

WORSHIP AT HOME SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7TH 2021



This short act of worship has been prepared for you so you can spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Psalm 146.3,5: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save;
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Hymn: King of Kings, Majesty Singing the Faith 331

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbZMMd99nM8>

King of kings, majesty,
God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End,
all within me falls at your throne.
Your majesty, I can but bow;
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve your majesty.

Earth and heaven worship you,
Love eternal, faithful and true,
who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
brought this sinner near to your throne;
all within me cries out in praise.
Your majesty, I can but bow;
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve your majesty,
I live to serve your majesty.

Jarrod Cooper

Let us pray together

Almighty God,

You are great and wonderful, a mystery beyond our understanding, yet you bend down to us with your love and care.

For your grace and for the amazing gift of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, we praise your holy name.

Thank you that you never lose faith in us even though at times we fail to trust in you.

Forgive us when we forget to place our life decisions before you, when we push away your gentle wisdom and substitute our own misguided judgments.

Forgive us when we listen to others instead of you and fail to open our hearts to your loving guidance.

When we bring our honest regrets to God and seek his forgiveness, we are blessed with God's gracious word of mercy and pardon that breathes new life into us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 12.38-44

Time to Reflect

Jesus accused the religious leaders of his time of exploiting their position in society for personal gain. He warned the people not to be taken in by their outward show and their patronising demeanour; their attitude of entitlement and demands for the most important seats in the synagogue and the places of honour at banquets. This was all a front, said Jesus; the long pious prayers a sham that hid avarice and pride. The poor, including vulnerable widows who gave generously to the leaders out of respect, were in reality being cheated.

The hypocrisy of the religious leaders is contrasted with the genuine sacrifice of the widow who, despite her dire poverty, gave everything she had in the service of God.

Through this teaching, Jesus asks us to examine our own Christian lives and patterns of giving. Do we go to church to worship God or because we are regarded as "pillars of the congregation" and wish to preserve that status? Are we holding back some of our resources from God for our own benefit instead of wholeheartedly giving our lives, talents and all that we have to his service?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

We pray for the church, for the world and for ourselves.

Lord, we pray for a strengthening of integrity, wisdom and faith for all Christian leaders; for resilience and courage for Christians who are persecuted, and for the fresh inspiration of the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all believers so that through their witness all the world will come to know the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayers for national leaders, politicians and community leaders and all those who have any power or influence over the lives of others. May they act with compassion, justice and honesty, always putting the needs of the most vulnerable first.

Where there is conflict or war, we pray for the Holy Spirit to turn hard hearts towards peace and dialogue instead of violence. Hear our prayers for hope and restoration for the people of Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon and other areas around the world where there is economic breakdown, food poverty and lack of education provision.

We pray for comfort and courage for all who suffer injury, loss and hardship, for those who are displaced from their homes, and for those who are so desperate they risk their lives on dangerous journeys to reach safety. May God protect and guide them. We give thanks for aid workers who struggle in difficult situations to bring food, shelter and medicines to those in most need.

We ask for the healing touch of Jesus on the lives of people who are ill, in pain, anxious or trapped in addiction. We name in our hearts those known to us and to Jesus who are in need of our prayers and God's love at this time. May they know the peace of mind and heart that only Jesus can give.

Loving God, thank you that you know us through and through, our hopes and dreams, our joys and sorrows. May we continue to know your loving acceptance and blessing in our lives, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God Singing the Faith 254
www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsBpM9lcBts

Seek ye first the kingdom
of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall
be added unto you;
Allelu-, alleluia:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu-, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given
unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall
be opened unto to you;
Allelu-, alleluia:

We shall not live by bread
alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the
mouth of the Lord;
Allelu-, alleluia:

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

A prayer of blessing

Follow Jesus in all that you do and say, showing kindness and respect to all and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit remain with you and those whom you love, today and forever more. Amen.

Original Materials by Claire Hargreaves

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191 and CCLi 5467

WORSHIP AT
HOME
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 14TH
2021



This short act of worship has been prepared for you so you can spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Words

Holy God,

we gather with people in every time and place to worship you.

Grant us the assurance that you are with us and join us all together by your Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn: Sing praise to God who reigns above [selected verses] Singing the Faith 117

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

[Sing praise to God who reigns above \(StF 117\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul he fills,
and every faithless murmur stills:
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made
that will he ever cherish,
and will, unfailing, soon and late,
with loving-kindness nourish;
and where he rules in kingly might
there all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace, and joy, and blessing;
as with a mother's tender hand,
he leads his own, his chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

O you who name Christ's holy name,
give God all praise and glory:
O you who own his power, proclaim
aloud the wondrous story.
Cast each false idol from its throne:
the Lord is God, and he alone:
to God all praise and glory!

*Johann Jakob Schuetz (1640-1690), Frances
Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897) and Honor Mary
Thwaites (1914-1993)*

Let us join with one heart and mind to give God praise and glory.

Let us pray

To the God-in-community, we praise you. We are held in your palm and connected within your great company.

To the God of undiminished light, we praise you that in the depths of our night, you are light.

To the God of infinite love, we praise you that all love is sourced in your fathomless depth.

To you, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we offer our praise to your glory.

Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Micah 4:1-8

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Time to Reflect

I wonder what emotions Remembrance Sunday stirs in you. Perhaps pride of the service and sacrifice of a family member. Grief for a life cut short and opportunities missed. Lament that we perpetuate war as a way of trying to solve conflict even though we often commit ourselves to "never again."

Our readings today remind us that God dreams of a day when guns of killing will be refashioned into tools to tend the earth and Jesus had a word of blessing for the peacemakers who will be the children of God.

Images that suggest that war is not God's ideal but a symbol of how our stubbornness and pride, our pursuit of power takes us away from God's ideals. But more than that, they are images of a hope that can be realised when we commit to live in peace and always pursue peace.

What are the metaphorical, or literal, weapons you can re-fashion into gardening tools? Only when we do that is there is a chance of "never again."

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

For our prayers, we invite you to read quietly the words of Marjorie Dobson's hymn: By a monument of marble (StF 131)

By a monument of marble,
or a simple wooden cross,
here we gather to remember
sacrifice and tragic loss.
Blood-red poppy petals flutter,
each a symbol for a life,
drifting in a crimson curtain,
shadow of our constant strife.

*Hold a silence to remember all
who have died because of war*

Solemn silence now surrounds us
as we stand in memory.
Why must factions stir up conflict?
This eternal mystery
troubles hearts and stirs the conscience,
urges us to think again;
face the curse of confrontation,
yet reduce this searing pain.

For the sound of war still thunders
through our planet, on this day.
Every hour new victims suffer,
even as we meet to pray.
God, we need your help and guidance
in our constant search for peace.
Move us on to new solutions
as we pray that wars may cease.

Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Beauty for brokenness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08utbDFP9AE>

Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
your kingdom increase!

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we
pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned —
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for all people,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

Refrain

Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

Refrain

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

May the peace-pursuing God be gracious to us
and bless us,
and make God's face to shine upon us.

Amen.

Original Materials by Christopher J Collins

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191 and CCLi 5467

WORSHIP AT HOME SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21ST 2021



This short act of worship has been prepared for you so you can spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people 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

www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4d4UXSJXig

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)

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. Chose 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

Hymn: Listen to What kind of love is this (StF 286)

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

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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WORSHIP AT HOME SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28TH 2021



This short act of worship has been prepared for you so you can spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Advent 1 – the Advent hope

Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Amen.

Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit, and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

Advent 1 <https://youtu.be/p0cZG6dvWIY>

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory,

'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.

Pain and sorrow, tears, and sadness,
changed for gladness

on that Day.

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Call to worship -Psalm 25:1-2,4-5

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. O my God, in you I trust. Do not let me be put to shame.
Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for
you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.*

Prayers of confession

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness. For the healing of our souls,
wasting away from the despair around us.

Holy God, hear our prayer

We seek forgiveness for the sin we have allowed to persist, for the reconciliation of the
world, whose division condemns us. We pray for the courage to admit our faults, the
strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ
we pray. **Amen**

Hymn: Hills of the north, rejoice

Singing the Faith 172

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYi6pKL4i5o>

Hills of the north, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness
and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Lands of the east, arise!
He is your brightest morn;
greet him with joyous eyes,
let praise his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know
their Lord;
to you he comes, the final Word.

Shout, as you journey on;
songs be in every mouth!
Lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

*Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-
1865) and Editors of English
Praise*

Isles of the southern seas,
sing to the listening earth;
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew;
his word is sure, his promise
true.

Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light,
who triumphed o'er our darkest
night.

Time to Reflect

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus employs a momentous image that suggests effects on the cosmic order expressing an embodiment of threat to humanity, hence calling for immediate response and action. The climate crisis at present is a huge global justice issue the world faces. God's people are called upon in these opening verses of Luke chapter 21 to stand up and lift their heads up. Their voices need to be heard. There is an urgent need for a collective joint action.

More importantly it's worth noting that a few months ago there were extreme weather conditions resulting in many communities around the world being displaced by water or living in severe drought. In some instances, lives have been lost and homes and farms destroyed. According to the Methodist global relationship news, there are several people who continue to be pushed back into poverty and the 'damage on creation is accelerating'. There are many other parts of the world affected by conflict, war and use of biological chemical weapons that severely affect the environment; threatening food security and the health of those communities.

The gospel of Luke welcomes us to contemplate on these emerging threats but with hope and joyful expectation in preparedness for our redemption in Christ's return. Christ loves creation that is restored and in peace. The prayer is then to live in the words of the hymn, "when you come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

The central message for this advent is to be watchful and in continuous prayer. When times decide to be tough and perilous, we are encouraged to surrender to the will of the almighty. In the words of the hymn, will your Anchor hold....

Advent is a time of hope, mixed with joyful expectation. The invite in Verse 27 demonstrates a momentous period of staring up into the gaze of the messianic coming, for liberation which humanity has been waiting for! There will be no secret for the return of Christ. His arrival will be witnessed by the world at large. The things that have happened that have brought about several anxieties will be overshadowed by the joy of advent. God's children will be able to hold their heads up high. I guess that is why Jesus introduces the parable of the fig tree in Verses 29-30 which in my opinion is a powerful theological image of a new world in line with Christ's messianic reign in this fragile world of our time. In such a distressful times Jesus draws our attention to offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ. It is in waiting and in prayer, that we can enter God's presence and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son.

Ask the father to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness; a ray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others. Pray for a passion to pursue justice. Amen.

Hymn: There is a hope that burns within my heart

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_yv5yGZnBc

There is a hope that burns
within my heart,
That gives me strength for
every passing day.
A glimpse of glory now
revealed in meagre part,
Yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins
forgiven.
And Christ in me, the hope of
heaven!
My highest calling and my
deepest joy,
To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my
weary head,
A consolation strong against
despair,
That when the world has
plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Saviour there!
Through present sufferings,
future's fear,
He whispers 'courage' in my
ear.
For I am safe in everlasting
arms,
And they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the
test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the
beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of
a day divine
When I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and
sorrows die,
And every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will
flood my soul,
For I am truly home.

*Stuart Townend & Mark
Edwards*

Take a time to sit quietly.

A time of prayer

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy but many are struggling with the heaviness of life, Jesus, we need your peace. When wondering about loss of jobs and worried about the forthcoming bills to be paid, give us peace. When wondering about drug prescription, give us peace. When worried about our children's education and challenges of Covid in schools, give us peace. When worried about the resettlement of the refugees, and the best ways to help, grant us wisdom in our mission engagement. When worried about the future of the work of God and our ministry, Lord give us a new vision and passion. When wondering when conflict and terror will end and we will find a solution to climate change, Lord hear our prayer. As believers, help us to treat our roles in your Kingdom as crucial and not secondary. As the salt of the earth and its component that keeps it being salt, may we too be the salt and your light in sharing the message of your love. Now as you have promised in your holy word to give rest for the weary, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted, we know that peace on earth can only come when our hearts find peace with You. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Listen to the worship song: Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me of Glory (by CityAlight) :

<https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg>

A prayer of blessing

May the words we have heard and prayed and shared echo in our minds, stay in our hearts and re-shape our lives. May we know the Living Word of God with us now and always. **Amen**

Original Materials by Francis M'Itiiri

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