

WORSHIP AT HOME
SUNDAY, 3rd January 2021

Call to Worship:

A New Year has begun

O Lord, remind us that You lead us

O Lord, guide us as we look to You, and worship You.

Hymn – Sing to the great Jehovah’s praise (StF 127)

Sing to the great Jehovah's praise ;
All praise to him belongs,
Who kindly lengthens out our days,
Demands our choicest songs:

Whose providence hath brought us thro'
Another various year,
We all with vows and anthems new,
Before our God appear.

Father, thy mercies past we own,
Thy still-continued care,
To thee presenting thro' thy Son,
Whate'er we have, or are:

Our lips and lives shall gladly show
The wonders of thy love,
While on in Jesu's steps we go
To see thy face above.

Our residue of days or hours
Thine, wholly thine shall be,
And all our consecrated powers
A sacrifice to thee:
(The last line of each verse is sung three times)

Charles Wesley Tune Northrop StF127

Prayer:

Lord, You make all things new.
You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our
Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this New Year.
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in
our time, many will see the wonders of God and
live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen



The Lord’s Prayer - Our
Father.....Amen

Today’s Readings:

Colossians 1:15-23

Colossians 3: 1-4

Reflection:

Traditionally the secular world has welcomed the New Year with parties and often a fair amount of alcohol with regards to drinking toasts. The current restrictions have of course prevented the gatherings we would normally expect and it may well be that we all have more time to reflect on the past year and how we would like the New Year to be. Since the time of Wesley Methodist people have been encouraged to see the arrival of a New Year as a time to reflect on their personal life and in particular their individual relationship with God. The annual Covenant Service and the New Year’s Eve Watchnight Service were both opportunities to take stock and make a solemn commitment to endeavour to walk daily with Jesus Christ.

In his letter to the Colossians Paul challenges the members of the young church to look very carefully at themselves and in particular their commitment to Jesus Christ. In Colossians 1:15-20 he reminds them of who Jesus Christ is....”the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.....” who reconciles us to God. Paul reminds these young Christians that it is Christ by his death on the cross and his resurrection who has freed them from their sins and he urges them to lead holy lives as people who have died to their former life and risen to new life in Christ.

In this context he gives clear advice on how they might do it. In chapter 3 he urges them to do two things....1.”set your hearts on things above,

where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.(and)

2. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

When Paul is using the word set it is very much in the sense of a compass bearing that we should get our direction for the journey in such a way that there is no chance of deviation.

It is also important to note that both the heart and mind are regarded as being of equal importance.

Some people may believe that a commitment to Christianity is an intellectual choice and knowledge of the scriptures is paramount. Indeed John Wesley spent the early years of his Christian journey in that frame of mind: on the otherhand others believe that an emotional experience is the most important thing to have in a relationship with God. Paul however stresses both the heart and the mind.

In Wesley’s case it wasn’t until he felt his heart strangely warmed that he was able to say. “I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

As we enter a New Year I would invite you to take time for serious reflection with regards your Christian journey in 2021, to set your compass bearing so that both your heart and mind are firmly fixed on “things above”.

Prayer: Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this New Year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn – Lord God as we enter a New Year

Lord God we stand at the start of a new year,
None of us know what the future will bring;
But we do know that you’ll always be with us,
So it’s with joy that your praises we sing.

Refrain

*Father we worship you, bow to your majesty
Jesus we love you, our Saviour and friend;
Spirit we open our hearts to your presence,
Grace without measure and love without end.*

Jesus you call us to follow and trust you,
Empty our lives of all selfish desire;
We give ourselves to bear fruit of the Kingdom,
Filled with your Spirit and hearts set on fire.

So as we take the next steps on our journey,
Guard us from worry, from doubt and from fear;
Help us to trust you and fix our eyes on you,
Walk hand in hand with you through this new year.
Steve Clark

Tune Faithfulness - Great is Thy faithfulness (StFPlus)

Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forevermore.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon throughout this coming year.

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY, 10th January 2021

Call to Worship:

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Hymn – Be still (StF 20)

Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found —
we stand on holy ground.
Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight —
our radiant King of light!
Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him —
in faith receive from him.
Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

David J. Evans (b. 1957)

Prayer:

Holy God, thank you for your word and the wonderful truth that it contains. Thank you that

Jesus set aside his heavenly glory and took upon himself the humble status of a Servant of all... so that he could identify with our humanity and pay the price for our sin - a price that we are unable to pay.

Thank you that Jesus died for us and that we are saved by your grace alone, through faith in Christ. Thank you that the moment we believed in Jesus we were baptised into the Body of Christ and became a member of his Church. Thank you for the opportunity to proclaim outwardly our spiritual birth and privileged position in Christ by going through the waters of baptism as an open declaration of our change of heart and our trust in Him. Thank you that our old sin nature is chained to the cross, and we have received newness of life. Keep us pure in Your sight, so that others may see our lives and glorify You, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer - Our Father.....Amen

Today's Readings:

Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

Reflection:

Today we read two passages from the bible which we probably are all pretty familiar with and we might wonder what the connection is between God creating the world and John the Baptist in the wilderness. Well, when I read both passages back-to-back I am reminded of God speaking our world into creation and of John the Baptist also speaking Jesus Christ into creation. Of course, when the world first got to hear about Jesus he is a tiny baby being born in a stable, but then this special baby disappears. The people of the day didn't have the internet or even a reliable postal service, they would not have known anything more about Jesus as he grew up. And to this end,



we have very little information about the child-Jesus in Scripture. But today we meet John the Baptist. A Godly man for sure, he had taken himself out to the wilderness to get closer to God. We too have seen more modern-day people cultivating a life like this, in fact the forefathers and foremothers of Christianity often took themselves off into isolation into the wilderness to live a life of servitude dedicated to God. And here John the Baptist appears, emerging from the wilderness just as had been prophesied; to call on people to repent and be baptised. These actions represented a physical change in the doers lives; by repenting and being baptised they were choosing to give up their sinful and sin-filled lives and their selfish ways and were turning to the God of creation who calls us all to him, with outstretched arms. And when we too turn back to God, each and every time we do so when we have slipped into sin, God looks at us and utters those words of creation, that we are 'very good.' But more importantly John the Baptist's job was to call out to all and sundry, that one greater than him was coming, the Messiah was here! And so, what can we take from these passages today? Well, I suspect there is a message for us about witnessing to the truth of a life dedicated to Jesus; a message that the things we do or refrain from doing, say or refrain from saying herald to others the benefits of living in as Christ-like a way as possible. Like John the Baptist, each one of us is called to prepare the way for Jesus to touch others lives. Amen.

Prayer:

God of creation,
we know we all only still see you
through a dark glass dimly,
and our perspectives on the world are similarly
discoloured by all that gets in the way of your
truth.
God of Creation,
shine your light through every ideology,
cultural norm or worldview held by your people

and help us all to see anything that seeks to
constrict your love.
God of creation,
reveal to us all anywhere where we are viewing
people as less than your image-bearers or
ourselves as being more important.
And God of creation,
show us too everywhere we are dismissing
creation itself as a sub-plot to the human story
rather than integral and precious to you.
God of creation,
expand our worldview till it looks more like yours:
characterised by a love so wide and so deep
that nothing and no one is forgotten.
We pray In Jesus' name, Amen

Hymn – There is a Redeemer (StF 338)

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever
in that holy place.

Melody Green (b. 1946) and Keith Green (1953–1982)

Blessing:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore.
Amen.

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY, Jan 17th 2021

Call to Worship:

O taste and see that the Lord is good;
Happy are those who take refuge in him.

Hymn – Ye Servants of God (StF 340)

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name ;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol ;
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save ;
and still he is nigh, his presence we have ;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

‘Salvation to God who sits on the throne !’
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son ;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right ;
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never - ceasing, and infinite love.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayer of Adoration

You Lord are awesome. You are Lord of everything. You who are there in every storm we go through, you who keep us from stumbling and give us the strength to carry on. You guide us in your ways. You are our provider and provide good things for us. We worship you and praise you for your Holy name. Amen

Prayer for forgiveness and confession

Stf 419

- 1 Almighty God, we come to make confession,
for we have sinned in thought and word and deed.
We now repent in honesty and sorrow ;
forgive us, Lord, and meet us in our need.
- 2 Forgiving God, I come to make confession
of all the harm and hurt that I have done ;
of bitter words and many selfish actions,
forgive me, Lord, and make me like your Son.
- 3 Forgiving God, I come to make confession
of all that I have failed to do this day ;
of help withheld, concern and love restricted,
forgive me, Lord, and lead me in your way.
- 4 Redeeming God, we come to seek forgiveness,
for Jesus Christ has died to set us free.
Forgive the past and fill us with your Spirit
that we may live to serve you joyfully.

Christopher J. Ellis (b. 1949)



The Lord’s Prayer - Our
Father.....Amen

Today’s Readings:

1 Samuel 3 1-10

John 1 43-51

Reflection:

My World’s Bible Dictionary student edition tells me about Samuel. It tells me that Samuel was a Levite. He was born in Ramah, in the tribal territory of Ephraim. Samuel’s mother made a promise before he was born to take him to the tabernacle. Here she dedicated him to God for life-long service. And so he stayed at the tabernacle when his parents returned home. Samuel was then bought up by the priest Eli. He grew up to become his helper in the duties of the tabernacle.

The commentary which I read says this about where Samuel slept. He slept close by to Eli the high priest who was accustomed to being called during the night. Samuel was certain that Eli had called him each time he was nudged by God. It took Eli three times to realise what was happening. The third time Samuel came to him Eli told the boy to go back to bed and reply to what he was told. God on the third time stood before Samuel and called him again by his name. And this time Samuel answered, “Speak. I’m your servant, ready to listen.”

Do you remember when you were called by God?

I always went to church, I grew up with the stories of the Bible and the parables of Jesus. I don’t remember much about the Epistles, but I suppose we were taught about them. This is one of my favourite Old Testament stories of how a young boy was nudged out of bed to be summoned by God.

The New Testament reading for today in John’s Gospel about the calling of the first disciples. As I read it conjures up in my mind a lovely picture of how Jesus calls ordinary, everyday folk to be his Followers. I did a bit of research here and found

out that Jesus travelled to Galilee where he found Philip and Jesus told Philip quite simply just to follow him . Phillip came from Bethsaida where Andrew and Peter came from. Jesus was definitely building up his crew.

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph’”. *Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”*

A few years ago now I saw The Furness Choir sing “While shepherds watch” by Roger Jones. In the musical is a song called “Come and see the beauty of the King. “ The first three words of the song are those spoken by Philip to Nathaniel come and see. In other words he told Nathaniel to stop asking questions and Just come and meet him... come see the beauty of the king, the Lord of everything.

*And so I ask you today have you met him, the one who can change your life? Come and see what he did for all mankind.
Amen.*

Prayer:

Today we are incorporating the words from verse 4 of hymn 696 from Singing the Faith in our prayers for other:

Gracious God, we pray for our world in crisis,
We lift to you those people who find themselves without homes, displaced due to war, civil conflict, or natural disaster.

We pray for the persecuted church,
for those people living in countries where it is a crime to call oneself a Christian.

We pray for others and thank God for all he has done for us,
We remember these words:
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.

We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Hymn – Where can we find you (StF 672)

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 to all ?

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.
‘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.

‘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.’

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.

Allan Charles Dickinson (b. 1954)

A Gaelic Blessing:

May the strength of God
Pilot us,
And the power of God
Preserve us.
May the wisdom of God
Instruct us
And the hand of God
Protect us.
May the way of God
Direct us.
May the shield of God
Defend us.

(Lynne C Taylor CCL No. 315086)

WORSHIP AT HOME
SUNDAY 24 JANUARY 2021

Call to Worship

The Lord called his disciples to be fishers of people. He calls us to follow him. Come, let us cast our nets into his waters and offer ourselves in worship and service.

HYMN {StF 36}

There's a quiet understanding

when we're gathered in the Spirit,
it's a promise that he gives us,
when we gather in his name.

There's a love we feel in Jesus,
there's a manna that he feeds us,
it's a promise that he gives us
when we gather in his name.

And we know when we're together,
sharing love and understanding,
that our brothers and our sisters
feel the oneness that he brings.
Thank you, thank you, thank you, Jesus,
for the way you love and feed us,
for the many ways you lead us,
thank you, thank you, Lord.

Edward Russell Smith

Prayer



As fishermen expectantly cast their nets in the sea,
so may we approach you today, loving God,
with that same spirit of anticipation,
trusting that you will meet us where we are
and receive our worship,
which we offer in Christ's name.
Amen.

A prayer of confession

Jesus is good news for all people.
Yet our lives are marred by sin.
God is compassionate and faithful.

We offer our confession, trusting in God's love.
We have sinned against you, Lord.
We have faltered – instead of following you.

We have hesitated – instead of following you.

We have resisted – instead of following you.

We have turned away – instead of following you.

We have ignored – instead of following you.
Have mercy upon us.

Forgive us, restore us, heal us;
and release us to follow you.

Amen.

We pray in Jesus name, as we bring all our prayers together: Our Father ...

Bible Readings: Mark 1: 14-20

Reflection

Not too long ago, on leaving school or university many people would find a job and expect to be with that company or organisation until they retired. Not so today. I read somewhere that young people entering employment now can expect to have to find a different career path as many as seven times during their working life as the world of work is in a constant state of shift and change. As a result, they will have to fill in many application forms and when you're applying for a job you haven't done before, the key is to identify the 'transferable skills' which you've gained in one field of work that would equip you to be employed in another sphere.

It might seem to you that Jesus made a strange choice for his first disciples as he calls this little group of fishermen to leave their nets and follow him. Surely there would have been others better equipped for the task? Yet when you think about it, fishermen would have had many skills that were 'transferable' to life as followers of this Jesus who would wander the land without thought for comfort, disrupting, disturbing and challenging everywhere he went. He – and they – would be met with misunderstanding, suspicion and opposition whilst also bringing healing and acceptance to many who would have felt themselves to be hopeless and helpless. Fishermen needed patience, the ability to spend hours in the rain, the sun, the wind. They needed powers of observation to read the movement of the wind and the sea to spot the storms



approaching or the shoals of fish below the waves. They needed gentleness to feel the fish take the bait and strength to play the line or land a bulging net. Sharing God's message also demands patience and endurance, sensitivity to other people and their particular needs and careful attention to the right ways of bringing them in to the presence of Jesus. No wonder Jesus spoke about them becoming 'fishers of people'.

So I wonder what 'transferable skills' you might have gained in life that Jesus can use in the building of his kingdom here on earth? You will almost certainly have developed skills and gifts without even realising it, simply through your life experiences, whether in paid employment, unemployment or in caring for a home and family, in facing illness or tragedy, disappointment or frustration as well as in the joyful moments of life. Pray that God will help you see how you can use the personal resources he's given you to share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action. Amen

Prayer

God of the good news,
we pray for all those in the waters of anxiety:
bring them safely to shore.
We pray for all those caught up
in nets of violence and oppression:
bring them safely to shore.
We pray for all those sinking under the weight of
pain and grief:
bring them safely to shore.
We pray for all those whose nets
and livelihoods are torn and ruined:
bring them safely to shore.
We pray for all whose nets and hearts
need mending and healing:
bring them safely to shore.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

HYMN {StF 673}

Will you come and follow me?

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?

Will you let My love be shown,
Will you let My name be known,
Will you let My life be grown in you,
And you in Me?
Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let Me answer prayer
In you and you in Me?

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in Me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through My sight and touch and sound
In you and you in Me?

Lord, Your summons echoes true
When You but call my name.
Let me turn and follow You
And never be the same.
In Your company I'll go
Where Your love and footsteps show;
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In You and You in me.
John Bell & Graham Maule

Blessing

Time is running out.
God is waiting,
the kingdom of God is coming among us.
May God give us the gifts of the Spirit
until the whole world
and everything in it, great and small,
knows God and follows Jesus.
Amen.

WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 31st January, 2021

Call to Worship: Love builds us into the community of the Church. Christ is the cornerstone, the foundation of our life and worship. Come, to find in Jesus forgiveness, healing, hope and peace.

Hymn – King of Glory, King of Peace StF 56

King of Glory, King of Peace,
I will love thee;
And that love may never cease
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
In my heart, thou not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enrol thee;
E'en eternity's too short
To extol thee.

George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

Prayers: Loving God, we are aware of your presence here now.

Silence

Loving God, we remember Jesus, your Holy One, who amazed and astonished.

Silence

Loving God we too want to ask the question, 'What is this?'

Silence

Thank you that you break into our world to bring healing and wholeness.

That, if we choose to look, you continue to surprise and astonish us.

Give us wisdom to see your words and deeds.
Give us courage to be your mouth and hands.

Loving God, we lay before you the good things we've enjoyed this week.
Help us to embrace the fun, laughter and delight that comes our way.



We lay before you the things we've struggled with this week. We lay before you the things we've done that we would like to undo. In all things we are accountable to the Lord our God. In a few moments of silence, let us bring to mind those times when, through fault or omission, we have failed to love God, ourselves or others.

Hold out your hands in front of you in fists. We confess that we have not loved as we are loved, and we have not served as we are served. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, and restore us to fullness of life in Jesus our Lord.

Release your fists and cup your hands.
Receive God's forgiveness.
God has mercy upon us.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer -

Our Father.....Amen

Today's Readings:

1 Corinthians 9: 16-23, Mark 1: 21 – 28

Reflection: At first, it would appear that Mark is giving us another summary of Jesus' ministry. However, the focal point is not just Jesus' teaching, but his act of healing and deliverance. Jesus does not come with a message alone, but with the power to change lives. His words and deeds are linked, clear signs of the presence of God's kingdom and of Jesus' identity as God's son. The crowds recognise this. In the beginning, they are astounded at his teaching, but by the end they recognise his authority over unclean spirits. The unclean spirits also recognise and confess Jesus' true identity. Jesus commands the spirit to be silent. This repeated command suggests that Jesus wants to work quietly, without drawing attention to the fact that he is

the son of God (possibly to prevent misunderstanding?) For Mark, the real sign of Jesus' identity as son of God is his suffering and death. Jesus' ministry had begun. He had been baptised, and had called disciples. Jesus did not go to an unfamiliar place, but started from the place he knew, the Synagogue. He offered new insight and understanding of his own tradition, and people were astounded. But this did not bring harmony but discord. The man with an unclean spirit caused a disturbance. Jesus brought healing and people were amazed. Imagine hearing something very familiar but someone adds a new twist, a deeper insight, revealing something not seen before. Imagine this person working for healing and wholeness in front of you. 'What is this?' the people of the synagogue asked. Their encounter with Jesus provoked a reaction. Indifference was not on the agenda. Do people still react to Jesus in the same way today? Does God confront us in Jesus? The community for whom Mark wrote would have understood Jesus' teaching and authority through his death. It pointed to his identity as son of God, revealed by his integrity. Jesus didn't change his teaching to fit, he didn't back off from healing and empowering others, and eventually he was crucified. We can recognise that Jesus is the 'holy one of God' but is it possible to feel astonishment like the people in the synagogue? Do we allow ourselves to be 'wowed' by Jesus? We get a glimpse through the lives of those who live firmly in the path of Jesus. Do we know people who display such integrity? How can we follow Jesus and amaze and astonish? How can we walk the path of integrity in our everyday lives? Jesus started in a familiar place. Maybe this is our starting place too. Jesus' fame spread after this incident. Some are called to tasks that ensure fame or notoriety, but others are to stay and serve God where they are. What might this mean for me? What risks might I have to take? Or, as a Church what might this creativity in causing a bit of a stir for Jesus? What have we got to offer in the light of our experiences over

the last twelve months in particular? As we reflect, we may recognise our own starting place, and allow Jesus to lead us, and 'wow' us.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercessions

□ As we sit quietly, and reflect on Jesus, and His work, his forgiveness, His healing, His sharing of parables, and helping us to understand –
Let us bring before him –

- those who are yet to meet him, and know him...

-those who govern in the world, country, county, town, village to make a safer place

-our front-line workers

- those who are suffering, those who are ill, grieving, alone

For ourselves, Lord, that we may be equipped to share the love of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

Hymn – Jesus Christ is waiting (StF 251)

Jesus Christ is waiting, Waiting in the streets;

No one is his neighbour, All alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too:

Make me, friend or stranger, Fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is healing, Healing in the streets,

Curing those who suffer, Touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too:

Let my care be active, Healing, just like you.

Jesus Christ is calling, Calling in the streets,

'who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'

Listen, Lord Jesus, Let my fears be few:

Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

(John Bell (b.1949) & Graham Maule(b.1958)

Blessing:

May we recognise those who go ahead,

walk along side, and show us the way.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.