

## Worship at Home - Sunday 21 November 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion 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)

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. Choose 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

*Our Father .....*

#### **Hymn: Listen to StF286 [What kind of love is this](#)**

What kind of love is this  
that gave itself for me?  
I am the guilty one,  
yet I go free.

What kind of love is this,  
a love I've never known;  
I didn't even know his name --  
what kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this,  
that died in agony?  
He who had done no wrong

was crucified for me.  
What kind of man is this,  
who laid aside his throne  
that I may know the love of God --  
what kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved;  
it is the gift of God.  
He destined me to be his own  
such is his love.  
No eye has ever seen,  
no ear has ever heard,

nor has the human heart conceived  
what kind of love is this?

*Bryn Haworth and Sally Haworth*

**A prayer of blessing**

As we go into this next week may we know God's love, strength, and guidance. Amen.

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team.