never known;
I didn't even know his name --
what kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this,
that died in agony?
He who had done no wrong
was crucified for me.
What kind of man is this,
who laid aside his throne
that I may know the love of God --
what kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved;
it is the gift of God.
He destined me to be his own
such is his love.

No eye has ever seen,
no ear has ever heard,
nor has the human heart conceived
what kind of love is this?

Bryn Haworth and Sally Haworth

A prayer of blessing

As we go into this next week may we know God's love, strength, and guidance.
Amen.

Original Materials by Yvette Edwards, Local Preacher
in the Newport and Lower Wye circuit.

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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))

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

2 Samuel 23:1-7

The Last Words of David

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,

the oracle of the man whom God exalted,

the anointed of the God of Jacob,

the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,

his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken,

the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly,

ruling in the fear of God,

is like the light of morning,

like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?

For he has made with me an everlasting

covenant,

ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper

all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown
away;

for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

to touch them one uses an iron bar

or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the
spot.

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who
was and who is to come, and from the seven
spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus
Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the
dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins
by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father, to him be
glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will
wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord
God, who is and who was and who is to come, the
Almighty.

John 18: 33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again,
summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the
King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask
this on your own, or did others tell you about
me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your
own nation and the chief priests have handed you
over to me. What have you done?' Jesus
answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If
my kingdom were from this world, my followers
would be fighting to keep me from being handed
over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not
from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?'
Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this
I was born, and for this I came into the world, to
testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the
truth listens to my voice.'