

*Dear Heaton Moor United Church,*

*"Great is God's faithfulness, for morning-by-morning new mercies we see." Hope you are all doing well and we rejoice in God for God's faithfulness in our lives. This Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, many people across UK are celebrating it as 'National Thank you Day' to thank all those who have extended their support and friendship during this pandemic year. We are called on this day to remember God's faithfulness in our lives, and need to thank God for all our friends, family, frontline staff members, key workers, for vaccines, for church, for neighbours, for all the difference they have made in our lives. There is a song produced for this Thank You Day, and herewith I am forwarding the link of the song:*

*[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgGPsM--kDo&ab\\_channel=TogetherwithMusic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgGPsM--kDo&ab_channel=TogetherwithMusic)*

*Thanks to Deborah and Sharon for leading the service both on YouTube and at church this Sunday on the theme of 'Thank You.'*

*This week, we continued our pilgrimage, and it was good to visit few of our church friends, and it has been encouraging meeting and talking to each other. One woman thanked us for this pilgrimage and said such a visit boosted her morale, as she felt that church has not forgotten her. In the weeks to come, we will continue the pilgrimage, and you will be notified when we are around your area, and we are looking forward to meeting you all.*

*We also had our Worship group meeting this week and discussed about the plan for the worship services for coming months. More importantly we planned to work on the 'collective storytelling and listening' of our church, and you will hear more about it in the newsletters and on magazine from Graham Adams.*

*I had the opportunity of participating in Stockport Diversity Group called by our local Council to plan about Stockport Diversity month in October with other civil society organisations in Stockport.*

*Jean and myself participated in a prayer walk organised by Stockport Renew at the town centre, and it was interesting to move around the town centre knowing the history and joining in prayer.*

*On Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at 4pm, the St. John's Methodist Church is having its closing service, and I request you all to kindly uphold the*

*members of St. John's in prayer as the church building is ceasing for worship.*

*Action for Children Sunday will be observed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, and in order to raise funds for this charity, they have called for 'Boycott your bed', and JoAnne and her children and my family are planning to sleep at church on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. May I kindly request you to kindly support this cause and you will have more details about it in the notice sheet.*

*As many of you would have known, the Methodist Church was on national news this week as it had voted at its Conference to allow same sex marriages to be held at its churches, in receiving 'God in love, unite us' report. It was a historic moment, for by this decision, the church is communicating that it is love that always thrives. Let us kindly uphold all the churches in prayer in our moving forward. The new President and Vice President of the Methodist Church have sent in a pastoral letter to all churches, and I am enclosing the same for your kind perusal.*

*Herewith I am sending you the reflection for this week along with the worship resources for your meditations and devotions.*

*May you all have a blessed week, and let us kindly pray for one another and show love in action.*

*Thanking you,*

*With warm regards,*

*Raj*

*01.07.2021*

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**The Revd Sonia Hicks and Mrs Barbara Easton  
President and Vice President of the Conference**

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registered charity no 1132208

1 July 2021

Dear Friends

We wished to take this opportunity to write to you after the Conference voted on the resolutions contained in the marriage and relationships report.


We very much appreciate that these decisions will stir up many different emotions for our siblings across the Connexion. There will be some who will be deeply hurt and others who will rejoice by what has been decided.

Our Presidential theme this year is God's Table: An Invitation for All, and God's invitation is for every single one of us. The Methodist Church has held tension for many years and as a Church and a family, we must do all we can to live with contradictory convictions.

This work was first reflected on back in 1992 and we have been on this journey together since that point. During the past years we have continued to listen to and to pray for each other and remaining true to what God is saying to us. We must remember in all this, to continue to hold each other in prayer, and to support each other as we find a way forward, respecting our differences.

It is perhaps helpful to remember that there are other issues, some of them discussed at the Conference, on which we hold differing and sometimes strong opinions. We live with them and we do not allow them to impair our communion with each other. We respect each other's consciences, we exercise judgment in when to speak and when to be silent, and we hold one another in prayer. We do all this not for our own sake but for the sake of Christ and the sake of the world which urgently needs to know the power of Christ's reconciling love.


Our prayer for you, beloved siblings, is that in joy or sorrow, in pain or excitement, we might continue to live within that reconciling love.



**The Revd Sonia Hicks  
President of the Conference**



**Mrs Barbara Easton  
Vice-President of the Conference**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR



The team were out and about again this week - in our new t-shirts!

The t-shirts have Heaton Moor United Church on the front and then "more than a building" on the reverse. Apart from looking smart they are a great conversation starter.

Thanks to Ian Anderson for his on the hoof photography skills.

I attended the Stockport Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning - it was an early start at 7:30am but well worth it. Together with 30 Christians from across the borough we prayed together on a variety of topics such as the past, places and situations and how do Churches across Stockport function as a body of Christ together.

The meeting began with the Thy Kingdom Come 2021 Song - We Seek Your Kingdom  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Lp2mMpSa1E&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Lp2mMpSa1E&feature=emb_title)

If you haven't heard this song yet do have a listen either via the Thy Kingdom Website or on the above YouTube link. Forget Three Lions - this is our Anthem Song, a song to lead us on as we become agents of change transforming, reviving and healing society with God's Love.

As always if I can be of any help please do not hesitate to contact me,

*JoAnne*

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 Heaton Moor United Church



Heaton Moor United Church



heaton\_moor\_united\_church

**Office Opening** The office opening times for next week will be:

**Monday 10 - 2**

**Tuesday 10 - 2**

**Wednesday 10 - 2**

**Thursday Closed**

**Friday 9-1**



## LITTER PICK

26<sup>th</sup> June



As advertised in last week's notices Kick the Plastic Heaton's were asking people to collect litter on the 26<sup>th</sup> June – here is a picture of Raj and myself doing just that!

We had such a fun (!) time picking up litter that we are going to start a monthly *Litter Church* (although it could perhaps do with a catchier name)

Litter Church will take place the last Saturday of the month but due to holidays the first one will be 25<sup>th</sup> September

**Pick it, Bag it, Bin it!**

## FUTURE EVENT – Heaton Mersey Artisan Market 24<sup>th</sup> July 11am – 3pm

We will be having a stall at the artisan market being held at St John's Church. The stall will be used to highlight everything that goes on at Heaton Moor United Church. If anybody is available to help on the day to talk to people about who we are and what we do then please contact JoAnne



Action for Children weekend: The first children's home run by (what is now) Action for Children was opened on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1859 by Thomas Bowman Stephenson, a Methodist minister. The Sunday closest to July 9<sup>th</sup> is observed as Action for Children Sunday.

30% of children in the UK were living in poverty before the coronavirus hit.

Children going days without a proper meal, without warm clothes. Children feeling scared and finding it almost impossible to cope. With unemployment rising and furlough coming to an end, even more families face financial hardship. The pandemic is having a devastating impact – and vulnerable children are paying the price. At the same time the income of the charity has fallen dramatically. In the past we have had a coffee morning and a retiring collection to raise money for the charity as well as remembering their work in our service.

This year will be a little different. In support of the charity Ray and JoAnne with their families are going to **Boycott their Beds** and sleep in the church on the night of July 9<sup>th</sup> in solidarity with all young people who have no bed to call their own. You are invited to sponsor them via the Justgiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sharon-letitia-heginbotham> (the link is also on the charity page of the Church website) or via a gift envelope. These will be available at Church on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for you to take away and bring back (filled!). Alternatively, you can send or drop off a donation at the Church office.

The morning after the sleepover we will also be offering grab and go continental breakfasts on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July between 9am and 10:30am for a donation to Action for Children. If you are interested in a breakfast please contact the office or JoAnne.



# IN THE NEWS

## Conference confirms resolutions on marriage and relationships



Following prayerful consideration by the whole Church, the Methodist Conference has voted to confirm provisions resolutions on the principles or qualities of good relating, understanding of cohabitation and same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders. Read more at

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/conference-confirms-resolutions-on-marriage-and-relationships>

Frequently asked questions following the 2021 Conference votes on Marriage and Relationships can be found here

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships/frequently-asked-questions-following-the-2021-conference-votes-on-marriage-and-relationships>

## URC launches new podcast



The URC has launched a new fortnightly podcast series, that explores the denomination's focus on Christian discipleship, mission and what it means to be Walking the Way of Jesus today. The United Reformed Church Podcast will explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus across all aspects of our lives, as we respond to the concerns, issues and topics we encounter. New episodes will be published fortnightly. Read more at <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3851-urc-launches-new-podcast.html>

## Biden urged end Middle East conflict

The URC joined a global coalition of 682 leaders – from civil society through to academia, politics and Nobel laureates – in signing an open letter, published on 14 June, urging President Biden to help bring an end to Israel's institutionalised domination and oppression of the Palestinian people and protect their fundamental human rights. <https://nowisthetimecoalition.com>

### The Boaz Trust

At the Boaz Trust we support destitute asylum seekers in Manchester. We want to make sure that as many of our clients as possible can get online to learn English, take part in exercise classes, and connect with friends.

Do you have an unwanted laptop or tablet (in good working condition and with a working in-built camera) that you might be able to donate? If you, or anybody you might know, could help then please get in touch with Amy at Boaz (friend of L'Arche Manchester) on [amymerone@boaztrust.org.uk](mailto:amymerone@boaztrust.org.uk).



## *Prayers from the office*

*This prayer is from the service that was preached at the Methodist Conference on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. For more information or to watch the conference please visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2021/>*

God of the nations,  
to whose table all are invited  
and in whose kingdom no one is a stranger:  
open our minds and hearts,  
that in encountering each of our neighbours,  
we may discover in them your image and likeness,  
and give glory to you, their Creator,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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God of all times,  
you teach us that there is a time for everything;  
we have had our fill of the unsettled time,  
we are so acquainted with death and grief that we might forget it's sting,  
the time of unjust sharing of the vaccine and all resources, hurts us.  
We lament the struggles of the global pandemic  
and trust that you continue to guide us through the questions it has raised.  
Remind us that this is only one time  
and that times of joy and laughing are present with us also.  
Amen

By the Revd Martin Knight, Minister of St Paul's URC and South Croydon United Church

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).



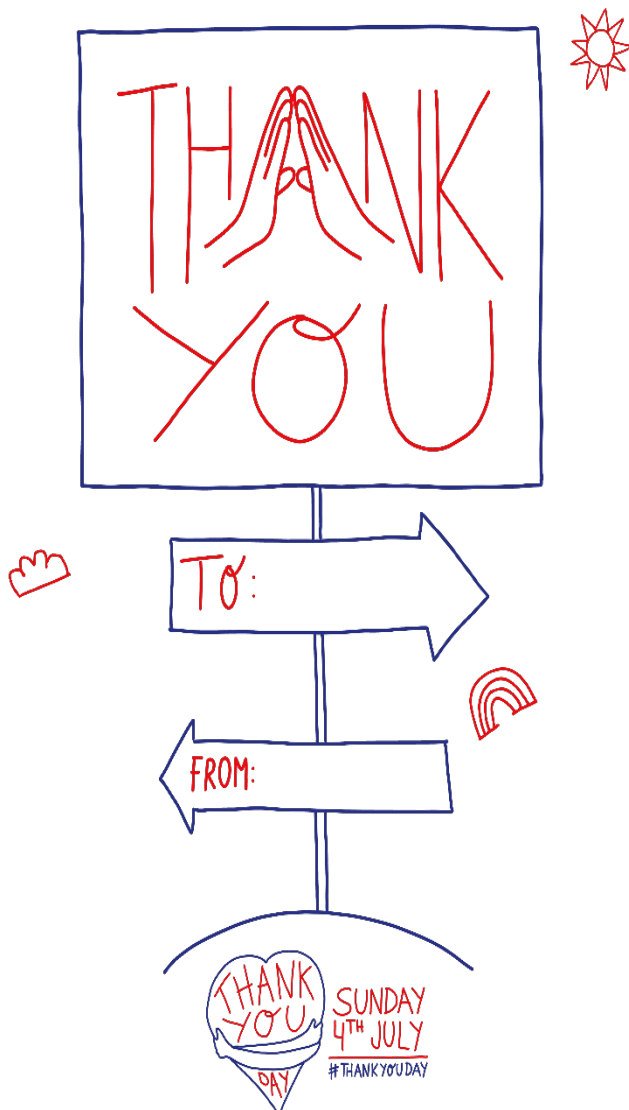
No names required because  
God Knows.



Celebrate Thank You Day with us on Sunday 4th July!

We've all got someone to say thank you to this year. Whether it's the neighbours for checking we were okay, the delivery drivers who kept food on the shelves, the volunteers who helped get the vaccine out, or the kids for keeping us entertained - we want to get together to say thank you to them all.

On Sunday 4th July, fill this in and say a prayer of thanks, to everyone who deserves it.



### #Thank You Day prayer

Gracious God, we come to you today to give you thanks for every work of your grace and for each answered prayer.

We thank you for the selfless devotion of those who have borne the burden of this pandemic, for the generosity of friends and neighbours, for the medical means to fight Covid-19.

And, with tears, we thank you for the comfort of your presence when loss has been grievous.

Through Christ our hope, Amen.



## In situations of rejection, love is the only response

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### Reflecting on Mark 6:1-13

During the recent Euro 2020 football matches, it was reported that some fans in the stadium were booing the England team when they were taking a knee in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter campaign in support of anti-racism. They say 'booing is a way of fans showing their dissatisfaction.' However, the manager of England team Southgate has said that those booing are not able to understand the message, and has kept his determination for the cause of fighting racism in the game of football and in the society. Fans generally come to the stadiums to cheer their teams and encourage them when they play the game against the opponents. How can one's own fans boo their own team when they do things that are different to what they expect their team to do? England football team is committed to give 'red card' to racism and wanted to spread the message of equality of all people irrespective of their colour, creed, ethnicity and sexuality, for no amount of booing will stop their determination and commitment for this cause, and all football lovers are called to strive towards racial justice and equality.

Back in the day, when Jesus came to his home town and was preaching in his local synagogue on a Sabbath day, his own people were booing Jesus as they were astounded by his wisdom, power and deeds asking "Is not this the carpenter, son of Mary, brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters with us? And they took offence at him." (6:3) Why did his local mates took offence at Jesus? Firstly, they took offence because they could not accept the fact that a simple carpenter could speak wisdom, perform healings and do great things. In other words, they would have been ok, if Jesus the carpenter was coming out with his wooden gifts and crafts, anything that Jesus does which is beyond their own expectations, they can't take it and take offence on Jesus, in a way were booing him. A person from his ancestral trade has to do only that kind of trade, and any disruption, deviance and defiance to that particular trade would be considered offensive and is subject to booing. Such a thinking is the bedrock of colonialism, for it thrives under the principle of rigidity and upholding status quo, however oppressive that structure is. In the context of casteism, people are divided in the name of caste based on their occupations, and such a division of labour continues based on one's descent. People like Gandhi upheld such casteist division of labour and promulgated that if people in their own castes/occupations perform their own duties then the society will be harmonious. Any mobility or change or defiance from their given caste and occupation is considered deviance to the whole system and structure of caste. Jesus, though was a carpenter as the locals knew him, he defied that role to partake in the greater cause of transforming the world through his Kingdom of God manifestations. In other words, God

chooses people from simple trade to change the world, for God surprises the world and challenges the powers of the world by using a carpenter. So, when a carpenter Jesus was doing something beyond the expectations of the society, he was booed and the society took offence of him. So, the learning from this point is any discrimination of any person based on one's own prejudices and assumptions is unchristian and inhuman.

Secondly, the people took offence at Jesus because, how can an 'illegitimate' child of Mary come and teach wisdom and do deeds of power in their midst? In this verse it is interesting to note that there is no mention of Joseph, and all that the identity of Jesus carries was 'son of Mary,' for the town knew that Mary conceived Jesus as a 'virgin,' which according to the then society was something very unethical and a polluting act. So, they took offence at Jesus for as a child born 'illegitimately', the divine cannot find favour in such people and so his wisdom and deeds of power are either unreliable or all null and void. That is the reason Jesus was astounded at their unbelief in him (6v.)

Thirdly, the people took offence at Jesus because on the day of Sabbath, he does things that are very different, including doing deeds of power, curing the sick etc., where he defies their religious laws of Sabbath. Jesus always swims across the currents of the waters for the cause of life, Jesus always does things 'against the grain' which are not well received by the popular majority, and so they take offence at him.

In such a context when the local mates took offence at him, Jesus did not give up his prophetic call nor give in to their offences, rather Jesus bounced back and said that prophets aren't well received in their home ground, yet such an unwelcome do not stop their vocation that is given by God. Jesus was rejected and unwelcomed in his home town, yet he showed resilience and has responded very creatively to that occasion, by sending his disciples two by two on a mission trip to the local towns and villages. His rejection in his home town did not depress Jesus, rather provided him with an opportunity to work creatively, this time sending his disciples in six pairs to continue his mission among those that rejected him. Jesus could have cursed his home town for the kind of rejection and offence that people took in him, yet Jesus the embodiment of love reacted in love by sending graciously his disciples to mission with love to that community.

It was a love mission, where Jesus sends his disciples to teach love, to be love, to perform acts of love and create a loving community. At a place where he was created, Jesus builds a loving community with his disciples. The instructions that Jesus gives his disciples are all of love, for mission is all about love. Firstly, he sends his disciples two by two, for Jesus as a team player knows the importance of partnerships, and sends them as companions, first to love God, love one another and then demonstrate that love to all those whom they meet on their journey. Secondly, Jesus sends them with 'bare minimum', which is to take

only a staff as a protection, wear sandals to walk, and then no bread, no bag, no money, not to put on two tunics. 'Love is selflessness and self is lovelessness,' is what Jesus was emphasising to his disciples. Jesus' mission trips are not luxurious comfort trips, but are paths of cross, where the disciples are invited to join with the community in understanding common people's hunger, their poverty and their needs. Such an identification is a demonstration of love with the community, where power is dismantled and solidarity serves as a mark of love mission. Thirdly, Jesus' mission involves in situations of refusal and rejection, just cross on rather than judge and curse them. Again, love is the mantra of mission. Jesus said, just shake the dust of your feet and move on in times of rejection. So, the disciples went and performed love mission, by casting the demons, by healing the sick and by anointing with oil.

The gospel writer did not mention what has happened to the people who had rejected Jesus on seeing the response of love that Jesus and his disciples did on their mission trip. But, I for one, would imagine that on recognising that Jesus has responded his rejection with love, those people who took offence on Jesus would have been transformed by love and would have been part of God's table, the Kingdom of God.

What is the relevance of this text for our times today? The first lesson we learn from this text is that, love is the only response to rejection and refusal. Jesus upholds 'contradictory convictions' of people in creative tension, and tries to win people with love and love alone. This week when the Methodist Conference has voted to allow same sex marriages at Methodist churches done by Methodist ministers, I could see the amount of hatred some people were spilling with lots of online abuse on Methodist Church, judging them, booing them and taking offence at them for this their bold and prophetic vote. Time and again at the Conference it was emphasised that there no losers and no winners, for it is only love that thrives, for this vote is about people, real people who have been booed, discriminated because their sexuality and gender, and all this vote means is to embrace them with love. This given text gives us a hope that in situations of rejections by certain groups of people, we as followers of Jesus Christ are called to be gracious and generous in our love for them and respond with love mission, demonstrating love in action towards them. It is important that we uphold each other's perspectives together, respect each other's positions and celebrate God's presence in our midst again by love in action. In situations of rejection, love is the only response.

Secondly, any discrimination of any person based on one's own prejudices and assumptions is unchristian and inhuman. Who said carpenters cannot speak wisdom and perform deeds of power? For there is no longer male or female, master or slave, Greek nor Jew, carpenter or local preacher, vicar or doctor, teacher or nurse, child or adult, straight

or gay, for we are all one in Christ. It is God who calls, and it is God's grace which invites people to share God's words, and so the emphasis should be on God and God's grace and not on any individual merit or profession or identity. God is a God of love, and so in love God calls anyone and everyone to be God's co-workers in the Kingdom of God. So, any discrimination, any distinction and any division should not be tolerated and should be resisted.

Thirdly, God in Jesus is sending us out into the world two by two, in partnerships, in companionships to be part of God's love mission, to spread love and to demonstrate love in action. 'Church on the market place' has been an initiative where we go two by two in the town centre to talk to people, to listen to people, to identify with people and to spread the love of God in the community. When Jesus sends his disciples two by two to mission, they did not come back to say we have brought thirty people to Jesus, nor did they say we have planted some ten churches, all they did was casting the demons, curing the sick and anointing people with oil. Our call is to spread the love of Christ and to celebrate God's presence in our localities.

May we as friends of Jesus join with him in taking a knee with teams who amplify the message of 'no to racism', 'red card to racism' and strive towards a just and equal society. Amen.

**Raj Bharat Patta,**

**02.07.2021**

**Sunday 4th July 2021**

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**

As we meet for worship in different places we ask for God's presence with us and with those who can't join us.

### **Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness**

<https://youtu.be/0k1WhFtVp0o>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail  
not;  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy  
faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and  
harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to  
guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for  
tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
*Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)*

### **Let us pray together**

Loving God, we praise, worship and adore you;  
we thank you for your provision to the whole  
world in the past, in the present and in the  
future; we give our small gifts of money to be  
used for Your work here on earth; we confess

that we sometimes get things wrong; thank  
You that we can rely on Your forgiveness.  
Amen

### **Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 6 1 to 13**

"He sent them out in pairs, and these were  
His instructions: "Take nothing for the journey  
except a staff—no bread, no money in your  
belts; wear sandals but not an extra shirt."

### **Time to Reflect**

The bible is full of 'pairs' ... Moses and Aaron,  
David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha; soul-  
mates who supported each other as they  
grew, so Jesus sends His disciples out two by  
two so that they might support each other.  
With His instructions, Jesus is telling them  
that 'as God has provided for His people in the  
past, so He will provide for you'. When I go on  
a trip I always take far too many clothes with  
me, most of which come back un-worn. No  
chance of the apostles doing that, but, as in  
the middle east the temperature can drop  
substantially when the sun goes down, I've  
always been surprised that they didn't have  
an extra shirt, just a staff and sandals ... that  
reminded me of another journey, when the  
Israelites were getting ready to leave Egypt at  
the first Passover and they are told (from The  
Message bible Exodus 11:11) "Be fully dressed  
with your sandals on and your stick in your  
hand". As God has provided for His people in  
the past, so He will provide for you. Being told  
not to take any food suggests that God will  
also fulfil that basic need. This is unsurprising;  
the Israelites spent years as desert nomads  
and so developed the custom of hospitality,  
and here is another parallel to the Exodus,  
with God providing enough manna each day



for everyone. As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. However, what about money? The Israelites were told to “ask your neighbour and any guests in her house for objects of silver and gold, for jewellery and extra clothes” (Exodus 3:22) so that they didn’t go into the desert with nothing. Some commentaries cross-reference this reading to Matthew 10 v 10 which says (MEV) “the workman is worthy of his keep” suggesting that for work, the disciples will be fed. As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. Aren’t we blessed... this loving God who was and is and will be forever has provided in the past, does so today and will continue to do so until the end of time. Thanks be to God Amen.

Time of silence

### **Prayers for the world**

Loving God who was and is and will be forever, we pray for the world and its people, for all who have struggled during the pandemic.

For Your church, for people of faith, for those struggling with faith, for those with other faiths and for those with no faith.

For all leaders that they may be fair and just and for victims of natural disasters or who are suffering because someone has ill-treated them.

For the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and for carers, health workers and emergency services

For those who taught us the truths and duties of the Christian faith. In a time of silence we bring our personnel concerns.

Loving God who was and is and will be forever we ask these prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: Listen to**

<https://youtu.be/F2YXNFVegxU>

There is a higher throne  
than all this world has known,  
where faithful ones from every tongue  
will one day come.  
Before our God we'll stand,  
made faultless through the Lamb;  
believing hearts find promised grace:  
salvation comes.

Hear heaven's voices sing,  
their thunderous anthem rings  
through emerald courts and sapphire  
skies,  
their praises rise.  
All glory, wisdom, power,  
strength, thanks and honour are  
to God, our King who reigns on high  
for evermore.

And there we'll find our home,  
our life before the throne;  
we'll honour him in perfect song  
where we belong.  
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,  
as thirst and hunger die;  
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:  
we'll reign with him.

*Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Kristyn Lennox*

### **A prayer of blessing**

As we end our time of worship may the love  
of God be above us to shield us, beneath us to  
uphold us and before us to lead us. Amen

Original Materials by Ann Seaton

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

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.

## **The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth**

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary<sup>[a]</sup> and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense<sup>[b]</sup> at him. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.

## **The Mission of the Twelve**

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup> If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.