

# Worshipping Together

## July 2020

These acts of Worship have been prepared for use while we are physically unable to gather 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.

You can also join **Worship on the Phone**, 10am Sundays.

### How to connect to Worship on the Phone

1. Call **0333 011 0616** from a mobile or landline.
2. Enter unique PIN: **9805080** and press **#** (it will ask for £, but press #)
3. You will be invited to speak your name, then press **#** again.
4. You will be connected to the call.

### ***A note on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July***

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July, as part of our *Worshipping Together* resources is the inclusion of a Love Feast. See p2 of this booklet for more info on what a Love Feast is.

Dan will lead this as part of our *Worship on the Phone* service that day, but this resource can also be used if you are using *Worshipping Together* on your own, knowing that you will be participating as part of our scattered community who are held together through our belonging to the body of Christ.

As part of the love Feast we will have opportunity to eat or drink together, so before the worship begins please have some ready – you could have a biscuit, cake, a piece of fruit, a glass of water, cup of tea, (as we're Methodists, it may be best to leave the Gin for later!).

There is also a space for sharing testimony, so I invite you, if you are willing, to be ready to share a few short sentences of testimony that express where you have encountered God recently.

**Rev Dan**

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 | Love Feast / Agape<sup>1</sup>

*The love feast or Agape, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry. The service expresses the 'koinonia' or sharing, belonging and fellowship enjoyed within the body of Christ.*

*The Love Feast, in common with other acts of worship includes prayer, praise, scripture, preaching and mutual fellowship, but in addition the Love Feast contains a time of Testimony and the sharing of food/drink.*



### GATHERING

***As we come to worship, you may like to have a time of silence and light a candle. Let us remember that wherever we are, God is with us.***

### Gathering Praise<sup>2</sup>

All praise to our redeeming Lord, who joins us by his grace,  
and bids us, each to each restored, together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up; and, gathered into one,  
to our high calling's glorious hope we hand in hand go on.

We all partake the joy of one, the common peace we feel,  
a peace to sensual minds unknown, a joy unspeakable.

### Prayer of rejoicing

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gift of this new day.  
For your creativity we praise you,  
for your love for us, we adore you,  
for the community of faith you call us into, we thank you.

Saving God, we celebrate the gift of salvation we are offered through Christ,  
We acknowledge the imperfections of our humanity,  
we come before you recognising our need of forgiveness,  
and come in thankfulness that you declare to us, 'your sins are forgiven'.

As we live in your forgiving and saving love,  
and participate in this, your community of faith,  
fill us with the blessing and joy of your Holy Spirit poured upon us. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Preparation and original material by Dan Balsdon

<sup>2</sup> Extracts from 'All Praise to our Redeeming Lord, Charles Wesley, StF608

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**Testimony**

**A time to share: Where have you encountered God in your life recently?**

**Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3**

**Reflection:** I can't totally explain why, but one of my favourite verses of scripture is John 10:10b: *'I come that you may have life, and have it abundantly'*.

There's something about these words I find refreshing, re-filling and empowering every time I read them. Perhaps it is the wonder and mystery of the abundance these very words of Christ's promise that are the reason I find constant refreshment in faith through them.

Many of us will have verses of scripture, prayers, proverbs or poems which are our go-to places for strength or encouragement, especially, perhaps in times of struggle. I've found myself revisiting many of these sources over the past weeks, reminded of the ways God has enabled and nurtured my living of life through them.

There is something in our human nature about familiarity and habit, history and experience which enables us to access our memories and experiences from the past to help us in the now. In times of struggle, when all else seems lost, those places though which we have experienced God in our past can be a source of strength in our present as we look towards our future. Nothing is wasted; *'We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.'* (Romans 8:28)

The opening of Isaiah 55 invites us into the abundant life that is freely available to God's community of believers – the community of faith.

*"Hey there! All who are thirsty, come to the water!  
Are you penniless? Come anyway—buy and eat!  
Come, buy your drinks, buy wine and milk.  
Buy without money—everything's free!*

*Why do you spend your money on junk food,  
your hard-earned cash on cotton candy?  
Listen to me, listen well: Eat only the best, fill yourself with only the finest.  
Pay attention, come close now,*

*listen carefully to my life-giving, life-nourishing words.  
I'm making a lasting covenant commitment with you,  
the same that I made with David: sure, solid, enduring love.<sup>3</sup>*

## RESPONDING

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### Sharing the Love feast

We come, as one,  
distanced yet gathered,  
locked-down but not locked out,  
to remember the fellowship Christ shared with his friends,  
the abundance of bread and fish to 5000,  
the love and laughter of eating together as friends,  
the intimacy of breakfast on the beach,  
and in that remembering,  
to know that same abundance, love, laughter and intimacy  
is present in our relationship with Christ as Christ's body.

### Prayer

Loving God we gather,  
despite distance and uncertainty,  
to share as one, as your people,  
for being your people is what holds us together.

In this gathering and sharing,  
our being with one another,  
may you draw us ever closer to you and to one another,  
as we eat and drink together, in thankfulness to you. Amen

### ***Eat and Drink***

### Prayers of Intercession

We pray for others, in thankfulness for the blessings we know.

*We share prayers of thanks and of intercession for others.*

*The leader concludes the prayer, and we pray together...*

**The Lord's Prayer: Our Father .....**

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<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 55:1-3, from the Message, A paraphrase of the Bible in 21<sup>st</sup> Century language

## Song: Called by Christ to be Disciples<sup>4</sup>

*Tune: 'Blaenwern' (Love Divine)*

1) Called by Christ to be disciples  
every day in every place,  
we are not to hide as hermits  
but to spread the way of grace ;  
citizens of heaven's kingdom,  
though this world is where we live,  
as we serve a faithful Master,  
faithful service may we give.

2) Richly varied are our pathways,  
many callings we pursue :  
may we use our gifts and talents  
always, Lord, to honour you ;  
so in government or commerce,  
college, hospice, farm or home,  
whether volunteers or earning,  
may we see your kingdom come.

3) Hard decisions may confront us,  
urging us to compromise ;  
still obedience is our watchword —  
make us strong and make us wise!  
Secular is turned to sacred,  
made a precious offering,  
as our daily lives are fashioned  
in submission to our King.

## Sending Out<sup>5</sup>

Christ, from whom all blessings flow,  
hear us, we who share in your nature,  
we who are your mystical body.

Join us, in one spirit, let us still continue to receive of you;  
still for more on you we call, forever our all in all.

Closer knit to you, our Head, nourished, Lord, by you, and fed,  
let us daily growth receive, more in Jesus Christ believe.

## The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all forever more. Amen

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<sup>4</sup> Called by Christ by Martin Leckebusch, © Kevin Mayhew 1999

<sup>5</sup> Adapted extracts from 'Christ from whom all blessings flow, Charles Wesley, StF676



*As we come to worship, you may like to have a time of silence and light a candle. Let us remember that wherever we are, God is with us.*

### Gathering Prayer

Come let us worship our Lord,  
Let us give thanks for all he has done for us,  
Let us learn of his love.  
Let us be renewed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Hymn: Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer<sup>7</sup>

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen: [https://youtu.be/1NAP528EC\\_k](https://youtu.be/1NAP528EC_k)

1) Praise and thanksgiving,  
Father, we offer,  
For all things living  
You have made good;  
Harvest of sown fields,  
Fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields,  
blossom and wood.

2) Lord, bless the labour  
We bring to serve you,  
That with our neighbour  
we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling,  
We would work with you.  
Harvesting, milling,  
For daily bread.

3) Father, providing  
Food for your children,  
Your wisdom guiding  
Teaches us share  
One with another,  
So that, rejoicing  
With us, our brother  
May know your care.

4) Then will your blessing  
Reach every people;  
Each one confessing  
Your gracious hand.  
When you are reigning  
No one will hunger:  
Your love sustaining  
Fruitful the land.

<sup>6</sup> Preparation and original material by Malcolm Lindo

<sup>7</sup> Praise and Thanksgiving by Albert Frederick Bayly © 988 Oxford University Press

## Let us come together in prayer

Lord, we have come to you today rejoicing in your love and eager to listen to your word. We may not be gathered beside the Galilean Sea, or in our Churches, but we wait with joy and anticipation to worship you. Help us, Lord, to hear your word so that we can feel and receive your love.

Lord, you have and continue to give us so much, so we thank you for everything we have and for the love and care which has been given to us by our families, our friends and by strangers.

But, Lord, we know that, although we would like to live in a perfect world, it is the way we live that is contributing to the damage that is being done. We know that we are adding to the destruction of our environment, we are adding to conflicts while, at the same time, not helping to eliminate inequalities. Lord, forgive us, and show us how to love and care.

Amen

## RECEIVING

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 13: 18-23

*Additional Readings: Isaiah 55 :10-13; Psalm 65 :9-13; Romans 8 :1-11*





## Time to Reflect

I am not a gardener. Despite listening for years to Gardeners Question Time and watching Gardeners World from Geoff Hamilton to Monty Don, I am no gardener, as many, many precious plants which I have pulled up as weeds, will testify.

But, for some reason, this year, things have changed! Whether it has been caused by the Felpham microclimate or being “Locked in”, suddenly I have engaged with the garden. I have been watching our plants grow, been concerned about blackfly, and wondering why one of our tomato plants is not flourishing.

So, it was with this newly acquired interest in horticulture that I read the Parable of the Sower, a parable I have read hundreds of times since my childhood. Suddenly the verse, which explains what happens to the seeds that fall into the weeds, leapt out at me. *“the seed cast into the weed is the person who hears the kingdom’s news, but the weeds of worry strangle what was heard and nothing comes of it.”*

***Have you been worrying? Are you still worried about what will happen? Are you doubtful whether life will ever be the same again? Will we ever worship together in the same place at the same time? Are you worried that we will not be able to share the fellowship of each other on a Sunday morning?***

I could quote many passages in the Bible which can give us comfort, but I found the following words which Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote in a book called *“God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time”*, the most fitting in our current situation.

*Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in the world will ever end.*

*I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case.*

*Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now--in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. ... Indeed, God is transforming the world now--through us--because God loves us.”*

Just as Archbishop Tutu says, the Lord is here today, transforming our world, caring for us just as Jesus told his disciples that he would be .....*“I’ll be with you....., day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”*



### A time of prayer

Lord God, we pray for our world and its people. There are so many different cultures, so many languages, so many different types of people but we are the same in your eyes. So today, we pray that You will teach us how-to live-in harmony with each other, to realise that some people do things differently to us. Lord, help us to listen to what other people say, and to recognise that someone halfway around the world can still be our neighbour. Far or near, we are all your children.

We pray for people who have little or nothing. For those who feel trapped, feel locked in, and can't even see a glimmer of light that their lives may grow better. We pray for those who are hungry, for parents who struggle to feed their children and themselves. We pray, especially at this time for all those agencies and foodbanks who seek to bring comfort and relief to those who suffer. We pray that they will all have the resources to continue their work and pray for a time when their work will be completed.

Lord, teach us to appreciate the food we have and to recognise just how much goes into producing it, harvesting it, and distributing it. Lord, help us not to be wasteful.

Lord, open our eyes to those around us, those who see every day, and those who we simply hear on the end of a phone or through the internet, those who we know and those who are simply passing strangers. Help us to see and understand the burdens they are carrying. Give us the strength and wisdom to care, and to pass on to them your Love.

We pray for our families, our friends and those in our churches, (*you might like to name names here*), especially thinking of those who are ill, or feeling fearful or isolated.  
Amen

**The Lord's Prayer: Our Father .....**



## God is Love<sup>8</sup>

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen: [https://youtu.be/Giju\\_BKA1PE](https://youtu.be/Giju_BKA1PE)

1) God is love: his the care,  
tending each, everywhere,  
God is love, all is there!  
jesus came to show him,  
that we all might know him!

2) Jesus lived on the earth,  
hope and life brought to birth  
and affirmed human worth,  
for he came to save us  
by the truth he gave us.

*Chorus:*

*Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
God is good! God is truth!  
God is beauty! Praise him!*

3) To our Lord praise we sing,  
light and life, friend and king,  
coming down, love to bring,  
pattern for our duty,  
showing God in beauty.

## A prayer of blessing

Just as the Sower went forth to scatter the seeds, so let us go filled with the Holy Spirit to love and serve the Lord wherever we may be.

## The Grace

May grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and evermore.



<sup>8</sup> God is love by Percy Dearmer, Public Domain



*As we come to worship, you may like to have a time of silence and light a candle. Let us remember that wherever we are, God is with us.*

**Gathering Words** from Psalm 86

Teach me your way, O Lord and I will walk in your truth.  
Give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name.  
I will praise you O Lord my God with all my heart  
I will glorify your name for ever....  
You O Lord are a compassionate and gracious God  
Slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

**Hymn: Praise my soul the king of heaven<sup>10</sup>**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen: <https://youtu.be/GyRIVbdsi4c>

1) Praise my soul the King of heaven  
To his feet thy tribute bring  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven  
Who like me His praise should sing?  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise the everlasting King.

2) Praise Him for his grace and favour  
To His people in distress  
Praise Him still the same for ever  
Slow to chide and swift to bless  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Glorious in His faithfulness.

3) Father-like He tends and spares us  
Well our feeble frame He knows  
In His hand he gently bears us  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Widely as his mercy flows.

<sup>9</sup> Preparation and original material by Joyce Stroud

<sup>10</sup> Henry Francis Lyte (193-1847). Singing the Faith #83.

4) Angels in the height adore Him  
Ye behold Him face to face  
Sun and moon bow down before Him  
Dwellers all in time and space  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise with us the God of grace.

### Prayer of Adoration and confession

Loving God, we bring our praise and adoration for the wonder of the world around us; the beauty of flowers and trees, the sound of the birds and insects, the power of the wind and the waves. We thank you that we can find you in our busyness and in our stillness. We wonder at your faithfulness and compassion towards us.

We come before you, conscious of the times when our thoughts and actions are not your thoughts and actions. Help us to be open to your Holy Spirit transforming our lives and giving us the power to help transform the lives of others. May we know your strength and peace with us as we worship today.

We praise and adore you. In Jesus name. Amen.

We share in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**The Lord's Prayer:** *Our Father .....*

**RECEIVING**

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**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 13:24-30 36-43

**Additional Readings:** Isaiah 44:6-8, Romans 8:12-25

### Time to Reflect

Those with gardens might have some sympathy with the farmer in this reading. We sow seed or mow our lawns and then the next thing you know there are weeds everywhere. Sometimes it is not easy to tell which are the weeds and which are the intended plants, especially if it has just rained and lots of new seedlings have popped up. I am reminded of a summer job I had when I was at school where groups of us walked through the fields of trial pea plants pulling out the ones of the wrong variety. It was called 'rogueing'. It was quite satisfying once you got your eye in. This had to be done at the right time in the season or we would have been pulling up the plants they wanted to keep by mistake.

Do we sometimes miss the wheat growing amongst the weeds? When daily life gets complicated and all the news we see and hear seems to be depressing, we can

sometimes miss the good news hidden in between. In amongst the difficult headlines there is a professional footballer encouraging the Government to provide meals for hungry children in the summer and local restaurant and shop owners making meals for families in need. At these times, it can also be good to look closer and seek out the beauty that is around us. Perhaps noticing a bird or a butterfly or new flower in the garden or on a walk. Maybe re-reading a favourite Bible verse or hymn or looking out some photos of favourite people and places.

It is important that we don't lose heart as we search amongst the weeds, In Romans 8 Paul says 'The moment we get tired in the waiting, God's spirit is right beside us, helping us along. If we don't know how to pray, he does it for us.'

As I read over this parable, it made me think that it might be helpful to reflect on the different things we have done while we have not been able to go out due to Coronavirus. ***What seeds have we sown? Which plants do we plan to pull up and which do we want to keep growing?***

This might be a personal reflection or a prayer for our churches and the wider world. People have talked about how this time has made them appreciate the little things in life they previously took for granted. Some people have been able



to re-start new hobbies they haven't done for years. We might have made contact with friends or family we haven't seen for a while by phone or video and plan to keep it going. We might also have become more aware of reducing our use of cars and other resources to save the planet. Meanwhile, there are others for whom this has been a lonely or anxious time that they wouldn't wish to repeat. Is there something we can do to help? In our church families, we have found new ways to worship and keep in touch with each other. We might want to continue with these in some way to enable those unable to get to church services in buildings due to ill health or work commitments to share in worship. In the wider world there will be lots of lessons to learn about what policies have worked and which haven't during the pandemic. Let us pray this week that the Holy Spirit will help us, our church leaders and those in places of authority to distinguish the wheat from the weeds.

**Prayers for ourselves and others<sup>11</sup>**

Circle us Lord

Circle your church with the light of your Gospel.

May we understand more of our faith and why we believe it.

May we understand more of our doubt and not be too hard on it.

May we commit ourselves to following you in the small details of our lives, especially at this uncertain time.

Circle us Lord. Keep light within, keep darkness without.

Circle us Lord

Circle our nation with the values of your Gospel.

Give to our national institutions – Government, the law, the health service, the Church – the values of justice, fair representation, concern for the weak and equal opportunities for every person.

May the generosity of your presence infuse our national life with hope and encouragement.

Circle us Lord. Keep hope within, keep despair out.

Circle us Lord

Circle our family and friends with the love of your Gospel.

Keep them in peace and security. Guard those of our loved ones who are vulnerable; strengthen those who are struggling; encourage those who are on the brink of something new.

May the deep peace of the Prince of Peace keep them all.

Circle them Lord. Keep love within, keep danger out.

Circle us Lord

Circle the sick and the bereaved in your healing presence.

May the touch of Christ be for them the touch of wholeness and healing

Circle them Lord. Keep peace within, keep fear out.

*We name people and situations in our hearts or out loud.*

Circle us Lord, Our hearts, our homes, our churches, our nation, our world. Circle us Lord and keep us in your grace. In Jesus' name. Amen

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<sup>11</sup> from The Intercessions Handbook by John Pritchard © John Pritchard 1997



## Hymn: The Kingdom of God<sup>12</sup>

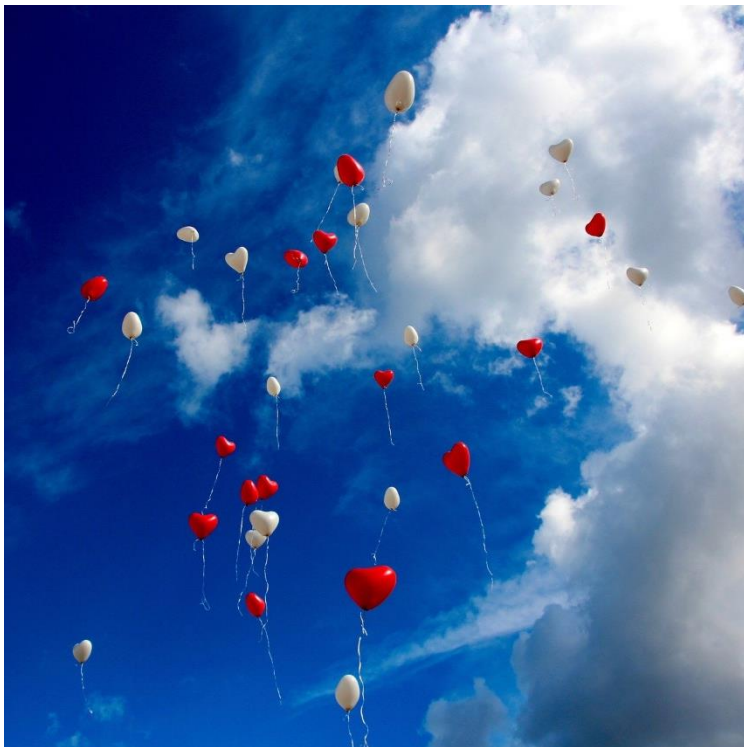
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen: <https://youtu.be/slB4sepcyCU>

The Kingdom of God is justice and joy  
For Jesus restores what sin could destroy  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know  
And here and hereafter thy Kingdom shall grow.

The Kingdom of God is mercy and grace  
The prisoners are freed, the sinners find place  
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share  
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The Kingdom of God is challenge and choice  
Believe the good news repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners brought Christ to His cross  
Our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal  
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer His call  
And all things cry glory to God all in all.



### Sending Out

Lord, thank you that we have been able to spend time with you today and feel your strength with us. Send us out to share your love with those around us. In your precious name. Amen

### Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen

<sup>12</sup> Words: Bryn Rees © Alexander Scott. Singing the Faith #255





*As we come to worship, you may like to have a time of silence and light a candle. Let us remember that wherever we are, God is with us.*

‘The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.’

*Psalm 18:2*



### Prayer of Thanks<sup>14</sup>

We are here to praise you, God of all power.  
You made the world out of kindness, creating order out of confusion.  
You made each one of us in your own image;  
Your fingerprint is on every soul. So we thank you as we praise and worship you.

We are here to praise you, Jesus Christ;  
The carpenter who left his tools and trade;  
The poor man who made others rich;  
The healer who let himself be wounded;  
The criminal on whom the soldiers spat,  
not knowing they were fouling the face of God;  
The Saviour who died and rose again.  
So we thank you as we praise and worship you.

We are here to praise you, Holy Spirit.  
You broke the bonds of every race and nation, to let God speak in every tongue.  
You made disciples drunk with grace;  
You converted souls and emptied pockets;  
You showed how love makes all things new  
and opens the doors to change and freedom.  
So we thank you as we praise and worship you. **AMEN.**

<sup>13</sup> preparation and Original material by Lynne James

<sup>14</sup> Adapted from Wild Goose Worship, ‘A wee worship book’, 1989

## Song: Worthy, O Worthy are you Lord<sup>15</sup>

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen: <https://youtu.be/AuekifqJGPk>

Worthy, O worthy are you Lord,  
Worthy to be thanked and praised and worshipped and adored. X2

Singing, Hallelujah, Lamb upon the throne,  
We worship and adore you, make your glory known.  
Hallelujah, glory to the king;  
You're more than a conqueror, you're Lord of everything.

**RECEIVING**

**Scripture Readings:** Matt 4:23-25  
Acts 16:6-15

### Reflect

The Bible, both OT and NT, is full of journeys. Very few of them work out according to plan. When the Israelites first left Egypt, they didn't expect to spend 40 years wandering round the desert before God thought they were ready to enter the Promised Land. The journeys never stopped after that. We've been reading Ruth together and learning about her journey away from all that was familiar to her. And the journeys continue right through the NT as well.

Some clever mathematician has calculated that Jesus walked **3,125 miles** during his ministry. Over his entire lifetime, a conservative estimate of the number of miles he walked was likely around 21,525 miles, almost the equivalent of walking around the entire world. He **did** know where his journey would end but, when he tried to explain how and why, his followers couldn't believe him. It was never going to be the ending they had all expected.

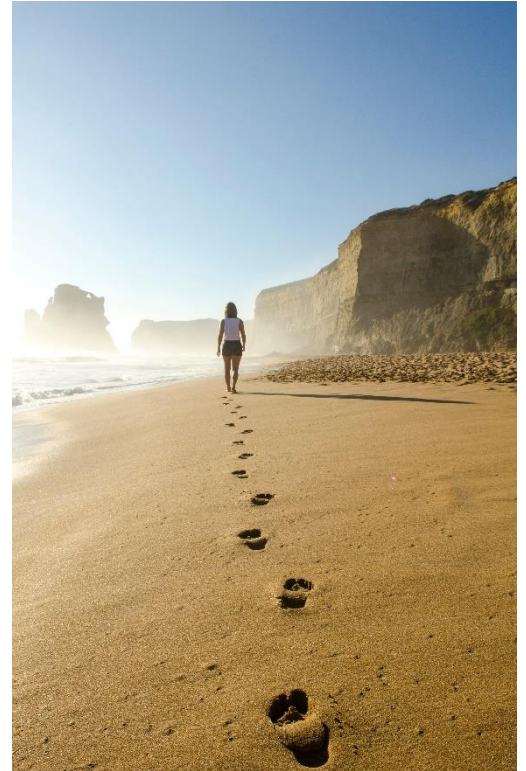
Their journeys didn't end at Calvary. A brave band of Apostles took the message out across the Greco-Roman world of the Eastern Mediterranean, not an easy journey in an age when boats were not much better than small rowing boats that had to hug the coast and were always at the mercy of the squally weather that was typical of the area and which often sent them way off course. There are grottos named after St Paul in Malta, Cyprus and many other parts of that area where he landed in an unexpected place but still delivered his message.

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<sup>15</sup> Worthy, O Worthy by Mark S Kinzer, © 1976 The Word of God Music

It wasn't always a random storm that chose the direction of their journeys. In Acts 16 we read how God intervened and sent them off in a direction of his choice, not theirs. 'The Spirit of Jesus' did not allow them to preach in Asia. Then God called them via a dream to go to Macedonia and there they met an influential woman, Lydia. Think about the story of Lydia. As a woman, I find it a really important story. The men from Jerusalem were used to a male-dominated society, but that was not the way God wanted his world to go. Lydia dealt in purple cloth, the most expensive. She had a large household and she would have been influential in the town. A great coup for a religion which has always proclaimed it is destined for all, man and woman, free person and slave.

As we continue on our present journey through this pandemic, we have no idea where we will finally arrive. But there has never been a greater need to carry with us the same messages and to proclaim them loudly and openly in any way we can. Some of us will have a long wait for release from Lock Down. Perhaps during that wait we shall learn better what God holds in store for us on our journey of faith. Our destination may not be the one we would have chosen, but Paul didn't choose to go to Macedonia either. Enjoy the journey and have faith in our wonderful God who will take us where he/ she needs us to go. Amen.



## RESPONDING

**Will you come and follow me?<sup>16</sup>**

*Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen: <https://youtu.be/GiXnbOORTAU>*

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

<sup>16</sup> Will you come and follow by Graham Maule & John Bell, © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my faith and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go, where your love and footsteps show;  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### **Prayers of intercession:**

Beloved Parent God, please help your world through this difficult time.

Take us by the hand and lead us on our life's journey, always at our side. May we feel your presence whatever we do and wherever we go. Help us to help others on their journeys and to bring them to true faith in you.

Beloved Saviour Jesus, be with us all at this difficult time. Carry those in need through the dangers that face them daily. Help us to be generous with our possessions as you were with yours. Help us to take with us only the essentials for the journey so that we can succeed in reaching our destination and finding you, our eternal friend.

Beloved Holy Spirit, guide us all through this difficult time. Give us the strength to move forward and to persevere to the end of the journey. Light the way we should follow and help us all to follow it in joy and hope.

Parent, friend and Spirit, hear our prayers for our family and friends and grant them peace and hope.....

*We name people and situations in our hearts or out loud.*

We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:** *Our Father .....*

### **We say together the Grace:**

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us now and for ever. Amen



## Acknowledgements

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## Connect & Invite

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Please invite others to worship in this way, either through Worship on the Phone, or in their own way using these Worship at Home Resources. Anyone can be added to the mailing list, please contact Rev Dan Balsdon.

These and other Worship at Home resources can also be downloaded from [www.revdanbalsdon.com](http://www.revdanbalsdon.com) if you have internet access.



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**Nothing in all creation  
can separate us from the  
love of God** *Romans 8v39*

