

*Dear Heaton Moor United Church,*

*Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Triune God.*

*I begin to write this letter having come straight from the Worship Group Meeting of our church, and one of the issues that was put forward at the meeting was about “re- connectivity.” In the context of the easing down of restrictions, as much as we recognise lament, grief and isolation during the lockdown, we are also called to strive for new ways to reconnect with one another in the church, in the community and ultimately with God. Let us as a church prayerfully work towards reconnecting with one another and celebrate God’s presence in our midst. May I also invite you all to kindly offer your thoughts on how we can as a church reconnect with each other in the days to come.*

*Thanks to Deborah, Sharon and JoAnne who are leading the Worship service this Sunday at church and on our YouTube channel. My appreciations to them for putting this service together.*

*Thank you to all our friends who have joined at the Prayer Vigil for India on Wednesday on Zoom as India is reeling from a deadly Covid wave. Kindly uphold the people in India in your prayers as the situation is ‘grave’ and grim.*

*Thank you to our friends who participated in the Greater Manchester Citizens Mayoral Assembly on Zoom on Tuesday. It was quite a learning experience to know the kind of transforming work that is happening in this our region through the civil society engagements. As you will know, next week on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May we have our local body elections and it will be our civic duty to use our voting franchise to elect our local leaders for an effective governance.*

*I was at an Interfaith theological advisory meeting discussing about Christian-Muslim issues related to racism and also at Centre for Theology and Justice meeting discussing about the theological nuances about legacies during this week.*

*This Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2021 is observed by the Methodist Church as the Vocations Sunday, inviting people to reflect on the calling of God in our lives. Herewith I am sending you the resource material prepared by the Methodist Connexion for this Vocation Sunday, which includes a reflection and worship order for your kind perusal and meditation.*

*As part of the Vocations Sunday, I was invited as a Presbyter to share my calling, and you can find about it on this link:*

*<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/vocations/lovethiscalling/11-april-presbyters/>*

*This Week, I contributed a reflection to the Politics of Scripture blog of Political Theology, based on the lectionary text for this Sunday, which is John 15:1-8. If you are interested to read it, you can find it on this link: <https://politicaltheology.com/the-true-vine-and-the-farmer/> I confess that this reflection was written to an academic context, and kindly excuse me for the theological jargons that I have used in this reflection.*

*As I have mentioned in the previous letter, I will be happy to do a pastoral visit in your gardens and please do contact me if you would want a visit.*

*May you all have a blessed week and a relaxing Bank holiday weekend.*

*Thanking you,*

*With warm regards,*

*Raj*

*29<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

This week I met with my counterparts from two local churches to discuss our toddler group provisions, share ideas and look at ways we can work together. I am looking forward to welcoming groups back in the very near future. Initially these groups will be the bouncing babies and the toddler group - if you are interested in helping or have any ideas, please do contact me.

I also took part in a webinar on how to engage with communities through festivals from the liturgy. Festivals are a great way to interact with the wider community, as our events at Harvest, Christmas and Easter have proven. At the webinar they spoke about other festivals such as Plough Sunday, Rogation Sunday and Lammas - none of which I have heard of, have you?

I was fortunate to work in Mexico for a period and nobody quite does religious festivals like the Mexicans, I took part in The Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a traditional Las Posada procession, Candlemas and Semana Santa - some of the traditions I encountered there I now follow with my family at home. I wondered if there are any festivals or special days that have been celebrated over the years as a Church or even as an individual family that you would like to share? Perhaps we can resurrect a few?

Linda is on holiday still for another week so if you require pastoral help please contact the office or myself.

If I can be of any help or if you just fancy a coffee and a chat please do not hesitate to contact me.

*JoAnne*

[community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](mailto:community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)

07340 269 354

[www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)



YouTube

Heaton Moor United Church



Heaton Moor United Church



heaton\_moor\_united\_church

## Office Opening

JoAnne and I are returning to the office :

**Monday 10-2**

**Tuesday 10-2**

**Wednesday 10-2**

**Thursday Closed**

**Friday 10-1**



## Thursday Prayer

Breathe your fresh breath of life O God into all our creation,  
Breathe your peace to all those who lost their dear ones,  
Breathe your healing to all those infected by this virus,  
Breathe your wisdom to all health workers offering their care,  
Breathe your knowledge to all politicians to make responsible decisions,  
Breathe your comfort to all those living in fear, anxiety and depression,  
Breathe your love to all people, specially to the vulnerable and those on the margins,  
Breathe your justice so that corporate capitalism of profit making is contested,  
Breathe your compassion so that vaccines are made available to all people,  
Breathe your solidarity so that we stand together in overcoming this pandemic  
Breathe your Spirit on us so that we strive towards transforming our world today,  
Breathe your grace on us to care, to share and to love one another beyond doubt,  
Breathe on us your fresh breath of life O God...

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who shares our breath. Amen.

@rajpatta

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Praying for Our Planet

Seven scientists talk about  
their science, their faith and the  
climate and ecological emergency

## Climate and ecological emergency

You can join Bramhall Methodist Church for a series of seven online talks by scientists who are also Christians and whose work relates to the climate and ecological emergency. They will speak first about the science they are involved in and then how they reflect this in their prayers. The talks will be at 7:30pm on weekday evenings in May and June 2021. You can find out more and book [here](https://www.bramhallmethodists.org.uk).  
[www.bramhallmethodists.org.uk](https://www.bramhallmethodists.org.uk)

It is impossible to have missed the devastating news coming out of India over the past week. The country, home to 1.3 billion people, is currently in the grips of a deadly second wave of Covid-19 – and with hospitals unable to cope with the ever-increasing number of cases, and oxygen supplies scarce, the situation threatens to overwhelm the country's health systems.

At the time of writing, India has recorded more than 17 million Covid-19 infections and over 200,000 deaths – however, the true impact of the virus is expected to be much higher, with many cases and deaths going unreported.

**All We Can** will be responding through their local partner Odisha to the unfolding crisis. For more information on the works being undertaken, how the support is helping the area and how you can help please visit the latest news page on the All We Can website [www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk) or click [here](#)



It now seems that scammers have targeted URC ministers and just as previously emails are being sent purporting to be from members of the URC ministers. The emails look genuine but are not. If you receive such an email please follow the security protocols set by your email provider, usually transferring the email to your spam folder.



**13<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

By dedicating the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray “Come Holy Spirit” it is hoped that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow Him. Specifically each and every Christian across the globe is invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their “Yes” to God's call.

In the run up to Thy Kingdom Come we will be sharing resources and ideas of how you can get involved.



## **Christian Aid Week 10 -16 May 2021.**

### **STOP the climate crisis.**

Climate change affects us all, however, Rose (Kenya ) a 68 year old makes a six-hour round trip every other day to collect water carrying a 25 litre container so her family can farm, drink and wash.

The corona virus pandemic has made the lack of water more critical for hand washing to help keep she and her family safe from the virus.

With a reliable source of water Rose could grow fresh vegetables to feed her family and sell extra food. She walks 6 miles each day for fresh water carrying a 25 litre container.

Jean James plans to walk 6 miles a day Monday to Friday during Christian Aid Week carrying an EMPTY container.

If you'd like to sponsor her please contact her directly (f you can Gift Aid that's brilliant)

Cream Tea - That sounds good doesn't it? For a donation to Christian Aid you can have one delivered to your door by Jean and her friends. Each cream tea will consist of; 2 scones, Cornish cream, jam, tea bag.

Deliveries will take place during Christian Aid week Monday to Friday (10 to 14 May )

Alternatively if you'd like it on Saturday (15 May ) pick up from church between 10am and midday

Please let Jean know the day and number of teas you want by emailing or telephone

[Jeanjames9363@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanjames9363@gmail.com)

0161 432 5455

Do you want to challenge yourself this Christian Aid Week? Why not take on CA 300,000 steps to get fit and raise funds. Find out more and sign up at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/challenge-yourself>

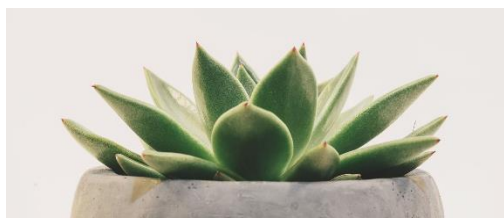
One or two people are doing a House to House collection. If you wish to donate there will be envelopes available in the church entrance for you to take Week beginning 3 May to be returned 10 or 17 May.

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## **Dialstone Lane Methodist Church Plant stall** – in aid of Christian

Aid. The first stall will be on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 11.00-2.00, last stall, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 11.00-2.00. The times of stalls during the week will be confirmed nearer the time. Donations of plants – for garden (flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs) or house, will be welcomed. As you might expect severe weather conditions may affect opening times. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid, whose campaign focus this year is helping people deal with the injustices of climate chaos, which impacts most severely on the world's poorest countries.

Lesley Fennell, Christian Aid Rep [lesley.fennell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lesley.fennell@hotmail.co.uk)







## *Prayers from the Office*

### ***An Early Morning Prayer***

*I come before you, O Lord.  
As the sun rises may your hope rise up in me.  
As the birds sing may your love flow out of me.  
As the light floods into this new day,  
May your joy shine through me.  
I come before you, O Lord  
And drink in this moment of peace,  
That I may carry something of your hope, love and joy  
Today in my heart.*

*Amen.*

read more contemporary prayers at [www.living-prayers.com](http://www.living-prayers.com)

### **You Asked**

You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose.  
I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.  
You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.  
You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them, for I did not want to see.  
You asked for my life, that you might work through me.  
I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.  
Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you—  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.  
Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out  
as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously  
the meaning of your cross. Amen.

If anyone would like to share a Prayer  
with the church family, please call Linda  
on 07564839380 or

E-mail [lindawfleming625@gmail.com](mailto:lindawfleming625@gmail.com).



No names required because  
God Knows.

Vocations Sunday 2021 2<sup>nd</sup> May

### **Call**

Praise God in his holy house of worship;  
    praise him under the open skies;  
Praise God in our homes,  
    Praise him in our schools and on our streets, and at our work.  
Praise him for his acts of power,  
    praise him for his magnificent greatness;  
Praise with a blast on the trumpet,  
    praise with music through our headphones,  
Praise him with big noises,  
    praise him in quiet whispers.  
Let every living, breathing creature praise GOD!  
    Hallelujah!

**StF 57 let all the world in every corner sing**

### **Opening prayers**

*In the beginning,*  
God made everything  
and saw that *it was good*  
God of all,  
We come before you today just as we are  
We lift to you the joy of being alive  
We praise you that we are part of your amazing Creation  
Plant in us an ever-growing love for you  
Let worship and praise burst from our hearts  
Let the fruitfulness of our lives bring glory to you

**Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Intro talk:**

In the Bible reading we will hear soon, Jesus talks about a Vine. This is a plant, which grows grapes. For a vine, or any plant to grow strong, and grow fruit, it needs to be well fed. Also, it sometimes needs its branches cutting shorter, this is called pruning because this helps the new branch that grows to have more fruit.



Jesus says in the reading that he is like a Vine and we are like the branches. In our Bibles the word used is to 'abide' with Jesus, this means to be connected, or plugged in.

If you think of a mobile phone with low battery, it needs to be plugged in to recharge. We need to be connected well with Jesus if we are to have the full power of God. Sometimes our phones' memory is full and we have to delete some Apps so that the phone can still work. If you've ever had to do this it is really hard to choose which Apps to delete and which are the really important ones to keep. This is a bit like pruning a plant. Similarly, as disciples of Jesus, sometimes we have to stop some of the things we do, so the really important things can happen.

Can you think of things you do that help you to stay plugged in to Jesus? What sort of things help you to be kind, and generous and loving?

Maybe make a list or draw the things that help you be like Jesus and be plugged in to Jesus. What things at school or work, at home and church help you to be loving and generous and kind?

Thinking about these things might make you feel thankful – that's good. Tell Jesus about that - it's a thank you prayer.

Can you think of things that fill your life but make it hard to do the right things?

What things at school or work, at home and church make it hard for you to be loving and generous and kind?

Maybe make a list, or draw those things too – it might make you sad, but that's ok. You can talk to Jesus about it - that's a sorry prayer.

### **John 15:1-9**

#### **Reflection**

It is interesting that Jesus chooses imagery of the vine. In the Old Testament the vine is sometimes used as a symbol of the Messiah, a sign of hope, and sometimes it is used as a metaphor for Israel when the people have been found lacking in terms of their Godliness; when there is a need for change.

What we read in John chapter 15 is both hopeful whilst making clear that we need to change.

It is hopeful because we are reminded that we are interconnected with the Spirit of God through our relationship with Jesus. The words that spring to my mind are love, fruitfulness, joy, abundance, connection and abiding with. What words come to your mind when you think of being connected through the Holy Spirit, with Jesus?

What do you think it means to abide with Jesus? If I play a word association game I go from abide, to live with, then I think of home, then of rest, then of safety, to family, to friends and to love. To abide in Jesus is all of that and more; we are invited to abide in all that Jesus is. If

we are to abide in all that Jesus is, then we will be fully alive, we are nourished with the same life giving Spirit, we are loved, just as Jesus is loved by the Creator.

What do you think are the abundant fruits of a life lived like this? If we were to list them, they might be characteristics like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Today is Vocations Sunday and I think a vocation that is nourished in the life giving Spirit of God would have fruit like this list – let's hear them again; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

However, words like calling and vocation can scare us sometimes, so I think of it like this: the primary call of a Christian is to follow Jesus, and the journey that emerges from that, for each of us, is our own unique vocation. Do you see your journey with Jesus as a vocation? Or do you think that are vocations are just for Ministers, and nurses and teachers?

There is a story about a student who loses in his room, the watch he inherited from his grandad; he cannot find it anywhere as the room is a mess. So he goes to his neighbour's room to look for it there, as it is easier to find things in a tidy room. His teacher passes by and asks him 'why are you looking for something where it is not?'

Do we sometimes look for a sense of vocation where it is not? The Bible reading today suggests that the abundant fruit will grow where we are most connected to The Vine. So on Vocations Sunday, I wonder, what happens if we look at where our life is bearing fruit and ask, 'could this be evidence of my vocation?'

Pause a minute and ask yourself: Where in life, at the moment, are signs of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?

As mentioned earlier, this Bible reading also speaks some tough words about us needing to change, to be pruned.

It might be that things that were once bearing abundant fruit, that were once our vocation, are not anymore.

How do we know if some of our vocational branches are ready to be pruned?

Are there things you are doing, possibly in the name of God and church, that are actually now a burden, a chore, that bring a sense of gloom, and sadly either don't bear any fruit or the fruit is no longer abundant and juicy? If so, it might be time for change, time to have those branches pruned.

Vocations Sunday isn't just about you and me as individuals and our own vocations; it is also about the vocation of the church.

Where is the abundant fruit in the life of your church? And what needs to be pruned? As we emerge from lockdown, this is the time to ask, what is the vocation of the church in the time and the place we find ourselves? Is it the same as it was in 2019? Or has that which was fruitful now dried up? We possibly have some hard decisions to make as church communities.

My brother-in law lives on a vineyard in France, and when the tractors come to prune the vines it looks brutal, but it is necessary if the vine is to grow new and delicious fruit.

Our God is a God of love and a God of invitation. God waits patiently in our lives. As we work out our vocations, individually and as a community, God is waiting, but God isn't waiting like the vacuum packed grapes in the supermarket, waiting for us to open the packet and let the fruit out. God is waiting and is active. The invitation is to look, and to notice where God is at work, where there is evidence of the fruit of God's Spirit. That's where we join in.

### **Intercession**

Abiding God,

We lift our world to you

Holding in our hearts places where

Lives are crushed by injustice

torn up by conflict

trampled by the greed of others

May justice germinate and righteousness ripen

That all may know your abundant love

*Silence to lift to God our prayers for the world....*

*Re-root us in you*

***That your Kingdom may grow through us***

Nurturing God

We pray for our communities

Holding in our hearts places where

isolation, has laid waste

deprivation has parched

dreams have withered

Flow afresh through these places

That all may know Your promise of fullness

*Silence to lift to God our prayers for our communities ...*

*Re-root us in You*

***That Your Kingdom may grow through us***

Life-giving God,

We pray for our Church

Where apathy diseases:

Plant in us a dis-ease with all that stifles Your Spirit

Where lack of vision is causing your people to perish:

Graft us to into Your limitless love

Where weariness withers:

Revive us with the Light of Jesus

*Silence to lift to God our prayers for the Church...*

*Re root us in You*

***That Your Kingdom may grow through us***

We pray for ourselves and the concerns of our hearts,

*Lifting them in silence to you...*

Prune us to be ready to respond to You

Re-wild us with Your ever-flowing grace

Graft us to You, that we may bear much fruit

*Re-root us in You*

***That Your Kingdom may grow through us***

***Amen***

**Offering**

Creator God, you made the plants and trees, the people and the animals. We want to say thank you for all of that and more, by sharing what we have with others. The money we give is a symbol of our thanks to you for all you have made and all that you are. Amen

**StF 446** I will offer up my life

**Blessing**

May each tree you see this week be a reminder of the connection you have with the Creator of that tree. May each piece of fruit you eat be a reminder of the goodness of the Spirit of God nurturing you. Go in peace to bear fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Amen

**Sunday 2 May 2021 – Vocations Sunday**

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

**Opening Prayer**

“Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord” (Psalm 150 v 6)

**Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing (StF57)**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://youtu.be/PfXldoDnvq4>

Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!  
The heavens are not too high,  
his praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
his praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!  
The Church with psalms must shout,  
no door can keep them out;  
but above all, the heart  
must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

Let us pray together

**Read Psalm 150, followed by these prayers of adoration and confession**

Loving God we give you thanks and praise for the works of your creation in all its wonder and richness of diversity, a window for us to see who you are. Majestic, awe-inspiring, beyond understanding, the source of being. We wonder at you, as we wonder at your world. We especially give you praise and thanks for your son, Jesus. We wonder at how

you revealed yourself in him and went through the agony of death on the cross that we can know you. We wonder also at the many talents and different characteristics that you have bestowed on each of us today through your Spirit, which lead to acts of amazing creativity and kindness. You have shown us how there can be such strength in both togetherness and diversity, just as there is within the Trinity. Forgive us then when we fail to use the gifts you have given us, when we deny those talents in others and prevent them becoming the people you intended, when we fail to work together with others to achieve your purposes. Help us to know the freedom of forgiveness and to be open channels of your love and grace to others. Amen

**Read Psalm 150 again, this time out loud with rising gusto if you can!**

**Today's Gospel Reading:** John 15 v 1-8

**Time to Reflect**

Let me start by saying that I am no gardener. I enjoy doing things in the garden, but I am mostly clueless. This is particularly evident when it comes to pruning and cutting back. I tend to pussy foot around and snip round the edges of my plants. Take my hedge. It is always untidy with a sort of Dennis the Menace messy haircut look to it, in stark contrast to my next-door neighbour whose own hedge is a thing of beauty, shaped and manicured tightly.

I remember the first winter in my last house, when I was horrified by what the council workers did to the beautiful oak trees lining

the Crescent where I lived. It looked devastated, like a nuclear bomb had gone off nearby. I nearly wrote in to complain. I needn't have worried, of course – they did know what they were doing and by the end of that summer the trees were back, only better, with more strength and shape from the new growth.

Pruning and cutting back is essential to the process of growth. Particularly to fruit bearing plants like the vine. Jesus knew it, hence the wonderful image of John 15 v1-8, which has much to say to us this Vocations Sunday.

In the Old Testament the vine is a symbol of Israel, but it is usually mentioned in the context of having been allowed to run wild, for example in Isaiah 5. Vines in the Middle East were (and still are) fast growing and if left unchecked would grow in all directions, with lots of branches, meaning that the fruit bearing branches produced lots of small, poor quality fruit. Quite simply, to produce a good crop, there needed to be regular ruthless pruning, particularly in its early years. Jesus says that he is the true vine, the true Israel if you like and he exhorts his disciples to abide in him, to allow God who is the gardener to prune back those useless and tangled branches, so that good fruit will be produced.

Many of us in the Church (and I include myself too) could learn from this. We take on too many jobs, have too many roles and hats to wear and consider ourselves indispensable. Who else would do it, if not me? The place would fall apart without me, we say. Well maybe we should just try it. Step back. If you do have 3 roles, give up 2 and give your all to the one remaining role. I am not necessarily the best person to invoke garden wisdom, but even I have noticed that you create a space in the garden something else will soon grow there. Perhaps by hanging on to those 2 extra roles we not only reduce the quality of the fruit we produce, but we are preventing others exercising their calling and ministry.

On this Vocations Sunday, when we are asked to reflect on the part we play in the ministry of God's Church, we should consider what needs pruning in our lives, so that the Vine produces abundant, sweet fruit. Sometimes less is more. And if you find this message hard, no sour grapes, please!

Take a time to sit quietly

### **Prayers of concern**

Loving, Lord God, help each of us to abide in you and produce fruit, not any old fruit, but the best fruit we can. Prune us back, remove those areas of our lives that get in the way of each other and help us to concentrate on the things you have truly called us to do. Help us to realise the gifts you have given us and how best to use them for your Kingdom.

Loving, Lord God may your Church be a window to you, that the world may see your love for all people in action. Bring an end to bickering, nit-picking and in-fighting. Unite your Church, give it a voice to challenge injustice and act with kindness. Make it a safe space, where people can reach their potential and work together. Help it to grow in love and produce rich fruit in abundance.

Loving, Lord God, we bring our world and local communities to you. So much conflict, hurt and suffering. We think of those mourning loved ones, those who feel isolated and cut off from family and friends due to the pandemic, those who live in fear for whatever reason. Bring the fruit of healing and peace to their place of need and instill in us a desire to be the answer to that prayer today. Amen.

Let us say now the words of The Lord's Prayer in whatever language or version preferred.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn:** Listen to **O thou who camest from above** – StF564 or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://youtu.be/PfDJL2CGQ9w>



O thou who camest from above  
the pure celestial fire to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return,  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work, and speak, and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me --

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make the sacrifice complete.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because  
apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does  
not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and  
withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into  
the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my  
words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish,  
and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified  
by this, that you bear much fruit and become my  
disciples.

## **Blessing**

May the Lord bless you and make his face to  
shine upon you; may he water you with his  
love, that you grow in him and bless others  
with rich fruitful lives. Amen.

Original Materials by [John Hay](#)

[All](#)

[Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.](#)

[Local Churches please insert CCCLi No here](#)

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. We aim to continue to  
provide these resources until the end of August 2021.

## **John 15 v 1-8**

### **Jesus the True Vine**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-  
grower. He removes every branch in me that bears  
no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to  
make it bear more fruit. You have already been  
cleansed by the word that I have spoken to  
you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the  
branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in  
the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I  
am the vine, you are the branches. Those who