

## Worship at Home - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 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.

### 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: StF 139 'Today I awake'

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

<https://youtu.be/2uAGtJi00KE>

*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: StF 468 'I was on your mind'

[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

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No 202443

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.

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