



### **Worship at Home - Sunday 8 May**

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.

Original Materials by **Reverend Sally Coleman**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, Creator, Son and Spirit we come to worship you. Help us to encounter your love, Your hope and Your joy in this time as those who worship in Spirit and in truth. **Amen**

### **Hymn: Be still and know that I am God**

Anonymous Based on Psalm 46 10-11

**StF 18**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7rG3O1qchA>

1. Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

3. In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

2. I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

### **Let us pray together:**

Loving God we come, we worship and adore You as the one we can trust. The One who created our innermost being, who dreamed all we are and can be before we ever drew a breath. The One who has a plan and a purpose for us, and not only for us, but for all of creation.

Today, as we bring our whole selves to worship we remember that there are times when we don't live into all that we can be, we forget You, we neglect others, and we neglect ourselves.

### **A Reading from the New Testament:**

**Acts 9: 36-43** New International Version

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup> About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" <sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the

widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

**Our Gospel Reading: John 10: 22-30 NIV Further conflict over Jesus' claims**

<sup>22</sup>Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>24</sup>The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one."

**Time to Reflect:**

We hear these reading in both the shadow of a pandemic, and in the shadow of war, as I write these questions they are both still very present, so I ask you to reflect carefully:

1. What are your expectations of God at work among us? How do you respond to Peter's faith and prayer?
2. Does God still raise the dead today?
3. Jesus says, my sheep hear my voice, how do you hear the voice of Jesus today?
4. What does it mean to follow?
5. Do you ever feel that God is keeping you in suspense? Take some time to talk to him about it.

Take a time to sit quietly

**A time of prayer:** Let's pray together.

Loving God you know our ways, and the ways of the world, and you call us to walk and work with you, so now we do so in prayer:

We pray for the church as it reaches into the world, that our work and words may be loving.  
That our work and words may be challenging.  
That our work and words might bring healing.  
That we might like Jesus be bringers of peace.

We pray for our world, and all of the places where war rages, sometimes we simply watch with horror, not knowing how to pray, so we ask for your Spirit to give voice to our voicelessness, and to help us to walk and work with you.

We pray for those in power, for wisdom, for kindness and for peace.  
We pray for those who have been dispossessed, that they might find a home and a welcome.  
We pray for those who struggle, that they might find a way forward.  
We pray for those who mourn, that they might receive your comfort.  
And we pray in quiet, bringing our deepest concerns in the confidence that you will hear them.  
In the name of Christ. **Amen**

**Let us pray the Lord's Prayer together:**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done - on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,  
For ever and ever.**

**Amen**

**Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands**

(or sing a verse of another hymn that comes to mind)

Fred Kaan

**StF712**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VI\\_sd5A-h8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VI_sd5A-h8)

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.

**A prayer of blessing:**

We go from this time of worship to be those who follow the way of Christ.

To be those who seek peace. To be those who live lives of love.

May the God hold us grant us grace to live lives worth of this calling. May God bless and hold you  
throughout this coming week. **Amen.**