

**Worship at Home – 13th July 2025 (15th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**  
A short act of worship for use in people's homes prepared by Marilyn Britt.

## Introduction

Good morning and welcome to worship at Home on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025. My goodness hasn't it been uncomfortably hot recently. We are not used to several days at a time of such high temperatures. It is difficult to keep cool and hydrated but it is important even if we don't feel like eating. Water is so important for our bodies – helps to keep the blood moving and our major organs working. Jesus travelled in hot countries and was offered hospitality. When not offered; he asked. He knew the importance of feeding the body but also feeding the soul. He simply had to tell people about how God wanted us to live. In preparation, I have got my glass of cold water and lit my electric candle in readiness to worship and think about what God has to offer.

## Call to worship (Colossians 1: 3 – 6)

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.

## Hymn – STF 503 – Love divine, all loves excelling Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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| 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,<br>Joy of heaven, to earth come down:<br>Fix in us thy humble dwelling,<br>All thy faithful mercies crown. | 2 Jesu, thou art all compassion,<br>Pure, unbounded love thou art;<br>Visit us with thy salvation,<br>Enter every trembling heart.                 |
| 3 Come, almighty to deliver,<br>Let us all thy life receive;<br>Suddenly return, and never,<br>Never more thy temples leave.                   | 4 Thee we would be always blessing,<br>Serve thee as thy hosts above,<br>Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,<br>Glory in thy perfect love.     |
| 5 Finish then thy new creation,<br>Pure and spotless may we be;<br>Let us see thy great salvation,<br>Perfectly restored in thee;              | 6 Changed from glory into glory,<br>Till in heaven we take our place,<br>Till we cast our crowns before thee,<br>Lost in wonder, love, and praise! |

## Opening prayers

Loving God, we come to give you our adoration and praise for we know that you are with us, receiving our love as individuals. You know each one of us intimately, what is going on in our lives, in our hearts, minds and souls. We come to glorify your name – to give you the praise and adoration that you enjoy. We see your glory around us in your creation of sky, sea and earth and enjoy the fruits of your goodness to us. We praise you for all your blessings, all your gifts and for those you have entrusted to us to bless, encourage and care for. Remind us that the gifts given to us are for us to use to serve others and minister to their needs. We are encouraged by your word and the example of Jesus and all followers of Him. We come to offer you our best of worship to you today. **Amen**

## **A prayer of confession and assurance of forgiveness**

Almighty God, in you is all hope. And yet we confess that you are not always the centre of our lives. We can be selfish and greedy put our own wants first. We ignore others, their basic needs of love, kindness, safety, security, food and shelter and we forget all the great teachings you have taught us including to show love, to share and to have mercy. We don't always put those teachings into our everyday lives. So, we come to you wanting your mercy and forgiveness. You sent us Jesus who showed us the way to you. God our Father who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on us and pardon us from all our sins. Help us to please you through the way we live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love and your presence in our lives. **Amen**

## **Collect for the day**

Give us, we pray gentle God, a mind forgetful of past injury, a will to seek the good of others and a heart of love, that we may learn to live in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ through whom we pray. **Amen**

## **Bible reading – Luke 10:25-37**

### *The Story of the Good Samaritan*

<sup>25</sup> One day an authority on the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to receive eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” Jesus replied. “How do you understand it?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength and with all your mind.’ And ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’”

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do that, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But the man wanted to make himself look good. So, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers attacked him. They stripped off his clothes and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him almost dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down that same road. When he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> A Levite also came by. When he saw the man, he passed by on the other side too. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan came to the place where the man was. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey. He brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins. He gave them to the owner of the inn. ‘Take care of him,’ he said. ‘When I return, I will pay you back for any extra expense you may have.’”

<sup>36</sup> “Which of the three do you think was a neighbour to the man who was attacked by robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The authority on the law replied, “The one who felt sorry for him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do as he did.”

## Reflection on the reading

This is such a well-known story.

Questions! Questions! Questions! Jesus was often answering questions. All very similar. Why? Who? Where? What? How? Jesus was usually very patient and would answer all questions understanding what the real or underlying question was being asked. Jesus didn't just give an answer, he asked a different question. But how? Yes, Jesus was delving deeper and wanting the lawyer to understand what it meant. So far, the expert in the law knew the answers but still continued to question. He needed to know how to do it, put the love he knew was important, into action.

So, a man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho and was attacked by bandits who took his clothes and probably any other possessions he had, and left him in the dusty, hot, dry road. When you're covered in blood, you're dirty, smell you're not alone – probably lots of flies gathering around you.

Two people were also travelling the road that day – not together. They both not just passed him by; they crossed the road to be away from the man. The first one was a priest – maybe he was just in a hurry – had to get to a meeting or visit someone who was dying. All we know is that he didn't stop. He certainly didn't want blood on his robes. And the Levite, a subordinate priest of the ancient Jewish church- you'd have thought he would help. I wonder what the man thought of at that point. Didn't want to show him any love, did they? Maybe they were afraid that the attackers were still around and wanted to get to Jericho quickly and safely.

Another set of footsteps. But it was different, the footsteps slowed, then stopped, spoke, and poured oil and wine on his sores, put the man on his donkey and took him to the nearest inn. This time it was a Samaritan. What did the injured man think – a Samaritan was much more likely to kick a Jew than give any help. But this Samaritan was different. He showed love and expressed it in action – not just taking him to a safe place but offering to pay for any extra needs he may have.

This story from Luke is not just about love, it's about who is our neighbour and how we should act. Are we able to do the same? Can we see beyond the face and love others who are finding life really difficult.

On our televisions and in the newspapers, we see and hear of so much violence. So many people are afraid – maybe of others and carry weapons or have large dogs as protection for themselves. I wonder why they are so afraid. It is much more difficult to approach people as we fear imagined actions by them. So often we judge people who we think have made bad decisions. There are so many temptations that we can be led into if we think it will make life better. That is not our place. We should wear our heart on our sleeve and treat people as God wants us to treat them. Our neighbour is anyone of any race, creed or social background who is in need and love means acting to meet the person's need. There is no good reason for refusing to help. Lack of love is easy to justify but is never right and often requires action.

## Hymn – STF 256 – When I need a neighbour Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

- 1 When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
Were you there?*
- 2 I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
*Chorus*
- 3 I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
*Chorus*
- 4 When I needed a shelter were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter were you there?  
*Chorus*
- 5 When I needed a healer were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer were you there?  
*Chorus*
- 6 Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,  
Wherever you travel I'll be there.  
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.*

## Prayers for the world, others and ourselves

We pray for the healing of the nations, we pray for the cessation of wars and conflict and for peace and harmony to descend. We pray for a just and equal sharing of our earth's resources. With your wisdom and guidance to live a life of love in action help us pledge our word.

Come Lord Jesus for You are our hope. **These are our neighbours**

Creator God, when we look at the wonderful world you created. Help us to recognise the damage we have caused over centuries through greed for food and the rush for industry and vain progress. When we see the destruction of huge forests and the extinction of rare and precious species, we can't see you. When we see the seas warm and the ice melt, we can't see you. When we see temperatures rise and heatwaves, storms, floods and fires, we can't see you. Show us the small things we can do to bring change and help us to respect and enjoy all creation.

Come Lord Jesus for You are our hope. **These are our neighbours**

We pray for shelter for fragile lives. For all those living in inappropriate or dilapidated accommodation, with no heating and little food. We pray for those without employment and struggling to live on what they have. Help us to recognise the harm caused by abuse, addiction, poor family relationships and poverty. We see people suffering because of lack of food or shelter. We see children damaged and hurt in their homes and communities. We see the result of conflict, war, hatred, mistrust and prejudice. Show us what to do to bring help and support and give us the words to say on behalf of those who have no voice.

Come Lord Jesus for You are our hope. **These are our neighbours**

Do not be far from us, when we are feeling troubled, when we see sickness in others and when we face the loss of those we love. Help us to feel and know that you are always with us and walk alongside us through the hardest and most challenging times. Show us how we can share your love and healing hope with others and teach us to trust you in all that we face.

We pray that the Holy Spirit may come, give love, give hope, give peace and give joy to those who don't have it in their lives. We pray for ourselves. Show us how our clearest purpose is to share these gifts you have given us and bring others to you.

Come Lord Jesus for You are our hope. **These are our neighbours. Amen**

You may now wish to say The Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.

**Hymn: STF 415 – The Church of Christ in every age** Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

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| 1                                                                                                                                           | The Church of Christ, in every age<br>Beset by change but Spirit-led,<br>Must claim and test its heritage<br>And keep on rising from the dead.  | 2 | Across the world, across the street,<br>The victims of injustice cry<br>For shelter and for bread to eat,<br>And never live until they die.        |
| 3                                                                                                                                           | Then let the servant Church arise,<br>A caring Church that longs to be<br>A partner in Christ's sacrifice,<br>And clothed in Christ's humanity. | 4 | For he alone, whose blood was shed,<br>Can cure the fever in our blood,<br>And teach us how to share our bread<br>And feed the starving multitude. |
| 5 We have no mission but to serve<br>In full obedience to our Lord:<br>To care for all, without reserve,<br>And spread his liberating Word. |                                                                                                                                                 |   |                                                                                                                                                    |

## Blessing

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.

May the blessing of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit be with us and in our community now and always. **Amen**

Bible readings from [New International Reader's Version \(NIRV\)](#)

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