

Sunday May 9th 2021: Sixth Sunday of Easter

For use at 10.30 am or at another time. This is the sixtieth edition of our Worship at Home sheet.



Hymn StF 330 H&P 77

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room / and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains / repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness / and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)



Psalm set for today: Psalm 98

For Prayer

Use the Psalm (particularly the first two sections) as a basis for your prayer of praise and thanksgiving. The third section might inform a prayer of confession.

To think about

Psalm 98 seems very appropriate for today and as a curtain-raiser for the gospel reading. The reading from John is about our relationship with Jesus and what we are called to do as disciples. The Psalm is about praising God for all he that he has done (and is doing). The last line of verse 3 can be applied to the Resurrection – and we are still in the Easter season. The second section is pure praise (which is always appropriate, of course). The third section establishes God as the ruler of the planet – at a time when that planet is in crisis as humankind continues to ravage the earth for its own ends. There is also the mention of justice and fairness in the last line – and we are approaching Christian Aid Week (10th – 16th May) when the combined churches aid and campaigning organisation asks us to continue to call for both justice in the world and urgent, essential, climate action.

Gospel Reading set for today: John 15 v 9 – 17

Hymn StF 242 MP 1

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you, that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.

CCL nos. 5365402 (circuit); 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013 (churches)

Message from a Circuit friend

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus is teaching us, as he taught his disciples, the great lesson of the New Testament. Love. Love. Love. Love. It keeps coming up, and here Jesus lays out some more about what it means. In this passage we learn that love comes from God. We are to love each other as Jesus loved us, and he loved us enough to give his life for us. We may or may not have to die for someone, but we can also practice sacrificial love in other ways: listening, helping, encouraging, giving. Think of someone who needs this kind of love today, and give all the love you can.

Because Jesus Christ is our Lord and Master, he has the right to call us servants; instead, he regards us as friends. How comforting and reassuring that he not only chose us but also wants us to be his friends! Because he is our Lord and Master, we owe him our unqualified obedience and should listen to everything he says; because we are his friends, we should love him and others the way he loves us. Christians will get plenty of hatred from the world; from each other we need love and support. Do you allow small problems to get in the way of loving other believers? Jesus commands that you love them, and he will give you the strength to do it.

We are invited into the Godhead, into the Triune relationship between Creator, Christ and Spirit. And we are invited to “remain” in that love. What are we to do with such an invitation? Such a challenge, to show love to the ultimate source of all creation, to the great divine power that flows through all things! “This is my command love one another” Amen.

Cliff Shanganya (Minister in the Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit)

For Prayer

We pray for all – a growing, and deepening, knowledge of God’s love for us and the joy that results. We pray that God’s love may fill, and overflow, men, women, and young people so that the whole world might be transformed.

We pray for our world, our country, the Methodist Church, our Circuit, our local church and fellowship, our community, our family and friends, ourselves.

Prayer for Christian Aid Week (*find a stone or stones to accompany this prayer*)

Our God, we pray for transformation of hearts and minds,
for the stones of indifference to become hearts of compassion,
for the stones of anxiety to become hearts of hope.

In your name we pray, Amen.

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord’s Prayer...

Hymn StF 595 H&P 700

Lord, we have come at your own invitation / chosen by you to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication / ours a commitment we know never ends.
So, in the world, where each duty assigned us / gives us the chance to create or destroy,
help us to make those decisions that bind us / Lord, to yourself, in obedience and joy.

Fred Pratt Green (1903 – 2000) CCL nos. 5365402 (circuit); 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013 (churches)

May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.

Information

Christian Aid Week is from May 10th – 16th. If you are used to supporting them (or, even if you are not!) you may like to look at their website [UK charity fighting global poverty - Christian Aid](#).

The Connexion is also asking Methodists to support ‘All we Can’ in their emergency appeal for India. Donations can be sent to them at 25, Marylebone Road, LONDON NW1 5JR or can be given via their website [Home - All We Can](#).

Hymn StF 487 MP 796

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.
There’ll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands, (x 3)
and you’ll go out with joy. (*repeat verse getting faster each time...*)

Stuart Dauermann (b 1944) and Steffi Geiser Rubin CCL nos. 5365402 (circuit); 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013 (churches)