

## Worship at Home for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### *Listening and responding to God*

A warm welcome to worship wherever you are

Call to worship

Let us come from our everyday and our routine  
and meet with God – the one who made us,  
and who gave us our daily bread  
through the week just gone.

A gathering prayer

Loving Lord,  
thank you that you meet us where we are,  
in the middle and muddle of our daily tasks.  
Help us to hear your call,  
to recognise your voice,  
and to respond to your invitation  
to be with you now. **Amen.**

Our first hymn, *As we gather in your presence now*, is a new one to me and when reading through the words I wondered how appropriate it is for our worship at home as compared to when we *gather* at church, but the last line of the final verse convinced me, *when our audience is you alone, Lord we will worship.*

**Hymn 609 StF            As we gather in your presence Lord**

[As We Gather \(Whatever We Do\) // Resound Worship - YouTube](#)

As we gather in your presence now,  
Lord, we will worship;  
as we sing our thankful songs aloud:  
Lord we will worship.  
When we go out in the name of Christ,  
Lord we will worship;  
as your word and Spirit shape our lives,  
Lord we will worship.

*And whatever we do, in word or deed,  
we do for the one who set us free;  
when we're on our feet or on our knees,  
Lord, we will worship,  
Lord, we will worship.*

When we love our friends and families,  
Lord, we will worship;

when we give ourselves to those in need,  
Lord we will worship.  
When we take instruction cheerfully,  
Lord we will worship;  
when we lead with Christ's humility,  
Lord we will worship.

*And whatever we do, in word or deed,  
we do for the one who set us free;  
when we're on our feet or on our knees,  
Lord, we will worship,  
Lord, we will worship.*

In the course of every working day,  
Lord, we will worship;  
when our business takes us far away,  
Lord we will worship.  
When we care for children in the home,  
Lord we will worship;  
when our audience is you alone,  
Lord we will worship.

*And whatever we do, in word or deed,  
we do for the one who set us free;  
when we're on our feet or on our knees,  
Lord, we will worship,  
Lord, we will worship.*

Joel Payne

**Prayer of praise**

God of our salvation: **we pour out our hearts in praise.**  
God of glory: **we pour out our hearts in praise.**  
God our rock: **we pour out our hearts in praise.**  
God our refuge: **we pour out our hearts in praise.**  
God of mercy: **we pour out our hearts in praise.**  
God of loving kindness: **we pour out our hearts in praise.**  
God of power: **we pour out our hearts in praise.**  
God who calls 'follow': **lead us where you would have us go.**  
**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Bible Reading: Mark 1: 14 -20**

<sup>14</sup> After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. <sup>15</sup> "The right time has come," he said, "and

the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!”

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and went with him.

<sup>19</sup> He went a little farther on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat getting their nets ready. <sup>20</sup> As soon as Jesus saw them, he called them; they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went with Jesus.

### Reflection

I still keep a paper diary, one of those Filofax ones, (though other varieties are available) and early every January I take out the pages for the year just ended and bring forward the pages for the new year. I take the opportunity to look back through the pages of the previous year to reflect on things done, and often being reminded what I hadn't done. As I scanned through the pages of 2020 my over-riding thought was to want to take it back to W H Smith's to see if I could have my money back as I'd hardly used it! After years of busy-ness it was quite a salutary experience to look through the empty pages.

It had even greater effect on me when compared with the previous year, 2019, the year the re-development project at Bedale and District Methodist Church came to fruition giving plenty of extra activity on top of the regular commitments to caring for the grandchildren and the pleasures of visits and holidays. I know I'm not alone in feeling a sense of under achievement in 2020 and the questions that arise from that feeling. One that I keep returning to is how I respond to the will of God in these strange times. For the first time in my life the lack of time has not been the predominant issue, quite the opposite in fact.

Responding to the call of God is the theme of our Bible reading today. There is a sense of urgency in St. Mark's Gospel. Unlike Matthew and Luke, there is no time for the nativity stories; fourteen verses into the first chapter we read the right time had come for Jesus to embark on his ministry. Today's newspaper front pages show photos of the newly elected President of the USA getting down to work by repealing some of the laws and decisions made by his predecessor. To use the modern parlance, he is hitting the ground running. That was exactly what

Jesus did, time was pressing and he needed to be getting on with things, and not surprisingly his first task was to recruit a team of helpers to support him in this task.

Every time I read this passage I am amazed at the recruitment techniques Jesus used. Not for him the lengthy adverts in the press, the associated job specifications and the rounds of interviews. It was for him a case of “You're the person I'm looking for, consider yourself hired!” And even more remarkable is the response he received; “That's great, I'll start immediately!” The first disciples took on that sense of urgency. There was not a moment to lose and with fond farewells to loved ones they were on their way with no thoughts of conditions of service and rates of pay. What they were being offered was priceless, an opportunity to help in the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.

I don't know about you, but the last twelve months have brought a sense of inertia to all aspects of life and we are constantly reminded of the need for patience. This is understandable, but at the same time there is a sense of urgency building up to use this time more effectively to bring the good news of the love of God to a world so divided and empty. Just as when Jesus started his ministry, the time has again come to remind those around us of the importance of God's truth. The challenge of course is how we do this at a time when all the normal means of communication have been largely taken away for us. If you have the answer to this, do please share it with me and everyone else. For me, one thing is clear and that is when the new normal begins to emerge there will be ample of opportunities for each one of us to show the love of God and there won't be a minute to spare. Like those first disciples, may we respond without hesitation.

### **Something to think about:**

1. *How have you felt able to respond to Jesus' call during a time of inactivity?*
2. *How can we show the love of God to a divided and empty world?*

### **Hymn 672 StF Where can we find you, Lord Jesus our Master?**

[Where can we find you, Lord Jesus our master? - YouTube](#)

1. Where can we find you, Lord Jesus our Master?  
We want to serve you, to answer your call.  
Where do you lead us and ask us to follow?

What should we do in our service for all?

2. "Go to the hungry, to those who have nothing;  
Go where the farmlands are empty and bare.  
I broke the bread for the people around me;  
Out of my plenty, think what you can share.
3. "Go to the homeless, to those who have nowhere;  
Go where my people sleep out in the rain.  
I had no comforts but what others gave me;  
Offer them shelter, give ease to their pain.
4. "Go to the outcast, to those who have no-one;  
Go where my sheep are rejected and lost.  
I dined with sinners and reached out to lepers;  
Go and do likewise, and don't count the cost"
5. Where will we find you, Lord Jesus our Master?  
We are your servants who answer your call.  
You go before us, and there we will follow,  
Taking our cross in the service of all.

*Andrew*

*Charles Dickinson (b. 1954)*

### **Prayers of intercession**

God of the past and of the future,  
we bring to you in prayer those people and places  
on our hearts today:

We remember the parts of the world  
where people are being killed, oppressed and  
displaced.

We pray especially for the people of Tigray in  
Ethiopia,  
for the people of Dafur in the Sudan,  
for the Uighur peoples in China.

May those in power leave behind violence and  
follow your call to peace.

**Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you called fisherman as they worked,  
so we pray for fisherman today as they struggle  
to make a living.

We pray for all those who work to bring food to  
our table  
as they struggle with the complexities of

legislation and the challenges of extreme  
weather.

And may those who exploit or abuse leave behind  
cruelty and follow your call to compassion.

**Amen.**

We pray for all young people caught up in and  
trapped by gang violence,  
for those who have been stabbed or shot and for  
their families,  
for those who live in fear of being attacked,  
for those who have been imprisoned, who have  
committed murder – and for their families,  
for all those who carry weapons.

Help them to leave behind despair and to follow  
your call to hope.

**Amen.**

We pray for the people of America as Joe Biden  
begins his term as President,  
and for Kamala Harris and all those entrusted  
with the responsibility  
of re-shaping and re-uniting the states that make  
up that vast nation,  
so divided by race and politics and so ravaged by  
Covid.

Help them to leave behind ambition and to follow  
your call to serve.

**Amen,**

We pray for one another,  
for our church families, our communities, and our  
loved ones,  
for those who feel overwhelmed by the  
challenges of each day,  
for those adapting to new ways of living,  
for those who are ill,  
for those close to death,  
for those who are grieving.

Help us all to leave behind all that separates us  
from you and from one another  
and to follow your call to trust and to love –  
in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn 696 StF For the healing of the nations**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=i19LgSpPxmo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i19LgSpPxmo)

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing

of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

*Fred Kaan (1929-*

*2009)*

### **Closing Prayer**

Loving Lord,  
thank you that you meet us where we are,  
in the middle and muddle of our daily lives.  
Help us to hear your call,  
to recognise your voice,  
and to respond to your invitation  
to follow you whatever we might be doing.

**Amen**

Prayers from Roots Resources for worship and  
learning

Lister Baynes 21/01/21