

WORSHIP AT
HOME
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 3RD
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.

Jesus welcomes us into his presence,
whoever we are and wherever we are.

Let us respond to his embrace,
and open our hearts and minds to God's word and the touch of the Spirit.

Hymn: Uyai mose, Come, all you people Singing the Faith 22

[Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here](#)

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

Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose zvino.

Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
come now and worship the Lord.

*Alexander Gondo
From Psalm 100*

Let us pray together

God of mercy, your love for us is strong,
but our love for you is weak.

You call us to follow Jesus,
but we are slow to obey.

You care for all that you have made,
but we ignore the needs of others
and misuse your creation.

We are sorry for our sins.

Forgive us, and help us to please you by the way we live; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God is love and forgives our sins through Jesus. Amen.
(Methodist Worship Book)

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Psalm 8

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 10:2-16

Time to Reflect

The Gospel reading has much to say about relationships, and our reactions to aspects of it may vary.

I've only recently discovered the concept of 'kin_dom' instead of 'Kingdom', although I believe it's been around for a while, and is in the title of at least one book.

(The old model of civilization kingdoms were an area of land inhabited by people who were ruled by a king. Kingdoms had a top-down organizing principle. Kin-doms are self-organizing systems that are fostered in kin-ship – the recognition that we are all kin, working together cooperatively and collaboratively).

How do you react to the concept of 'kin_dom' as a counterbalance to 'Kingdom'?

In the Gospel, as the narrative proceeds, tension mounts. Jesus in many ways fits the pattern of a Rabbi but doesn't fit expectations. Even those who followed him closely struggle. He mixes with all the wrong people. He talks about the last being first and the first last – and even welcomes children!

What is it about children that Jesus is holding up as an example to emulate?

I think it may be to do with expectations. Children are much more accepting of people and situations, not held back by the accumulated assumptions, prejudices, status and power of adults. So, they come open and in humility.

The psalm says that God made us 'rulers' over creation, only a little lower than God himself (v. 5). However, it is also 'through the praise of children and infants' that God silences the foe and avenger (v.2). It might look as though the psalmist is talking about 'Kingdom', but maybe it's more about 'kin_dom'.

In our kinship relationships it's all too easy for us to slip into a 'Kingdom' approach to one another, full of set expectations, demands even, instead of rejoicing in one another for who we are, loved children of God.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Father, we thank you that you welcome us as we are, inviting not harassing; nurturing not oppressing; ever giving, never grasping.

We pray for those who feel oppressed, by political leaders, within groups they belong to, or by individuals, that they be released and find peace.

We pray for children who have been badly affected by the pandemic, that they will find mentors and role models to encourage and guide them.

We pray for all those we regard as our 'kin', that they, and we, will welcome you and one another in love and grace. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Let love be real. Singing the Faith 615

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pqPIXLj_HI

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely
known.

Give me your hand, along the desert
pathway,

give me your love wherever we may go.

As God loves us, so let us love each
other:

with no demands, just open hands
and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets
us free;

that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might
be.

Give me your strength when all my words
are weakness;

give me your love in spite of all you know.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control;
let us accept each other's
incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.

Give me your hope through dreams and
disappointments;

give me your trust when all my failings
show.

Michael Forster (b. 1946)

A prayer of blessing

May you rest in the embrace of God,

run to the love of Jesus,

and reach for the Holy Spirit.

Go in the kinship of the Trinity,

blessed child of God.

Original Materials by Pamela M Cram

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191 and CCLi 5467

WORSHIP AT
HOME
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 10TH
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

Wonderful creator,
we come into your company
to listen to your word, to hear your voice
and know your grace in this place and in our lives.

Amen

Hymn: Be Thou my Vision (Singing the Faith 545)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMXAp6LpP-8

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou
art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the
night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my
light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the
fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true
might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong
tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of
my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish, 8th century
translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)
versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935) (alt.)*

Collect for the day

God of all power and might
the author and giver of all good things,
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish in us all goodness and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Methodist Worship Book

Let us pray together our prayer of adoration

Loving God, we lift our praise to you who shaped this world and filled it with such beauty
for us to explore in wonder

It is to you, Lord, that we lift our praises, from the beginning you had a plan for us and we
are held in your hand.

We lift our praises to you, compassionate Father. It is you who grants us freedom from
the burden of sin and, as a shepherd, brings us safely back to you.

Amen.

Let us pray together our prayer of confession

Forgive us, Lord, when our faith is too small and we struggle to believe that you can help
us, when we cry out in despair not expecting an answer.

Forgive us when others try to persuade us that you do not exist or when the words of
others lead us to doubt.

Forgive us, Lord, when the journey of faith is hard and we are tempted to wander, when
we do not use wisely the gifts that you have given us.

Forgive us, Lord and rekindle the flame that once shone within our hearts.

Amen.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 4: 12-16

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:17-31

Reflection

When reading a bible passage one of the things I sometimes do is to try and put myself in
the reading, imaging what is happening around and what the feelings are of those
mentioned in the passage.

In today's gospel reading, we hear of a man, described as the rich man, running up to
Jesus to seek answers. I imagine that something in his life must have caused him to run to

Jesus, kneel down and ask his question. The rich man has a desperation behind his question; a desire to know the answer, a desire to find out the answers from the teacher.

Many of us have had times in our lives when we have asked the same kinds of questions. The type of question I find myself asking in the middle of a sleepless night or in the middle of the day when I find myself longing to know all the answers, it's an in the moment kind of question about life, that moment in time, what do I need to do to receive God's grace and live a life filled with his plans for me.

The rich man knew the answer to the question that he asked Jesus but he still felt the need to ask "...what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

When things go wrong or not in the direction we thought they would, we'd often like to turn back time, to long for something different but unless we're a time traveller, Dr Who or Doc and Marty McFly, that won't be happening to us.

The rich man is wanting a different quality of life, a second chance and Jesus' words may sound like a challenge, a list of things he has to do or a list of things he has to accomplish before he will inherit eternal life.

What if, instead of thinking of the list as challenges, we think of them as words of hope and words of recovery. I'm not thinking of rescue and needs as a prize; but as an alternative; the gift of being able to start again with God in our lives.

Jesus offers us hope and salvation in the grace of God. To receive God's grace, we may need to let go of the things that are holding us back. This may be our riches or the things we are doing in our lives that don't lead us in the direction that God intended. We need to invest in what God is offering us and take up his offer.

Like the rich man we may grieve for what we have to give up, for what we need to change, for the things we are asked by God to do differently. The rich man may have appeared to turn away from what he was being asked to do but we don't know this for sure, we don't know what he did after he left. He may have gone home and immediately changed his life, he may not have done it immediately, it may have been weeks, months or years later. We don't need to know what the rich man did; we need to think about our response, how we respond to God's call on our lives.

What is God asking you to do? Where do you need God's guidance and direction in your life? Are you living a life filled with God's grace or are there things you need to let go of, things you need to do more of? Do you see the hope that comes with having the Holy Spirit as your guide and Jesus in your life? There is so much on offer if we just listen to God's call.

Take time to sit quietly.

A time of prayer

God, you are there in our hours of activity and hours of rest. You heal us and forgive us. God, you are there when we pray and reach out to you. It is through you we find blessing.

Receive our thanks and praise.

In this time of prayer, almighty God, we bring our anxieties, worries and troubles to you in prayer.

We pray for the people and situations close to home. May our eyes be open to the needs of our family and friends and the community around us. May we use the gifts you give us to meet their needs.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray for your world. We bring before you our concerns about situations in places in our news such as Afghanistan, and in other places which may not currently be in the news headlines but are no less important. We pray for the families who have been forced to leave their homes to seek security and peace. We pray for those in positions of influence. May they make the right decisions as they work for justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We remember in our prayers those who are in poor physical or mental health and give thanks to those who look after them. We remember those suffering in other ways, especially those who mourn the deaths of family members and friends. And we pray for ourselves. We pray that we may hear your voice in the midst of our busy lives.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer....

Hymn: Will you come and follow me (Singing the Faith 673)

<https://youtu.be/S-Bq1YtpQL8>

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?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

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 sight 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.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

A prayer of blessing

May you hear God's voice, know his plans for you and feel the support his loving arms give. May you walk with God today, tomorrow and the days ahead.

Amen.

Original Materials by Cathie Steele

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WORSHIP AT
HOME
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 17TH
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

Loving God I know that you are with me in every moment of my life but as I set this special time aside, I pray that I might feel your presence and that through the power of your Holy Spirit, I may find myself in the presence of others who worship you this day.
[Pause].

I pray that you would make me alive to the Holy Spirit, that in the stillness I might hear your Word and find myself drawn in tune with the melody of your grace.

Amen.

Hymn: May the Glory of the Lord Fill His Temple (Singing the Faith 31)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjpVwl-Ecfs>

May the glory of the Lord fill his temple
as we gather in this place,
may the glory of the Lord touch his people
as we meet here by his grace.
Weak though we are, you lift us from sin,
where our hearts wait you long to come in,
so Lord we pray let your healing begin --
send us your Spirit today!

May the glory of the Lord fill his temple,
and may we meet him face to face.

Jonathan Nowell

Let us pray together

Gracious God, I praise you for who you are. For you are the Lord, the giver and sustainer of life whose nature is love. I thank you that even when I rebel against you, your unquenchable love seeks me out. I thank you that in Jesus, you made the first move and

have rescued me. I pray that, as your Word ministers to me, that I might so open my heart to your grace that it might fill me, transform me and overflow into all my relationships and dealings with the world. Amen.

Today's Reading from the New Testament: Hebrews 5: 1-10

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 10: 35-45

Time to Reflect

Social anthropology reveals that in every culture in every time and in every place, human beings create religion. Where there is religion, there are priests; intermediaries who seek to "help" the masses to navigate divine forces that must be placated if they are to prosper. Israel had its own aristocratic line of priests but was frequently let down and disappointed by them. Always aloof, they were frequently corrupt.

In the chapters leading up to our Gospel reading this morning, Jesus has been identified (privately for now) as the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed king in waiting. As in every time and place, James and John want to be the intermediaries. If Jesus is going to be King, they want in on it.

How different then the message given to us in Hebrews! God has decided that Jesus is indeed the anointed King, but *this* king is also to have the dual role of Priest-King, modelled on Melchizedek (see Psalm 110 and Genesis 14). King Jesus does not need an intermediary for he is also High Priest forever because, far from being aloof, this Priest-King has also shared our life of joy and of suffering. In Jesus, we need no intermediaries but can approach the throne of grace with confidence (Heb 10:19) and with prayer.

We get to share in this nature through our baptism. As the Body of Christ, we are a "Priestly Community" but, like James and John, we need Jesus to reshape our all too human, religious instincts and replace them with God's model of kingship and servanthood.

Grace and peace.

A time of prayer

Loving God,

You call us to share in your baptism and in your work. In response, I offer these prayers for the world that you made and that you love.

In a world where wealth and power are hoarded by a few, I pray that there would be an equal sharing of the vaccines and the necessities of life.

In a world where vested interests imprison us and rob others of the life you offer, so I pray that your people, networked through prayer, might rise up to call out injustice wherever we see it.

In a world confronted with climate emergency, I pray that you would make us enemies of apathy and agents of your Kingdom.

Finally because I know that you love me too, I take time to lay before you those things that are close to my heart..... {pause to reflect}

I ask these prayers in the only way that I can; in the power of your Holy Spirit and in the name, grace and character of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: One Human Family God Has Made (Singing the Faith 687)

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

One human family God has made,
and all for each to care.

One world, to be the home of all,
with all its wealth to share.

One Christ, to manifest on earth
love's ultimate design.

One Church to know the mystery
of broken bread and wine.

One race, one world -- yet torn apart,
we spurn the way of love.

But still ahead, the Christ leads on
and calls his Church to move
from love of power to power of love,
to give the word to all --
to trust the love that conquered death,
outside the city wall.

And are we brave enough to join
with that great company --
the cost not less than all we have
and are or hope to be --
the bitter cup of human sin
to drink with him who died,
and take his love outside the wall
to all the crucified?

Claim him who claims us for his own,
to share his pain and grief,
to bear the scars that stamp us his --
the hallmark of belief.

As partners of the living Christ,
who risk the path he trod,
with wondering love we find we share
the timeless joy of God.

Rosemary Wakelin (b. 1932)

A prayer of blessing

God to enfold you,
Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
so may God grace you,
heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness
into the light.

John L. Bell (b. 1949)

Original Materials by Rev'd Andrew M
Emison

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WORSHIP AT
HOME
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 24TH
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

Leader: Dear God, through autumn's beauty

All: Shine your light into all our lives

Leader: In autumn's unpredictable weather

All: Speak to all of us of your steadfastness

Leader: In autumn's melancholy

All: Bless all of us with your kindness

Leader: As autumn darkens we anticipate the Advent hope which will at length arrive

All: May we all hear your call to make way for Jesus

Hymn: Today I awake

Singing the Faith 139

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://youtu.be/2uAGtJi00KE>

Today I awake
and God is before me.
At night, as I dreamt,
he summoned the day;
for God never sleeps
but patterns the morning
with slithers of gold
or glory in grey.

Today I affirm
the Spirit within me
at worship and work,
in struggle and rest.
The Spirit inspires
all life which is changing
from fearing to faith,
from broken to blest.

Today I arise
and Christ is beside me.
He walked through the dark
to scatter new light.
Yes, Christ is alive,
and beckons his people
to hope and to heal,
resist, and invite.

Today I enjoy
the Trinity round me,
above and beneath,
before and behind;
the Maker, the Son,
the Spirit together --
they called me to life
and call me their friend.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Prayer

Let us pray together to our generous God who abides with us, inhabits this broken world with us and loves us beyond measure.

Leader: When we struggle to love ourselves,

All: Lord, you love us completely

Leader: When we struggle to believe in ourselves,

All: Lord, you believe in us completely

Leader: When we struggle to forgive ourselves,

All: Lord, you forgive us completely

Leader: In this time of worship,

All: May we dare to trust your dreams for our lives because you hold us in your embrace. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3a

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:15-17

Time to Reflect

October

Dark mornings have arrived and where I walk, early each morning, meeting familiar people has become more important. Some are known by name – like Russell and Jean, John and Duncan, Stuart and Richard and Marjorie. Some are known only by their dogs – Bailey and Barney and Jack. Some are simply familiar faces of walkers and joggers, horse riders and cyclists. All are welcome in the darker mornings. Skies can be spectacular – spectacularly grey, full of rain present and future; or with streaks of bright orange and red promising wind for later. Days grow shorter, as trees begin to welcome autumn with shades reminiscent of crabapple jelly and cranberry sauce, caramel and cinder toffee, chocolate limes and sherbet lemons. But when the sun shines, beech trees stand out from the crowd in their bronzy brilliance. Birds are back after their sleepy summer – blackbirds and robins, sparrows and collared doves. There are only hints of summer now, but life in human, canine and feathered form is present to be celebrated.

I wrote this reflection – brought together here as prose instead of poetry – when suffering from depression. Autumn is a kind of in between time in church, when it's easy to feel low, on the edge, in the shadows. But Jesus embraces all of us, calling us by our name and encouraging us to call one another by our names; to welcome one another and be glad of one another; to smile and be thankful for the company of his people. We aren't perfect – we are who and what we are – but Jesus has given the Spirit to bind us together in every season, of the church and of our lives, to dance and sing and be silent in thankfulness – together.

Take a time to sit quietly

We come now to prayers of intercession.

Loving God, your kingdom is a kingdom of justice and mercy. We pray for the leaders of the nations, for change where power is exploited; for strength of will and vision where there is real effort to be generous and fair. Today, we pray especially for all countries with inadequate supplies of vaccines

Your kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your kingdom is a kingdom of hope and joy. We pray for those near and far who are not well in body, mind or spirit - who are feeling sad, anxious, ill, forgotten, who feel on the edge of things; who are homeless or whose land is ravaged by fighting or disaster; who are poor, hungry and in despair.

Your kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your kingdom is one of love and unity. We pray for your church, here and across the world, that we might be signs of your loving presence adding to a momentum of your inclusive, enfolding grace

Your kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

Loving God, your kingdom is one of light and life. We pray that we might, with deep thankfulness, dwell in the light and life of Jesus Christ, come to bring fullness of life to all.

Your kingdom come. **Your will be done. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: I was on your mind Singing the Faith 468

[I was on your mind \(StF 468\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

I was on your mind
long before you formed the
earth.

By your grace you gave me
life;

I was on your mind.

Take me by the hand,
lead me down your paths of
truth.

Mark my ways with peace
and love;

I am on your mind.

You know all my thoughts
and ways,
show me more of yours.

All I am is all I have,
in this gift of life.

Mick Dalton

A prayer of blessing

Jesus calls us by name,
invites us each one into a future
filled with light, love and fulness of life.
May his blessing rest on us all. Amen.

Original Materials by Rev Jean Hudson

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WORSHIP AT
HOME
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 31ST
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.

Call to Worship

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts
will receive blessing from the LORD.
Let us worship God together.
Based on Psalm 24, NRSVA

Hymn: For all the saints Singing the Faith 745

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

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkaocGFsA6k

For all the saints who from their labours
rest,
who thee by faith before the world
confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and
their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-
fought fight;
thou in the darkness still their one true
light:
Alleluia, alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and
bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of
old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown
of gold!
Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:
Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare
long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph
song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are
strong:
Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the
west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes
their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest:
Alleluia, alleluia!

But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious
day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright
array;
the King of Glory passes on his way!
Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's
farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the
countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia!

William Walsham How (1823-1867)

Let us pray together

God of all space and time,
you are beyond our human comprehension;
your creation never ceases to amaze us;
and your measureless love and infinite grace are far more than we deserve.

We have treated your creation badly;
we have failed to love our neighbour
and chosen not to love you with
heart, mind, soul and strength;
yet, through the sacrificial love of Christ,
you still offer us forgiveness.

We give you thanks that,
through the grace of Christ,
our sins are forgiven
and we are set free again to love.

Loving God: Father, Son and Spirit:
accept our thanks and praise this day
as we worship you. Amen.

Today's Reading from the New Testament: Revelation 21:1-6a

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Time to Reflect

All Saints Day does not feature prominently in Methodism. Although there are some exceptions, most of our chapels do not carry the names of saints, yet the idea of sainthood is something that perhaps we should consider. What does sainthood mean to you? Rather than those canonized people we regard as saints, I want to think about two definitions of 'Saint'.

*1. A very virtuous, kind, or patient person**

During the pandemic, we have all experienced this kind of saint. Immediately springing to mind are doctors and nurses who have treated so many, saving lives and comforting those for whom a cure never came. I am sure you will join me in thanking God for the NHS.

There are so many others who may or may not be Christians, whose work has been essential during the pandemic: HGV drivers, cleaners, teachers, teaching assistants, school dinner staff, shop workers, food producers, IT experts, and those with the skill to create vaccinations. The list is endless! Thank God for their skill, dedication and sacrifice - loving their neighbours as themselves.

*2. A Christian believer**

A saint is also any Christian believer, many of whom fall into the earlier category too – motivated by their faith in God to share their skills. Each of them following both of Jesus's commandments in today's gospel passage – to love God and neighbour.

To me, saints are all the people who do Christ's work on earth – the unnamed, unacknowledged everyday folk who do great and wonderful things through their love of God and neighbour.

Growing up at Altofts Methodist Church in West Yorkshire, I was privileged to be surrounded by so many remarkable people: Sunday school teachers, members of the congregation and particularly my grandparents who nurtured my faith. I thank God for their love on my Christian journey.

What about you? Who are those who have nurtured your faith and shown you love and encouragement on your journey with Christ? I invite you to give thanks to God for them.

Hand in hand with these everyday folk are, the 'Saints in Light', those everyday Christians who have taught us a thing or two and encouraged, but whose earthly lives have come to an end. We are privileged to be surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

It is in the combined effort of these unsung heroes where we truly see the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through ordinary people like you and me. Through time and space, they are bringing the kingdoms of earth and heaven closer together through love of God and neighbour. Together we move towards that time when God will wipe every tear from our eyes; a time when death, mourning and pain will be no more. Although you may be reading this alone, you are part of that amazing congregation of God's people through time and space. You are a saint!

To the Glory of God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Amen.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Let us pray for all people everywhere according to their need.

Silence

We pray for your church; that we may work together to show our love of God and neighbour.

Silence

We pray for your world and all in power; that all may work together for peace and justice.

Silence

We pray for the communities in which we live; that all people may find comfort in their need.

Silence

We pray for all those who suffer and bring before you those on our minds today; that they may find comfort and peace in their troubles.

Silence

We remember those who have died, giving special thanks for that great cloud of witnesses who have lived lives of faith. May we be reunited with them in your eternal kingdom. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: For all the saints who showed your love Singing the Faith 746
Sing/ read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://youtu.be/7ECJANNFPO>

For all the saints who showed your love
in how they lived and where they
moved,
for mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who named your will,
and saw your kingdom coming still
through selfless protest, prayer and
praise,
accept the gratitude we raise.

For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Saviour's
fame,
who sang your songs and shared your
word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed
ours.

*John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule
(b. 1958)*

A prayer of blessing

May the blessing of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and those you love this day and forevermore. Amen.