

Worship at Home - Sunday 3 July 2022

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.

Opening Prayer

Jesus is here among us now as we worship God together. We pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit we hear afresh God's word to us, calling us to take the good news to all the world.

Hymn: STF 407 Hear the call of the kingdom

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

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

Hear the call of the kingdom,
lift your eyes to the King;
let his song rise within you
as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy,
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom
to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ;
walking justly before him,
loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through
us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the
world,
filled with passion, filled with power to
proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the kingdom
to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion
in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness,
and a hope yet to come:
let the nations put their trust in him.

King of heaven, we will answer the call

*Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and
Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

Let us pray together

Creator God
Who gives us sunshine and showers to
enable plants to grow, we praise you for
the gift of nature. Just as the rain falls on
the soil and produces green shoots, we
praise you that your spirit constantly
inspires and nurtures us. When we fail to
produce our best for you and shrink from
our tasks, forgive our apathy and refresh
our hearts with your love.

For all the times we turn away from you
For all the wrongs that separate us from
you,
Forgive and restore us.
The Lord hears our prayer and pours out
his mercy upon us. Amen

Today's Gospel Reading:

Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

Time to Reflect

If the opening sentences of this reading are what remains with you ("the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" v2), please do not be discouraged! For the next words remind us that God will be with us in our mission, provided that we thoroughly steep our outreach in prayer. Seeking God's will through prayer before embarking on any Christian project is essential to underpin human efforts. God needs to be involved if Christians are to be successful in preaching his good news effectively. This may seem to be an obvious statement, but too often we rely upon our own resources and carry out our own ideas without first asking God what it is we are to do in his name. The disciples were sent out "like lambs among wolves" with the blessing and protection of the Lord, and the added encouragement of those he provided to offer support and hospitality. The seventy messengers were overjoyed with the success of their prayers and healings. But Jesus threw a note of caution to them, reminding them not to be too self congratulatory but rather to rejoice that they were doing God's work. For we do not preach the gospel in our own strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

We pray for God's guidance and inspiration for all church leaders and communities, for a strengthening of faith and a more effective sharing of the good news with others.

Compassionate Christ,
You wept over Jerusalem; with how many tears must you view the troubles and conflicts in your world. We pray for peaceful resolution of wars, for comfort for the sick, shelter for the homeless and refugees, for food for the hungry and tenderness for the young and old in need.

Loving God,
We pray for those who are grieving, those who feel lost, those who are without faith. May they all feel the touch of your hand upon their lives, healing, blessing and making them whole in your love.

We pray for our own concerns, placing our anxieties at the foot of the cross and looking upwards in thankfulness to share our joys with you.

Accept these prayers and the prayers of our hearts for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn:

Listen to StF 410 Lord, your church on earth is seeking
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnYUfhtz11Q>

Lord, your Church on earth is seeking
your renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of your love.
We would heed your great commission:
sending us to every place --
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.

Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and
courage,
grant release from fears within:
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races
let us serve, and seek to bring
all the world to render praises,
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

Hugh Sherlock (1905-1998)

A prayer of blessing

May you find an opportunity every day to share the love of Jesus with a stranger, a friend or a neighbour, so that the kingdom of God on earth might increase more and more through the power of the Spirit.

And the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love, today and always. Amen.

Original Materials by Reverend Claire Hargreaves
All Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.
Local Churches 117150 / 215980

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://TheBible.methodist.org.uk)
[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://SingingtheFaithPlus.methodist.org.uk)

Luke 10.1-11

The Mission of the Seventy

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

Luke 10.16-20

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

The Return of the Seventy

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons

submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'