

Sunday 29th March 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared by the Methodist connexional team (with a little adaptation by Rev Dan) for you to use while we are unable to gather together to worship. If you are well enough we invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are also sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

As we come to worship you may like to have a time of silence and light a candle.

Holy and Loving God I come to worship you,
as I do I remember that I am a part of your church
in my community and in the world,
and I take comfort from the fact that I am not alone.
Come by your Holy Spirit and help me to worship you in spirit and in truth.
Amen

Lent Liturgy

Lectionary Gospel: John 11:1-45, The death of Lazarus | Symbols: hammer and nails

[Martha] said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,
the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'
When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her
privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.'

John 11:27

If you have them, you may wish to hold a hammer and/or nails as you pray...
Suffering God, Messiah,
We bring a hammer and nails, to remind us how humanity treated Christ.
We remember Christ, who is the good shepherd.



I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the
Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15

Hymn: StF 370 Breathe on me breath of God

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5keJHZdWYM>

1) Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

3) Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

2) Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

4) Breathe on me, Breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch (1835–1889) | Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 370

Let us pray together

Holy and Loving God, all life comes from you, and in you all things hold together.
As we remember this, we pause to give you thanks and Praise.

As we remember this,
we are reminded that you hold the end from the beginning,
and that nothing is too large or too small for you.

As we remember this, remind us that as all things are held,
so we are held by you, in love.

Help us in our anxious thoughts.

Help us in our day to day lives.

Help us in this time of deep uncertainty.

We acknowledge that at times we are selfish, at times we do not seek you first.
But we know that you are always faithful, merciful, gracious, and forgiving.

(Silence)

We receive your mercy and forgiveness, faithfulness and grace.

In the name of Christ.

Amen

Today's Gospel Reading: John 11: 1-45 (see the cream sheet)

Additional Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11

Time to Reflect: Today's reading is full of hope, reminding us that the resurrection is real, and new life is possible.

Take time to read the gospel passage slowly and prayerfully again.

Is there a word or a passage that stands out to you?

Pause to spend time with that word/ passage/ picture

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

If Jesus were stood before you what would you like to ask him?

A time of prayer

Holy and Loving God we pray for your world, for the leaders who are making difficult decisions as every day brings new changes and challenges.

Lord of all, Hear our prayer

We pray for our nation, that decisions might be made with wisdom and care for the benefit of all.

Lord of all, Hear our prayer

We pray for our town/ city/ village. For all who live here that your peace might reign and that your perfect love might settle our fears.

Lord of all, Hear our prayer

We pray for frontline workers, Drs, nurses, carers, shop workers, refuse collectors, postal workers.

Lord of all, Hear our prayer

We pray for our loved ones, those we know who may be ill, those who are struggling, those who are confused and conflicted...

(you might like to name names here)

Lord of all, Hear our prayer

And finally we pray for ourselves, you know what is on our hearts and minds, and so we offer that to you (again you might like to name your own prayers and concerns)

Lord of all, Hear our prayer

AMEN

The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father*

Hymn: Oceans by Hillsongs United

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GGFb6LcX3U>

You call me out upon the waters,
The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
In oceans deep my faith will stand.

*Chorus: And I will call upon Your name,
And keep my eyes above the waves,
When oceans rise,
My soul will rest in Your embrace,
For I am Yours and You are mine.*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now.

Chorus

Refrain: Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
Let me walk upon the waters,
Wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander,
And my faith will be made stronger,
In the presence of my Saviour.

Chorus

Joel Houston, Matt Crocker & Salomon Ligthelm | Copyright © 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing

A prayer of blessing

May you know the deep peace of the God who knows and perfectly loves you.
May take the yoke of Jesus upon you,
knowing that he bears your load with you.
May you know the indwelling Spirit bringing you wisdom and peace.
Amen