

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Trust you are doing well. Good to hear about the further easing of lock down restrictions from Monday next week.

Thanks to Carol who is leading the service this Sunday at Church and on our YouTube channel. Thank you all for joining the worship services at Church, on zoom and on YouTube.

This week, we had our Leadership Team meeting, and one of the agenda points was about 'reconnecting' and we are making plans to engage discussions on 'where do we go now?' along with a SWOT analysis of our worship services during the lockdown. We also had our staff team meeting this week to discuss and plan our activities.

During this Christian Aid week, this year it was good to see many people supporting the work of Christian Aid. Special mention should be made about Jean James, who is walking six miles daily during the week delivering about 80 plus cream teas in support of Christian Aid. It was a delight to walk with her on Tuesday.

I was at a Methodist Connexional Shadow Mission Committee meeting during the week to discuss about the current issues of mission in the national and local church.

Some of us were at the Circuit mission forum on Thursday, and it was inspiring listening to 'bubbling up' works of the three task groups, offering a relevance for mission today.

This week, Prof. Anthony Reddie delivered the David Goodbourn 2021 Annual lecture on the theme "Untangling the legacies of slavery: Deconstructing mission Christianity for our contemporary kerygma" and our Graham Adams responded to his lecture. You can watch his lecture on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBDUojfFPDs&t=1s&ab_channel=ctbimedia

Christians globally are invited to join in prayer from Ascension to Pentecost, which is from 13th to 23rd May 2021, as part of "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer campaign. There are many resources available and kindly join in prayer as our act of solidarity. Herewith I am sharing a link produced by the Methodist Church called "I will pray daily" for

your kind perusal: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6T6kH-GxsY&ab_channel=MethodistChurch

I also attach the link of the song written for "Thy Kingdom come" in the recent past: <https://youtu.be/WtLvmIzODw8>

Herewith I am sending you the reflection and the worship resources for your meditations.

Let us kindly uphold Israel Palestine in our prayers so that peace is ensured in this land. Please also pray for India as it is reeling from the second covid deadly wave.

If you wanted a pastoral visit or a walk do let us as staff team know so that we can arrange and pray with you.

May you all have a blessed week.

Thanking you,

With warm regards,

Raj

13th May 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

This week has been another balancing act as my little boy has had to isolate as one of his classmates has sadly contracted COVID. We have been taking lateral flow tests regularly, which have all been negative, so he doesn't quite understand why he can't go to school. Lateral flow tests are easy to do and can be ordered online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or can be collected from some local pharmacies.

This week I have been busy enjoying keeping updated by Jean on her walks for Christian Aid, and of course enjoying my cream tea. We had a team meeting this week and have begun to prepare our next team event. I am looking at holding a children's and family day around the theme of Earth Day at the beginning of June and if you are interested in helping out please do contact me.

Heaton Moor United Church will be holding their first communion service since our return to worship on Pentecost Sunday on 23rd March - the service will be led by Rev. Raj Patta and booking can be made via the form which is available on the website or by contacting the office.

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

07340 269 354

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk



Heaton Moor United Church



Heaton Moor United Church



heaton_moor_united_church

Office Opening

As Sharon is on holiday next week I will be in the office
on the following days/times :

Monday 11-1

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 9-3

Thursday Closed

Friday 9-1



Margaret Anderson

The Funeral of Margaret takes place today. Please light a candle and think of her and her family on this day.

*God of mercy,
From whom we come,
by whose grace we live,
in whose love we are held at last;
surround us with your presence
that in our grief and loss
we may find assurance and hope
in the One who died for us and rose again,
even your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

My Shopping List

Jars of pasta sauce
Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots)
Tinned tomato
Tinned kidney beans
Tinned chick peas
Baked beans
Custard / Rice pudding
Tinned fruit
Jam / peanut butter
Dried red lentils
Crisps and child friendly goodies

School Pantry

We will be providing our school pantry once again this half term to Mersey Vale school. We have also been approached by another school to provide emergency first aid food bags for families in need.

We will be having another car park collection on

**Saturday 15th May
between 10:00 – 12:00**

If you would like further information, please contact JoAnne on community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk or 07340 269 354

Thursday Prayer

Loving God

We give you thanks and praise for today. Help us to take one day at a time.

We pray for easing of lock down restrictions. We know for some it's exciting to see people and be out and about but, for others this will be a stressful time.

We pray for your wisdom and guidance as we begin meet again and return to face to face meetings. Help us not to forget those who will still be in lock down due to ill health or disability.

We pray for that the ethos of caring and kindness will continue in our communities and for us to recognise You in each individual we meet.

We pray for the churches in The Heatons. We pray they will look to the future with hope and renewal.

We continue to pray for the countries where the vaccine is in short supply and where the virus is spreading.

We pray knowing you are with each one of us this day and we can be reassured of your love for us.

Amen

Tracy Brennan
Development Worker
Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

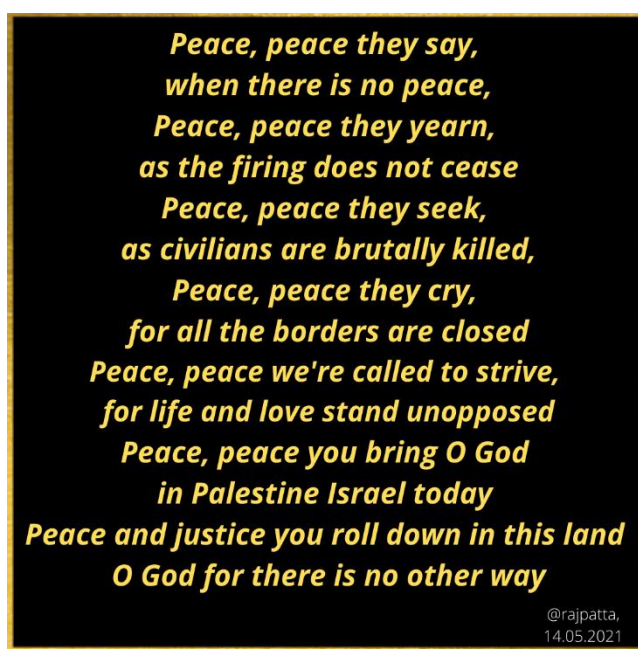
Prayer for India

United Stockport Circuit has set up a JustGiving page to support the work of The Christian Service Agency in India.

The Christian Service Agency is the Service Arm of the National Council of Churches in India. More information about the work they did during the first wave of the pandemic and what they are aiming to do during this second wave can be found on the JustGiving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stockportcircuit>

Thank you to all who have donated, to date £340 has been raised.



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THY KINGDOM COME

13th May – 23rd 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.

Prayer Novena

Thy Kingdom Come have produced a Novena for 2021 which can be found here

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2021-03/RC1053_TKC_Novena2021_V5-WEB.pdf

A Novena is nine days of prayer that usually encourages us to pray with particular intention. Praying for other people is known as a prayer of intercession. The Novena provided by Thy Kingdom Come has reflections for each day and take around ten minutes.

If you would like a printed copy of the Novena please contact JoAnne community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Dates for your diary

24th – 28th May Stream in the Wilderness

Presented by URC Spirituality the week offers short standalone session exploring spirituality in different times. To register please visit www.sitw.eventbrite.co.uk

25th May Doing Justice: A service of reflection on the Anniversary of the murder of George Floyd

The service will be broadcast at 7pm via YouTube and other social media platforms. For more information please visit <https://ctbi.org.uk/service-marks-anniversary-of-george-floyd-killing/>

26th May Topsy Turvy Coffee Evening

Online coffee evening *Following the White Rabbit* at 7pm. Further information to follow

6th June – Earth Day Service

Zoom service at 3pm led by the circuit Eco Task Group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212246881?pwd=VXpyMzRYV21UZ1ZoYlkc2R4dmV1QT09>



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 has been very busy walking her daily 6 miles and delivering the 70+ meals her and her team of volunteers have put together.

Some of us were just busy eating the cream teas!

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, either by traditional envelope or via our online donation envelope.

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/heaton-moor-united-church>





Prayers from Linda



Most loving Father, accept our thanks for all the good things we receive from you, and especially for this present time of building happiness. As we share our joy with others, help us always to be ready to rejoice with those who rejoice as well as to comfort those who are

sad? We know that you care for us in the little things as well as in the great and that all is held firmly in your love. May this our present joy, gracious Lord, be for us a token? Of the great, immeasurable love with which you have sustained us in our lives and enriched us with the gift of faith and above all with knowledge of the Redemption by which we are united with you both now and in the life to come.

A TIME OF REJOICING

Praise the Lord, O my soul,

And all that is within us, bless your holy Name.

Give thanks to God, for all is good,

And his mercy endures forever.

In everything give thanks,

For this is the will of God in Jesus Christ.

We will give thanks to the Lord with all my whole Heart,

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Let us make our "Thank you" a return of love for love, a response that is not selfish or calculated but answers a divine love that paid the price of love. And let us live as if we mean what we say. Rejoice

evermore. Pray without ceasing in everything give thanks. Amen

If anyone would like to share a Prayer with the church family, please call Linda on 07564839380 or E-mail lindawfleming625@gmail.com.



No names required because
God Knows.

Broken Bodies & Bodily Ascension

Monday, the 22nd May 2017 night in Manchester, witnessed one of the horrific incidents of terror attack which costed the lives of 22 people, leaving about 60 people seriously injured. The city and her citizens reeled under deep shock, for many came forward openly to stand in support of one another irrespective of religious identities, offering solidarity and sharing love with one another, sending a message that 'collectively we shall overcome hatred and embrace love.' On one hand there are broken bodies, and on the other there is a body of love formed and performed in this after-math.

Ascension Sunday is an occasion where we remember the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven after appearing and eating with his disciples for forty days' post-resurrection. In the context of fear, terror, violence, broken bodies, disappeared bodies and anxiety, how do we understand Ascension of Jesus Christ for our times today?

On the one hand, Ascension of Jesus Christ has been viewed by most Christians as an event outside of Jesus' life and mission, for this is an incident happened post-resurrection, an after-life event of Jesus. On the other hand, on most occasions and by many Christians, Ascension of Jesus has been limited as an act related to Jesus' divinity, like that of his transfiguration and resurrection, and compartmentalised the activities of human Jesus and of divine Jesus. Such distinctions have diluted and compromised the wholistic understanding of Jesus' mission. Jesus' incarnation, his life & ministry, his death, his resurrection, his ascension and his second-coming are all integral part and parcel of Jesus mission, and no one aspect of his mission can be treated in isolation. All aspects of Jesus' mission are inter-related to one another, for every event in Jesus' mission is sequential and consequential to the other. The very act of Jesus' ascending into heaven, as Douglas Farrow observes, "is the proper outcome of his messianic career", for as a messiah Jesus accomplishes his mission and ascends as a messiah into heavens. Such an understanding helps us to understand that life is integral and any dichotomy of human person is dubious and devious.

Allow me to share two thoughts on Ascension.

1. Ascension: A Bodily Jesus Ascends into Heavens

The early Church and the then Jewish communities were familiar with stories of ascensions into heaven, from the lives of Enoch, Elijah who were taken up into heaven. It was also believed that emperor Augustus, was also witnessed to be ascended into heavens, and there was an ample evidence of familiarity on this event to people then. However, in defiance to Roman empire's unjust criminal crucifixion, God raised Jesus from death, proclaiming hope of new life to all those that undergo such unjust trials and executions. Post-resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples in his body, for Thomas could touch and feel his body, ate with them in his body, and in this instance ascended into heaven in his body. The broken & crucified body of Jesus was resurrected in his body and was flourished in body as he ascended into heavens. The material broken-crucified-risen body now ascends into heaven, for the broken body becomes the site of a transfigured body, seating at the right hand of the Father of the holy Trinity.

The logic of empire, which is demonstrated by violence wants to destroy bodies by killings, scatter bodies through terror acts, crucify bodies by unjust crucifixions, disappear bodies by torture, and disintegrate the bio-politics of life. In contrast to this, the love of Trinity receives and embraces bodies into their fold, and the ascension of a bodily Jesus is a foretaste to such a reception of material body. Those that are embraced by the love of Trinity, are called to receive the broken-hearted and partake in the healing of their broken bodies.

2. Ascension: Descent & Disciple

In Acts 1: 1-11, the episode where Luke records the ascension of Jesus Christ, after Jesus ascends into heaven, the disciples were struck staring at this spectacle of amazement. “When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (9-11V) Ascension was a wake-up call to his disciples to not get struck with this gazing, but to keep waiting and watching for the descent of Christ, where he comes to judge both the living and the dead. Farrow, proposes that the power of Spirit is left with the eucharistic assembly, for as they receive the body of Christ, they become the body of Christ, for ascension is ensured to all such bodies of materiality. Discipleship calls for a continuation of Christ’s work in ensuring justice and peace, liberating the bio-political bodies towards transformation into a new creation. Discipleship is attending to the ‘bare life’ of our context, and striving for the bodily liberation to all bonded by torture and violence.

Ascension of Jesus Christ invites us to a costly discipleship of addressing the wholistic needs of the people, which is their bodies, souls and minds. In the context of violence and terror, the broken body of Christ, should come forward in healing the broken bodies of the community, and resisting all forms of evil that destroy life. Life, in the sense of bio-political life belongs to God, and any attempt to disrupt and destroy such a life is against God’s will, and discipleship is to work towards that will of God.

Raj Bharat Patta
13th May 2021



The Methodist Church

United Stockport Circuit (Manchester and Stockport District)

A Message from the Superintendent Minister

May 12th 2021

Dear Friends,

As we (hopefully) continue to move closer towards the end of lockdown and social distancing, this letter will be the last of my fortnightly messages. However, we have come to recognise that keeping in touch and regular communication is really important – to that end there will continue to be a monthly Circuit Letter, each one written from a different perspective, by a different person or group within the life of the Circuit; hopefully this will help to continue the sense of ‘being part of something bigger’ which has grown over the last 15 months as we have done so much on a Circuit basis. We will continue for now to offer the weekly Zoom service, but the hope will be in the not too distant future to move to a weekly ‘live stream’ of one of the services taking place in the Circuit on a Sunday morning. This can be watched by those at home as it is taking place, or at a later time at your leisure. Hopefully this will ensure that everyone can access worship and stay in touch, especially those who are unable for whatever reason to come back to church in person. ***We are looking for a few people who have good technological expertise to help us with the regular live streaming. If you, or someone you know has these skills, please do get in touch with me or Christine Hufton in the Circuit Office.***

How we communicate well and effectively with each other and develop our ongoing mission in the life of the Circuit are pressing questions for us now and in the coming months. Over the last year, two of our churches have closed – Trinity and St. John’s – and several others are struggling with the issue of long term viability; we continue to pray for those churches, to give thanks for their witness and ministry over the years, and to seek God’s guidance as to how we can best use and respect their legacy as we seek to evolve and grow within the love and grace of God. How God is working among us and what God might be asking of us are questions which lie at the heart of everything right now. We will be engaging in a process of discernment as we shape a plan for mission that will take seriously our limited human resources and the broader needs of our communities – all our churches are located in the Borough of Stockport so we will be looking closely at what is being said and done about meeting the needs of the people among whom with live and minister. Conversations with, and listening to, local partners – who are other faith groups, community organisations, local politicians, residents’ groups – can and will help to shape our thinking in terms of how we go about sharing God’s love. We need to be thinking about what we do well, and what might be possible. We might need to stop doing some things in order to focus resources on something else which feels more important. We

need to be clear about why we are doing the things we are doing and in particular how these things will allow God's love to be seen and felt. So, as we joyfully see churches gradually re-opening on a Sunday, let's not forget that behind the scenes there is a different kind of work going on through Church Councils, the Circuit Leadership Team and other groups to identify other hopes and dreams and to focus on actions beyond our life of worship. We can all expect changes I am sure, but the people of God are used to that! Get involved where you can, take part in discussions, talk to your neighbours, colleagues and friends outside the church about how they see the role of the church in this post pandemic world. Look around in your local area and see where the points of critical need are – the places where it is harder to see God at work. Ask what it is we need to do to make God's presence more visible because there are no places where God is absent! It is at the heart of our faith to believe that God is always present; as Charles Wesley wrote,

*“God of all power, and truth and grace,
Which shall from age to age endure,
Whose word, when heaven and earth shall pass,
Remains and stands for ever sure; “*

But in some places things get in the way and obscure that presence – things like economic hardship, selfishness, greed, government policy, things like these. It is our work to lift that veil. The hymn continues,

*“That I your mercy may proclaim,
That all the world your truth may see,
Hallow your great and glorious name,
And perfect holiness in me.”*

The holiness that Wesley talks about is a holiness in which our will becomes aligned to that of God, and in proclaiming God's mercy we are revealing the God of love, justice and kindness who has been made known to us in scripture, in the person of Jesus Christ, in our traditions, and in our lives. So, for the last time, please remember as always:

In this time of isolation and separation may we feel the unity of God's spirit in the bonds of peace and love which connect us to one another.

- 1. When we feel lonely let us know that in Christ we are never alone.**
- 2. When we feel isolated may we be reminded that within the worldwide Body of Christ we are always connected.**
- 3. When we need a hug help us to feel the warmth of God's embrace**
- 4. When we are compelled to keep our distance, may we be drawn close to each other within the Spirit of Companionship that flows from God and which moves through and between each one of us.**

With love and blessings. **Rev Cathy**

NOTICES

Worship

See your local church notices for details but for the time being we are continuing our Circuit wide Zoom service at 3pm on Sundays. Login details as usual as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212246881?pwd=VXpyMzRYV21UZ1ZoYlkc2R4dmV1QT09>

Meeting ID: 872 1224 6881 Password: 974333

Circuit Prayer

As we continue in some form of lockdown, let's continue to say this prayer together when we can, at 11am on a Sunday morning if we are not in church. This way we stay connected in a very really and tangible way with all those who are not yet able to come back to church. You can also read more about each church on the Circuit Website www.stockportcircuit.org.uk

God of Love and Life, we pray to you this morning for the life the United Stockport Methodist Circuit, for our sisters and brothers who belong to *(pausing briefly to reflect after each name):*

Christ Church Methodist /URC , Dialstone Lane Methodist Church , Davenport Methodist Church , Edgeley Community Church , Hazel Grove Methodist Church, Heaton Mersey Methodist , Heaton Moor United Church, Jubilee Methodist Church, (Marple Bridge), Marple Methodist Church, The Ridge Methodist Church, (Marple), Romiley Methodist Church, St. Johns Methodist Church, (Cheadle Heath), Tiviot Dale Methodist Church (centre of Stockport), Trinity Methodist Church, (Bramhall Lane), Windlehurst Methodist Church (High Lane), Woodley Methodist Church

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. We ask that this time of crisis might pass and that those who suffer might find comfort and strength within the knowledge of your grace, revealed through the kindness and compassion of the people of God. Eternal God, though the self-offering of your Son you have filled our lives with your presence. Help us in our sufferings and trials. Fill us with hope and strengthen us in our weakness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Sunday 16th May, Seventh Sunday of Easter, Sunday in Ascensiontide

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

May we know the presence of God as we worship.

May we experience unity in Jesus as we worship.

As we worship, may we be blessed. Amen.

Hymn: "I know that my Redeemer lives"

Singing the Faith 303-

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words, listen to the tune here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFk_kbojDg8

I know that my Redeemer lives --
what joy the blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my everlasting Head!

He lives, to bless me with his love;
he lives, to plead for me above;
he lives, my hungry soul to feed;
he lives, to help in time of need.

He lives, and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives, my mansion to prepare;
he lives, to lead me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name;
he lives, my Saviour, still the same;
what joy the blest assurance gives,
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley (1738-1799)

Let us pray together:

Wonderful, marvellous, mysterious God,
known to us in the wonder of life and of
creation:

praise and glory be given to you.

Love and life be given to you.

In Jesus Christ your Son, you have held out to
us fullness of life on earth and the promise of
life in heaven.

In Him you have shown that you are Lord of
Life; that you are Power over Death; that you
are Source of Love beyond our imagining.

Sovereign God, hear our prayer.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament:

Psalm 1

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 17:6-19

Time to Reflect

Someone who had undergone a major surgical procedure spoke, part-way through their lengthy time of recovery and healing, of having felt "held in a cradle of love". That feeling had arisen out of the knowledge that people were very much holding her in their prayers.

In the Gospel passage Jesus prays for his disciples. Presumably one or more disciples heard Jesus praying and was/were able to recall his words, his feelings, and to later set them down in writing. All that we have in the Gospels is, of course, that which is set down

from such memory. The memory here is of Jesus praying for them.

The people who prayed for the woman who felt cradled in love" did not, as far as I can tell, pray for her to be healed and be spared the surgery. If they had done so, then their prayers were not precisely answered or else she wouldn't have had the operation. The prayers were for her well-being and her recovery.

When Jesus prays for his disciples, and asks for them to be protected, the obvious protection they need is against rejection, persecution, hatred, even death. Yet, that doesn't sit easily with what Jesus has been saying to them not so long before. He has told them that they will experience these things. What kind of protection, then, is he praying for? Specifically, Jesus says that he's not asking that they be taken out of the world, but that they should be protected from the evil one.

They are to remain in the world, they are to experience challenge and danger because of their faith. Jesus' prayer is they shall be protected in that they shall not lose their faith. As he is sanctified, set aside to serve, so they might also continue to be sanctified. That they be set aside, to be different in character from those who follow the ways of the world.

Through Biblical accounts, as well as those transmitted through the centuries, we see that Jesus' prayer is answered as women and men have endured all manner of treatment, but have remained faithful. This extends even to the present age. Consider this - that for everyone whose conduct and character is so noted and remembered, there are countless more whose faithfulness has been constant or continues to be constant in 2021.

It is not too much to believe that just as Jesus prayed for his disciples long ago, his prayers and hopes are that present-day disciples shall also be so protected. That we shall not give up, but that we shall continue in faith and

faithful living. That we shall not lose our faith, but that we shall continue to work out our faith in this world. Might it be that as we do so, we feel as if we are "held in a cradle of love". May it be so!

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Listening, loving, all-knowing God, we place before you the challenge we face as we seek to live a life that is truly informed by our faith.

Around us we see selfishness, corruption, and a lack of compassion towards, or concern for, others.

Power and control appear to be the aim of many. Bless us, we pray, forgive our failings, be sovereign over our lives that faith is full within us, that boldness to work to change the world is within us, that love of neighbour, of enemy, of all people, is our goal.

Give peace and healing, we pray, to those who struggle to maintain their lives, and those of their families, in the current of disadvantage that flows from shortsighted decision-making, provision-giving.

Give wisdom and insight, we pray, to those who work in search of medicines and treatments, that fullness of life may be the possession of those who are ill.

Give wisdom of judgment and of decision, we pray, to those who govern locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. May we see a world of peace, of fair-trade and shared resources.

Give wisdom and strength, vision and purpose, expertise and renewed spirit to the people of your church that the future may be faced with confidence and with that hope which is to be found only in you. Bless the compassionate and the just, all those who walk alongside those in need.

Giving God, may we give to you all that we are and all that we might ever be. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to Singing the Faith 351

"In Christ alone my hope is found, - "

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljlsOQ26914>

or sing a verse of another hymn that comes to mind.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! -- who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine --
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

A prayer of blessing

The blessing of God who is of day and of night,
of last year, this year and the years to come,
be upon us;
that always we may know comfort and healing, hope and strength.
Through Jesus Christ, risen and ascended Lord. Amen.

Original Materials by Trevor Pratt

All Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI 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.

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

John 17:6-19

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them

and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.