

Sunday 28th June 2020 (Bible Month)

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, the psalmist writes, “I will sing of the Lord’s great love for ever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations”. Let us walk in the light of your love, let us stand firm upon your word. We know that blessed are those who rejoice in your name, let us rejoice this day for it is the day that you have made! We ask for strength to glorify your name, all honour and praise to you be given this day, now and forever!
Amen

Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King StF 335

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2N0iVysrykU>

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice! Again I say: rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules both earth and heaven;

the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
God's trumpet-call shall sound: rejoice!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together

We come to you creator God. God of the moon and stars, the wind, rain and the sunshine.

We call to you in times of great joy with thanksgiving and adoration for you are a mighty God.

Your faithfulness endures forever.
We celebrate your righteousness.
We proclaim you as king.

Draw us closer to you, we pray. In our times of doubt, sorrow, or pain and reveal yourself to us; let us not turn from you but draw closer to you.

Forgive us when we fail, hold us when we fall, for we know you are our mighty God who heals and forgives all who turn in repentance to you. Hear our prayer this day.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Today's Readings

Psalm 89 1:-4, 15-18

Ruth 4: 13-16

Time to Reflect

Ruth was a wise and capable woman who put the needs of her family before herself, and was rewarded by the love of her mother-in-law Naomi. Together they made a new life for themselves. The pathway was not always easy, but faith in God, and a focus on a loving relationship, sustained them until a fruitful end. Ruth is accepted by the community, Naomi's needs are met, hope is restored, a daughter secured and she received another son Obed who is seen as a sign of restoration for all that has been lost.

For many of us going through these strange times, we too can feel lost, confused, some feel displaced that the land we thought was ours now feels foreign to us perhaps even unsafe for some. The story of Ruth is a reminder that whatever difficult time we may face, God through his amazing, transforming grace (demonstrated in the sacrificial giving of Jesus on the cross) brings about something new. It may not be in the familiar land which we started off in, it may look and feel very different, but it is still our home and God empowered by the Holy Spirit will walk the land with us – that is his Amazing, transforming Grace.

Grace – Amazing, transforming Grace.

Spend a moment listening to this song on **Grace by Laura Story**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51LGsPMKeAE&list=PL-Setdg6GIKQCY6j7qNLX3zafx2rSclr8&index=2>

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Lord we pray for all the world including the places where the media cannot tell the stories yet where we know there is suffering.... Lord in your mercy (hear our prayer)

We pray for our country for the leaders in all places and situations. Let them listen with a servant heart, give them wisdom and guidance. Lord in your mercy...(hear our prayer)

We pray for the Methodist Church, for those who were to be ordained at the Methodist Conference this year. As they are Received into Full Connexion may they still feel 'worthy' may they know the love of the church family in these strange times. We pray for all those involved in the Methodist Conference. Let them seek your will, for your kingdom. Lord in your mercy (hear our prayer)

Lord we pray for our communities and for those we know and love; for those we now call frontliners, for those risking their lives for others. We pray for those who are afraid, lonely, anxious, tired, weary, for those ill, or who mourn. Lord in your mercy (hear our prayer)

In a moment of quiet we pray for ourselves

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to Lord I come to you StF 471

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL1POv2eY04>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Lord, I come to you,
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace
that I found in you.

And Lord, I've come to know
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away
by the power of your love.

Hold me close,
let your love surround me;
bring me near, draw me to
your side.

And as I wait,

I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with you,
your Spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes,
let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love
as you live in me.

Lord, renew my mind,
as your will unfolds in my life
in living every day
by the power of your love.

Geoff Bullock (b. 1956)

A prayer of blessing

May the Lord of all comfort, bring us peace.

May the Spirit of gentleness bring us wisdom

May the God of Grace circle us with love, now and forevermore.

Amen

Original Materials by Kate Strange

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Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.

² I will declare that your love stands firm for ever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

³ You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,

⁴ "I will establish your line for ever
and make your throne firm through all generations."

¹⁵ Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

¹⁶ They rejoice in your name all day long;
they celebrate your righteousness.

¹⁷ For you are their glory and strength,
and by your favour you exalt our horn.^[a]

¹⁸ Indeed, our shield^[b] belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Ruth 4: 13-16 (New International Version – UK)

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.' Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse.