

# Worship at Home

PRAYERS READING AND REFLECTIONS TO USE AT HOME WHEN GOING TO CHURCH IS NOT POSSIBLE

## Church at Home

By Rev Shuna Dicks

Welcome to our latest Worship at Home sheet and wishing you a very Happy Easter. As always, in this Worship at Home Sheet I have included prayers, reflections and readings for each week which I hope speak of the situation we live in and will bring some comfort and peace. Use as many or as few as you like. Opening and closing words are there to help you shape your personal time of worship. You may even want to set aside our usual gathering time of 10.30am on Sunday Morning as this will tie in with the online worship beginning.

We can now gather for worship in the sanctuary. If you feel you would like to join us on a Sunday morning in church, please contact Graeme Robertson on 01224 867260 to reserve a seat. The wearing of face coverings, social distancing, use of hand sanitiser and track and trace remain in place as requirements.

In the meantime, if I or we as a congregation can be of any help to you at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Manse. My phone number is 01224 861692.

With love and prayers.

*Shuna*



### Opening Words

Are you searching for God,  
but do not know where to look?  
Don't worry—God knows where you are.  
Are you searching for faith,  
but do not know what to believe?  
Don't worry—you are not alone.  
Would you love to be able to pray,  
but cannot find the words?  
Don't worry—Christ is praying for you.

### Closing Words

And so we go in joy and in gratitude  
for the love of God,  
the care and compassion of Jesus  
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Let us go into the world  
to share that love and joy  
with all whom we meet.  
And as we do,  
may the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
rest and dwell with us all.  
Today, tomorrow and always.  
Amen

or  
I am loved  
Jesus loves me  
and calls on me to love others.  
I go in peace  
to do just that...  
May the love and peace of Christ  
go with me  
this day and forever more.  
Amen

### BIBLE READINGS SUNDAY BY SUNDAY

2nd May	John 15:1-8
9th May	John 15:9-17
16th May	John 17:6-19
23rd May	John 15:26-27;16:4b-15
30th May	Isaiah 6:1-8

These are the readings we will be using for our online services for the next few weeks. If you use these then you will be 'with' us.

### DIAL IN TO WORSHIP

To listen to our service call 01224 013222 and you will be able to hear a recording of the Sunday service from 10.30am each Sunday and throughout the week. There is a small charge for this service or it may be free depending on your telephone contract.

### AN EVERYDAY PRAYER

May we have the language of unity.  
May our full-stops  
be not the final word.  
May our exclamation marks  
be a place for discussion.  
May our commas  
be an invitation to breathe together.  
May our capital letters not shout.  
May we speak the language of unity,  
And may our speech be fertile ground  
for branches to grow,  
for grapes to ripen,  
for leaves to shade,  
for sun to sweeten,  
that we might all be bound together  
in one great word,  
your word:  
Love.  
Amen.

## Reflection

'I am', you said,  
'the true vine.'

And I...

am connected:

a branch.

At times,

firm and strong,

flourishing and fruiting

with kindness and care;

peaceful, patient.

Rooted in love,

watered with grace,

tended with tenderness.

But Lord, at times,

I'm barely clinging on,

faltering and flailing,

wondering if you're there;

rattled and restless.

Wretched, alone—

withered, joy gone,  
heavy with helplessness.

In the green times

and the dry,

still, you remain

and so, connected,

help me abide.

Amen

## A prayer like no other

It was a prayer like no other.

A prayer of Jesus.

This is how he spoke to God,  
an honest, caring conversation:

"I have opened up about you  
to all those I have met in the world.

Each one is yours

and the words of life I have spoken,  
they have held onto:

they have seen you in me,

heard your words in my words,

felt your truth in the truth I have spoken.

"Now that I am coming close to you,

and no longer in this world,

be with those that remain,

love them, protect them, comfort them.

"May my joy fill them, and fill them full.

They have heard my words

and held onto them,

even when the world disagreed.

They have stuck fast to the hope.

May they be safe, protected, cared for,

while they continue to spread my word

in a world that does not like them for it,

and especially when I can no longer be

by their side.

"As you sent me into the world,

I now send them into they world.

Be with them always.

I love them too much."

And in such words

Jesus prayed for each of us

and for us all.

Amen

## Prayer

Lord of inclusive love,

you make it so that nobody is left out.

No person is excluded from the invitation to

live within the circle of your love.

Though much of the life we know

is about the separation between inner circle and outer

where some are poorer, hungrier, colder,

sicker and made to feel more

restricted than others—

yours is a Kingdom

where love is unconditional,

and the potential within the created life

is of equal possibility.

Today we worship you,

the God who is Three-In-One,

one person,

who calls us to create a unity and oneness

in the family of creation,

where all are valued.

Amen.

## Something to think about for 2nd May

Take time to think about all the things that you  
are connected to in your community.

- How connected/disconnected are you?
- What connections are life giving and what are sapping your energy?
- Is it time to re-evaluate what makes up your vine?

## Something to think about for 9th May

Are there ways in which you can show love to  
those around you this week?

Perhaps you could take time to bake a cake for  
a neighbour, write a handwritten letter or card to  
someone.

## Something to think about for 16th May

Jesus loves his disciples and prays that they  
will stick together, hold on to the joy of knowing  
and loving God and go into the world to share  
that with all whom they meet.

- In what ways can we articulate the joy of knowing and loving God to those around us?

## Something to think about for 23rd May

Imagine that today was the day the Church was  
born. You have received the gift of the Holy  
Spirit. You have witnessed  
several thousand people being added to the  
number of believers.

- What now?
- Where would you go from here?

## Something to think about for 30th May

At the start of each day, take a moment to look  
at yourself in a mirror. Either inwardly or aloud  
say:

Here am I, Father.

Here am I, Jesus.

Here am I, Holy Spirit.

And go into each day with God's blessing.

## Prayer for Christian Aid Week

God of abundant life,

we see your goodness all around us  
and we thank you for every part of it;  
from the plants and animals which play  
their part in complex ecosystems,  
to the dry deserts and stormy seas  
which test the limits of life.

We pray that in this time of climate crisis  
and ecological emergency,

you may help us

to rediscover your love of creation  
and to reflect that in our own lives.

God who speaks through  
unexpected people,

We thank you for contemporary prophets  
who are challenging us

to act on climate change;

for indigenous people

and their invaluable knowledge

of the land and sea where they live,  
for scientists dedicating their careers

to warning us about changes to

the planet,

and for young people

striking for their future.

We pray that you will help those in power  
to hear their prophetic voices.

Help them to see beyond short-term  
political priorities and business plans,  
and give them wisdom and courage when  
they face difficult decisions.

God of second chances,

we recognise the damage

we have done to the Earth

and the injustice we see

in society every day,

all of it fuelled by worship of profit

and possessions.

We pray for the coming of a better world  
with justice, kindness and humility

at its heart.

We ask that you guide us to be

co-creators of this new world.

Give us confidence to follow

the prophetic voices

to stand against injustice

to people and to planet.

So that together,

in your strength,

we stop this climate crisis.

God, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Amen

[Television Worship](#)  
*Reflections at the Quay*  
Sunday 11.30am BBC1  
*The Service*  
Sunday 12noon  
BBC Scotland