



The **Methodist Church**
Plymouth & Exeter District

Material produced in the
Teignbridge Circuit

Worship at Home - Sunday 24th July 2022

Opening Prayer:

Lord, I come to you just as I am, with my strengths and weaknesses, joys and regrets. And I come to you, the God of mercy and grace, welcome and goodness. I open my heart and my mind to the Spirit's presence, that these moments may be a time of blessing, renewal and transformation, through Jesus Christ my Lord. **Amen**

StF 34: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for you,
comfort your sorrows and answer your
prayerfulness,
showing the pathway your feet should pursue.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth you would count as your own;
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,**

**trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.**

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)

Let us pray together

Lord God your love goes on. Your creation was born from your love and you saw that it was good. You led your people in love and when they were disobedient you sought ways to bring them back to your way.

In Jesus you showed the height and length and breadth and depth of your love as he gave himself for us on the cross.

You continue to show us your love through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We praise and thank you for your love and we become aware of how we have taken your love for granted or refused to receive that love. We are sorry and ask your forgiveness which you offer out of love. As we receive that forgiveness help us to receive your spirit that we may sin no more.

In Jesus name we pray. **Amen**

(Prayers from the Connexional worship sheet for today)

Reading: Luke 11:1-13

Reflect

I wonder how we would respond if someone asked us to teach them to pray. Maybe we would give them an example – something to model their prayers on – and pray with them. Maybe we would talk about the kind of God to whom we pray. Maybe we would encourage them to give it a go.

Actually Jesus' response does all these things. We

tend to use the Lord's Prayer as a set for of words, but it also acts as a model. It starts with focusing on God and his Kingdom, not on ourselves. It recognises our daily dependence on Him for sustenance, but also our responsibilities – to be people of forgiveness as well as people who are forgiven. And it also recognises that life is not easy, but has its temptations and hardships, and asks for strength and safety.

In an age when hospitality was a sacred duty, personally and collectively, the parable then contrasts the unexpectedly begrudging neighbour with a God who is always open to our calling out, day or night. The point is that God is not like the neighbour!

And finally there is the encouragement to pray. 'Ask...search....knock....' So it's not just about asking, like a child with a Christmas list. Asking, searching and knocking are different things, and knocking is about being received as well as receiving.

Prayer is a multi-dimensional, mysterious, relational activity. It will change us as much as anyone or anything else. What we may find and receive may be very different from what we imagined; but Jesus says that receive and find we shall, because God is good. And his greatest gift to us is the gift of himself.

A time of prayer

Say the Lord's Prayer slowly, giving time to hold each line before God, reflecting on its meaning for you today.

StF 504: May the mind of Christ my Saviour

**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.**

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.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)

Blessing

God to enfold you,
Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
So may God grace you,
Heal and embrace you,
Lead you through darkness
Into the light.

John L. Bell (b1949)