

# Worshipping Together

## West Sussex Coast and Downs Circuit

October 2020

As the pandemic continues, we are very aware that many of you do not yet feel ready or safe to attend face to face worship. We are also aware that some of you were unable to attend physically gathered worship pre-lockdown but have felt included in new ways through the worshipping opportunities offered over the past months.

**Worshipping Together** is an offering from the circuit to you, and has been collated by local preachers, ministers and worship leaders from across the circuit.

If you are well enough, we invite you use this resource each week, at a time to suit you, and spend a few moments with God, knowing that you are **Worshipping Together** with other people who are also sharing in this act of worship with you.

Share these resources with others to use in their own way as we worship and grow together despite the limitations of social distancing.

Available at: [www.westsussexcoastanddownscircuit.co.uk](http://www.westsussexcoastanddownscircuit.co.uk)

### A note on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October

On 4<sup>th</sup> August, as part of our *Worshipping Together* resources is the inclusion of a Love Feast. 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.

In preparation for worship you may wish to prepare something – 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!).



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020<sup>1</sup>

**GATHERING**

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*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.*

### Call to Worship<sup>2</sup>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever will be.

### Sing, read, pray or proclaim –Come on and Celebrate<sup>3</sup>

Come on and celebrate, his gift of love, we will celebrate,  
The Son of God who loved us, and gave us life.  
We'll shout Your praise, O King, You give us joy nothing else can bring,  
We'll give to You our offering, in celebration praise.

*Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing,  
Celebrate and sing to the King.*

*Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing,  
Celebrate and sing to the King.*

### Prayer of Praise and Thanks

Lord, help us to know in these difficult times that you are always with us.

We give you praise and thanks

for your constant presence in our lives and in our world.

As we look around us, we see evidence everywhere of your love for us,  
in the human world and in nature.

We give you praise and thanks for the wonders of our universe, for our friends,  
our pets, our gardens, all of creation which we would love to share with everyone.

Throughout the months of doubt and confusion help us never to lose sight of your  
love for us. We give you praise and thanks for a Saviour who died to prove that  
that love will last for eternity. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Preparation and original material by Lynne James with Rev Dan Balsdon (Love Feast and Reflection)

<sup>2</sup> From Great is thy Faithfulness, Thomas Chisholm, StF51

<sup>3</sup> Come on and Celebrate by Patricia Morgan and Dave Bankhead © 1984 Thankyou Music, Songs of Fellowship 73

**Reading:** Psalm 19:1-4, 14

**Reflect**

*The heavens declare the glory of God,  
day and night they proclaim,  
the sound of praise spreading out across every corner of the world.  
O Lord, let my words, my feeble words, be acceptable to you.<sup>4</sup>*

I don't know about you, but I find it easy to dismiss myself, to convince myself that someone else, somewhere else in history can do something or say something better than me.

I wonder if this is how David felt when he penned Psalm 19. He begins proclaiming how every inch of the created world is singing of the glory of God. How can human words compare? But he ends – asking God to accept the words of his mouth.

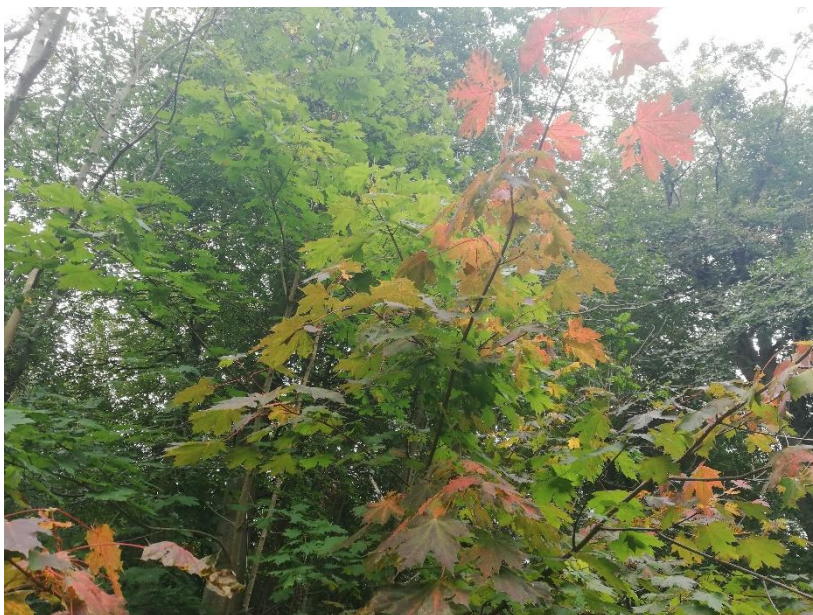
How can human words compare? Well, to cut it short, we mere humans are part of the created world. Part of the *every inch* that is singing glory!

**So, what is your song of glory to God today?**

**Where have you felt the presence of God this week?**

**How have you been encouraged in the past few days?**

*Take a few moments to reflect on this your testimony, and give God praise.*



***The Beauty  
of Autumn***

<sup>4</sup> A paraphrase of Psalm 19:1-4,14

**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 over 5000,  
the love and laughter of eating together as friends,  
the intimacy of breakfast on the beach,  
and in that remembering,  
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,  
and let this moment of our life on earth,  
be yet another glimpse of heaven breaking in,  
as we eat and drink together, in thankfulness to you. Amen

***Eat and Drink*****Prayers of Intercession**

You have said, Lord, that we may always come to you  
and lay our troubles at your feet.

Those troubles at this time are many and varied.

We pray for our planet which is being destroyed by our greed and our selfishness.  
Forgive us, Lord, and help us to find a better way to follow Jesus.

We pray for your people across the world, Lord, as they suffer at this time.

Help those who are ill, who are hungry,

who are seeking shelter and fleeing war and famine.

Help us to respond to their needs with love and hope in the name of Jesus.

We name before you now those known to us who are in need of prayer today to  
support them in their need.....

May they all feel your loving arms around them, Lord, and know your peace.

**Amen**

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

### ***Sing, read, pray or proclaim – God is love<sup>5</sup>***

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:

*Sing aloud, loud, loud! Sing aloud, loud, loud!*

*God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise him!*

2) None can see God above; neighbours here we can love;

thus may we Godward move, finding him in others, sisters all, and brothers:

3) Jesus came, lived and died for our sake, crucified,

rose again, glorified; he was born to save us, by the truth he gave us:

4) 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:

### **Sending**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father,

there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;

as thou hast been thou forever will be.

### **The Grace**

May 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



<sup>5</sup> God is Love, Percy Dearmer, StF403





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*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 23

The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul, he leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me,  
Your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me, In the presence of my enemies,  
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,  
All the days of my life,  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord, my whole life long.

*Sing, read, pray or proclaim - **Gathering Song: Lord of all hopefulness**<sup>7</sup>*

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace.  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

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<sup>6</sup> Preparation and original material by Joyce Stroud

<sup>7</sup> Lord of all hopefulness, Jan Struther, StF526

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

### Prayer of Adoration and confession<sup>8</sup>

Holy God,  
To you alone belong glory, honour and praise.  
We join with the hosts of heaven as we worship  
You alone are worthy of adoration from every mouth  
And every tongue shall sing your praise  
You created the earth by your power  
You save the human race in your mercy  
And renew it through your grace

Loving God  
We have sinned against you  
In what we have thought, said and done  
We have not loved you with our whole heart  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves  
We are truly sorry  
And turn away from what is wrong  
Forgive us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are thankful that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners  
This is his gracious word.  
'Your sins are forgiven'  
Amen. Thanks be to God.

We share in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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



**RECEIVING**

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**Gospel Readings:**     **Matthew 22:1-14**  
                                      **Philippians 4:1-9**

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<sup>8</sup> Prayers of adoration and confession adapted from the Methodist Worship Book

## Reflection

*Rejoice always  
Pray all the time  
Always be thinking about what is right*

These words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians are also valuable for us at this unusual time of pandemic. Paul had spent time with the Philippians helping set up the local church. He was now in prison and was writing to help them sort out disagreements between them. Paul obviously knew them fairly well as he talks about arguments between two women Euodia and Syntyche and asks Syzygus to help them. It is interesting to read how Paul recalls that the two women had played an important role in setting up the group of local believers. Paul makes a point of asking Syzygus to encourage the others. He says 'Make it clear to all you meet that you are on their side'. Although Paul is in prison, he is still encouraging others.

Paul encourages his readers to focus on rejoicing and prayer to help deal with anxiety. The Message version says 'Celebrate God all day.'

When we are in a tough place it can be difficult to praise God but when we find a way to, it can be very rewarding. It can also help to focus on helping someone else instead of ourselves. Paul reminds the Philippians that although he can't be with them, God is still with them. One way of reminding ourselves that God is still with us and wants the best for us is to focus on the blessings that we have.

In verse 9 Paul says 'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things'. This will help to counteract the effect of others spreading fake news and doom and gloom. We should seek to find the best in everyone we meet, to see others through the eyes of Jesus. Are there people we might meet this week that we can get to know in a new way by trying to find what is excellent or praiseworthy?

The Story of the banquet in Matthew 22 has an important message about righteousness, those originally invited had closed their minds to the message that Jesus was bringing. Others were invited instead, who had heard the good news and chosen to follow. It seems harsh to us that the person wearing the wrong clothes is thrown out. At that time special clothes would have been provided and it would be



insulting to the host not to wear them. The message for those listening then and for us now is that we need to wear the clothes of righteousness. When we encounter Jesus there should be a change in attitude and our way of living.

What has following Jesus caused us to change? What else might we want to change?

As we continue through this time of uncertainty, let us remember Paul's advice to rejoice always, pray all the time and always be thinking about what is right.

## RESPONDING

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### Prayers for ourselves and others<sup>9</sup>

Lord, we pray today for your church,  
carrying a Gospel of forgiveness and freedom,  
which is so much needed in our world.

Thank you for those with a gift of sharing this good news with others.  
Give us the courage and the willingness to be your witnesses.  
Fill us with your love so that the world might believe.

We pray today for countries where there is war,  
random violence or only fragile peace.

Give to those who are trying to make peace an inner certainty of their calling and  
constant patience in their negotiations.

May hearts which have been darkened by violence discover a different light and a  
better way. May the ways of diplomacy and the ways of forgiveness coincide at  
the conference table.

We pray for those who are going through times of trouble in our families,  
in our church and within our circle of friends.

We know you to be both Lord and healer of your broken world.

We ask you to touch with your generous love all those who are on our hearts  
today because of their special need.

May your love flood their lives with hope and healing in spirit, mind and body.

Keep us Lord, in the joy, the simplicity and the compassionate love of the Gospel.  
Bless us and those who you have committed to our care.

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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<sup>9</sup> Prayers of Intercession from The Intercessions Handbook by John Pritchard © John Pritchard 1997

*Sing, read, pray or proclaim* - **Song: Put peace into each other's hands**<sup>10</sup>

1) Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.

2) Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.

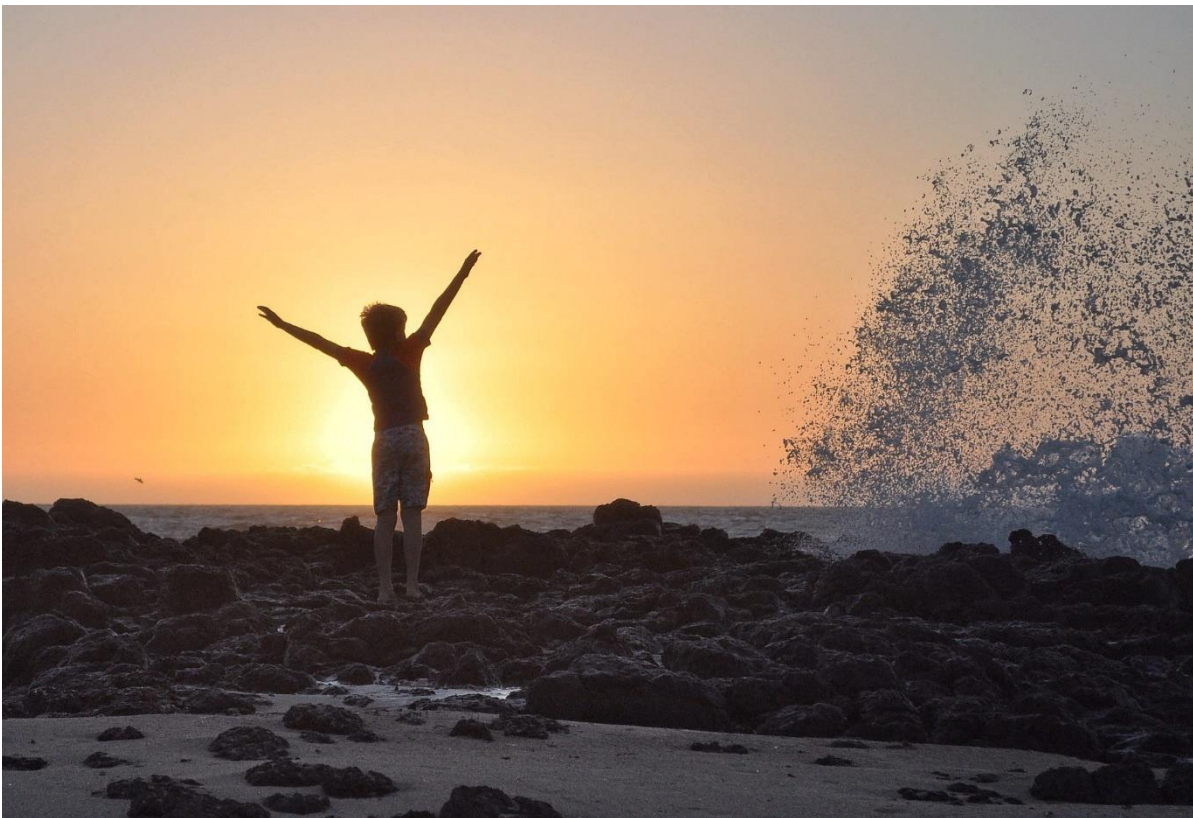
3) Put peace into each other's hands,  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.

4) As at communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.

5) Put Christ into each other's hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance  
and share it like a treasure.

### **The Grace**

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



<sup>10</sup> Put peace into each others hands, Fred Kaan, StF712



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October<sup>11</sup>

**GATHERING**

*As we come to worship, you may first like to have a period of quiet and then have a coin ready to reflect on later in the Service.*

### Gathering Words

Looking at the coin he had been given, Jesus told them  
“Give unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s and give God what is his”.

So, let us give to our God our praise, let us worship Him,  
and let us thank Him for all the wonderful things he does.  
But most importantly, let us remember that, wherever we are, God is with us.

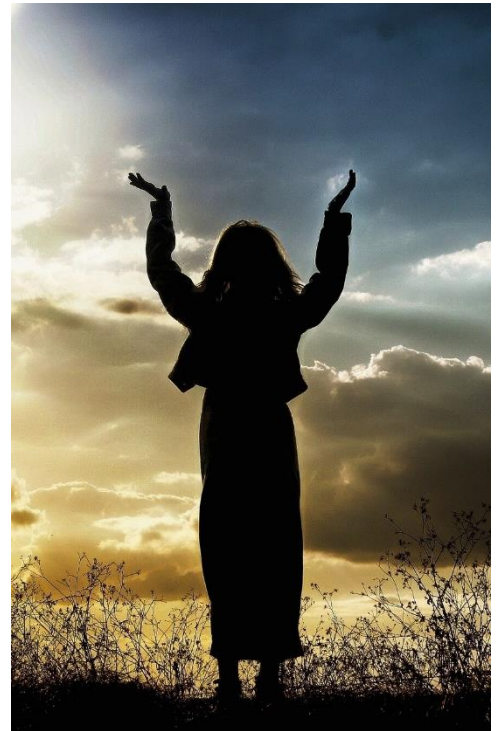
### Sing, read, pray or proclaim: Tell out my soul<sup>12</sup>

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice.  
Tender to me the promise of his word.  
In God, my Saviour shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done.  
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;  
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore!



<sup>11</sup> Preparation and original material by Malcolm Lindo

<sup>12</sup> Tell out my soul, Timothy Dudley Smith, StF186

## Let us come together in prayer

Lord God, as we speak of our praise for all you have done, we come today to you knowing that we are all so different, each one of us is unique, and yet you love and care for us all.

We thank you for your gentleness and compassion, and for the ways that you have guided us.

We thank you for giving us light when we are in darkness, hope when everything seems hopeless to us, and love far beyond any measure. We thank you for all the talents and skills you have bestowed on us, and the friendship and support of those around us.

But we confess, O God, that we have not always been a good example of what a Christian should be.

We have been overwhelmed by our problems and forgotten to look out and care for others.

We have been consumed by everything that is negative in our lives and lost sight of the positives which surround us.

We have lost sight of the signs of your love.

Forgive us..... Lord.

We ask that, through your love for us, you will restore our focus on you.

Teach us to listen and hear your voice and feel your love all around us. **Amen**

**RECEIVING**

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### Scripture Reading: Matthew 22: 15-22

#### Reflect

*To be or not to be? Heads or tails? Which pair of socks should I wear? What should I have for breakfast?*

Life is full of choices, full of decisions so it is not surprising that Jesus was asked that question and had a choice to make.

As we heard, in response, Jesus simply asked for the coin which was used to pay the Emperor's tax. He looks at the coin, and asks them whose image do they see, and then he speaks one of the greatest one liners of all time. "Give therefore to the Emperor the things that are the Emperor's and to the God the things that are

God's." So how do we decide this morning how much do we give to the Government? and how much do we give to our God?

Whatever you think of our Government, I doubt whether any of us would ever dream of not paying our taxes, especially when it allows the state to use such money to fund the NHS and provide care and benefits for those in need .

But how do we respond to the question of what we should render to our God because it is a decision that we must face today and every day. What does it mean to give to God? What do we actually need to do?

The answer is that I do not know, but what I do know is that we must respond, we cannot ignore it. The simplest answer we could give is that we give to God that which belongs to God: that is, we give ourselves. We take the gifts that God has given us and use them to praise His Name, and to spread the love of God.

Sometimes, giving will occur privately, in devotion. Sometimes, it will happen in church like this morning with our brothers and sisters in Christ. But the majority of the time, it should happen in our daily lives through loving and caring for our neighbours.



How you actually do that in detail, I cannot tell because I don't know what gifts and talents God has given each of you, but what I do know is that our response does not need to be dramatic; it can and should include the simple things of life; the smile, the hello, the cup of tea, the listening ear, the lift, the simple caring acts for one another. I know that, in this time of "social distancing", the 'phone call is wonderful, the message is a blessing for so many people who are stuck at home and frightened to venture out.

So, I pray this morning that, in the words of the hymn that follows later, that you have heard again God's voice, and that you are prepared to follow. I pray that you have made the choice to give to God through loving and caring for your neighbours.



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*Sing, read, pray or proclaim - Song: Have you heard God's voice?*<sup>13</sup>

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?

Are you still prepared to follow?

Have you made a choice to remain and serve?

though the way be rough and narrow?

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow?*

*Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow?*

In your city streets will you be God's heart?

Will you listen to the voiceless?

Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,  
will you share your faith with the faithless?

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith?  
and believe it could be different?

Will you share your views using words of grace?

Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

*We will walk the path that will cost us much  
and embrace God's love and sorrow?*

*We will trust in One who entrusts to us the disciples of tomorrow.*



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<sup>13</sup> Have you heard God's voice, Jacqueline Jones, StF662



## Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, we pray for all the places where there is discord and conflict. Whether it be a nation, or simply individuals, pour out your Love so that people will listen to each other, will respect one another, and see those on the other side of an argument as their equals with valid points of view.

Loving God, we pray for those who live in despair, for people who can see no purpose in their lives, for those who cannot see a way ahead, and for those who feel completely alone. Pour out your love on them so that they will know that they are not alone.

Loving God, we pray for our families, our friends, and for the members of our Churches.

***Silence (or name out loud those you specially wish to pray for)***

Lord, you have given us so many gifts, so many talents, and so many opportunities. So, we pray, that you will help us, individually and as your people together, to use what we have been given to be your witnesses in the world.

**Amen**

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

## Blessing

Our worship has not ended, it has only just begun. For God is with us every moment of every day, of every year. Go then with joy and a smile to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with him every step along our way.

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you & those you love, today and in the week ahead.**

**Amen.**





Jesus said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.'

**Mark 6:31**

**Settling into Silence**

*Light a candle or position a vase of flowers, an icon, a picture, artefact. Spend a few minutes drawing yourself into God's presence.*

**Sing, read or pray: O Sabbath Rest<sup>15</sup>**

1) O sabbath rest by Galilee!

O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity  
interpreted by love,  
interpreted by love!

2) With that deep hush subduing all  
our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of thy call,  
as noiseless let thy blessing fall  
as fell thy manna down,  
as fell thy manna down.

3) Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace, the beauty of thy peace.

**Prayer**

God our Maker, yours are the hands that traced the rainbow  
and hurled stars into space

**COME GOD AND MEET US HERE**

Christ our Redeemer, yours are the hands that blessed the children  
that healed the sick and broke the Passover bread

**COME JESUS AND MEET US HERE**

Holy Spirit and Comforter, you hold our hands when we need you  
you breathe new hope and strength into our lives

**COME HOLY SPIRIT AND MEET US HERE**

<sup>14</sup> preparation and Original material by Rev Doug Hopwood. Prayers and Blessing from Wild Goose Publications – The Iona Community.

<sup>15</sup> O Sabbath rest, John Greenleaf, Whittier, StF495

God our Maker, our Redeemer, our Comforter  
you write our names on the palms of your hands

**YOU ARE OUR GOD. WE ARE HERE TO WORSHIP YOU**

**RECEIVING**

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### Read a selection from Psalm 136

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **for his steadfast love endures for ever.**  
O give thanks to the God of gods, **for his steadfast love endures for ever.**  
O give thanks to the Lord of lords, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
who alone does great wonders, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
who by understanding made the heavens, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
who spread out the earth on the waters, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
who made the great lights, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
the sun to rule over the day, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
the moon and stars to rule over the night, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
It is God who remembered us in our low estate,  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
and rescued us from our foes, **for his steadfast love endures for ever;**  
who gives food to all flesh, **for his steadfast love endures for ever.**  
O give thanks to the God of heaven, **for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

### Scripture Reading: Matt 22:34-46

#### Reflection

Jesus is asked here *which Commandment is the greatest?* His answer summarises the whole of the Law and the Prophets, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” And he adds, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Fancy neatly condensing all of the Old Testament in 28 words! But in fact, in other places Jesus summarised it even further to 1 word – Love, the Greek word *agape*.

The whole of the Bible then, Old and New Testaments, can be summed up in the word love. ‘All you need is love’ is not just a sentimental song by The Beatles it was long ago propounded by the Old Testament prophets and Jesus himself in the New. This kind of love God gives to everyone without exception. It may be described as wanting the highest good for whoever happens to be standing in front of you at any

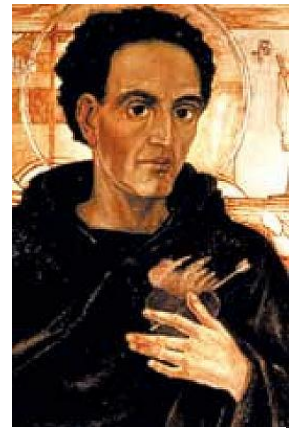
given time. I have found no better description. This love is meant for everyone, friend and enemy alike!

In St Augustine's Sermon on Love, he said "Let the root of love be in you: nothing can spring from it but good.

...adding an amazing pronouncement,

**"Love and do what you will."**

And St Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) beautifully describes how the love of Christ must be at the centre of our work and mission.



St Augustine (354-430)



St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks in  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses  
all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

**By this, said Jesus to his followers, people will know you are my disciples  
if you love one another as I have loved you.**

**RESPONDING**

### Poem<sup>16</sup>

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lacked anything.

"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here":  
Love said, "You shall be he."

<sup>16</sup> By George Herbert, 1593-1633

"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee."  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, "Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame go where it doth deserve."  
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"  
"My dear, then I will serve."  
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."  
So I did sit and eat.



### A quiet place

Jesus said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' *Mark 6:31*

Using your Focus selected earlier, reflect on God's love for you and your love for him, others and yourself.

### Intercessions

Loving God, be with our world, local community, family and friends today, hold them in your love.

THROUGH OUR LIVES AND BY OUR PRAYERS  
YOUR KINGDOM COME

Be with the poor today, show them you care.

Be with the suffering of our world, give them peace.

Be with the depressed, hold out your hand to them.

Be with the lonely, let them know you are with them.

Be with the homeless, refugee and asylum seeker, shelter them in your arms.

Be with those we remember before you today .....surround them in your healing love.

Be with us and stay with us ..... we need you, God.

We need you!

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*Sing, read, pray or proclaim* - **Song: May the mind of Christ<sup>17</sup>**

- 1 May the mind of Christ, my Saviour, live in me from day to day,  
by his love and power controlling all I do and say.
- 2 May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,  
so that all may see I triumph only through his power.
- 3 May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything,  
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.
- 4 May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;  
him exalting, self forgetting - this is victory.
- 5 May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.

### **Sending**

Come bless us God, bless us with tears and laughter

**BLESS US WITH LOVE**

Come bless us Jesus, bless us with hope and healing

**BLESS US WITH LOVE**

Come bless us Holy Spirit, bless us with creativity and wisdom

**BLESS US WITH LOVE. AMEN**



### **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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<sup>17</sup> May the mind of Christ my Saviour, Katie Barclay Wilkinson, 1859-1928, Singing the Faith 504