

**Worship at Home service Sunday 7th May
2023 with Revd Ian Forsyth**

A call to worship:

We praise you this morning for you are the way the truth and the life.

You are the God who creates spaces and places for us.

You are the One who sits on the throne, the Cornerstone of our faith, The God of Love

Thank you that here in your house, you welcome us to come, as we are. **Amen**

StF 25 – God is here! We your people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iCzdeZJHHk>

God is here! As we his people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
Of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the Gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe!

Bible readings

Psalm 31 NIV

1 Peter 2: 2 - 10 NIV

Prayers of adoration inspired by Psalm 31:21 and Lord's Prayer.

Praise be to the Lord, **for he showed us the wonders of his love**

Our God is the creator.

Our God is the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Our God is merciful.

We worship and adore Him.

Praise be to the Lord, **for he showed us the wonders of his love**

We praise you for your work demonstrated throughout creation.

We praise you for the life of the Son, Jesus Christ for his demonstration of your love in word and action.

We praise you that through Jesus' death and resurrection we are forgiven and invited to new life. Praise be to the Lord,

for he showed us the wonders of his love

We thank you for your Spirit living with us.

We thank you for the prompting of that still small voice in our lives, our churches and communities.

We thank you for continuing your work through us.

Praise be to the Lord, **for he showed us the wonders of his love**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit we praise your holy name. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Time to reflect:

Sunday 7th May 2023 will be the day after the Coronation of King Charles III. He was crowned Monarch of the United Kingdom, the Crown Dependencies, and the British Overseas Territories, and is now head of the Commonwealth.

The book of 1 Peter is a letter, written to a dispersed Christian community in Asia Minor – which we now know as Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq, and this letter is reminding them to stand firm on the foundation of Christ in trying times and the face of persecution. The letter was to ordinary people facing unprecedented circumstances in their own time.

The letter talks of a royal priesthood, this language had once been exclusively used to describe the people of Israel, people who had been set apart, to show others something of the character of God. But now it is for all people to be able to share and witness in the work of God.

King Charles III has been crowned. He is set aside for a particular role, but the Christian message of a royal priesthood is that all of us are ordinary people, are set aside, to show the world a little of what God is like.

Jesus is the foundation, and we are the bricks, we are set aside so that a house of justice and peace can be built.

We are all being built into the same spiritual house that is based on the solid foundation of Jesus, and our bricks sit alongside the work and witness of those who have come before us and are around us. We are all ordinary people, and yet we are all a royal priesthood, called to join in with the work of God in building his kingdom, of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, generosity, gentleness, and self-control.

Question - consider what you are doing to continue the work of God? Are you being nudged in a new direction?

Jesus was making known God's presence, God's greatness and mercy, God's grace and glory, God's persistent love on this earth. Jesus talks about the Son making known the Father's glory.

Jesus was making known that we could be in relationship with the creator of all earth and heavens and realms - That this is a God who is present in all of creation, including us.

We may find it hard to follow the ways of Jesus, we may have messed up, but we are

forgiven, loved, and invited by a loving God to join the Holy Spirit to serve the world so that all may know the love of God.

In the letter we read, 1 Peter, the language was of coming from darkness to light. The light is both a personal relationship with God and, the light of a just world where the kingdom of God is realised. Many of us know something of this light in our lives and the invitation is to live our lives so that others can be called out of darkness and know the light.

The author of the above sermon is unknown. It has been taken from the Methodist connexion website.

StF 94 – To God be the glory.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ALi7B_cfpo

To God be the glory, great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,

Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son;
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!

And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

Closing Prayer:

As we end this time of worship God, bless each one of us, that we may be aware that all we do in your name, is part of the continuance of the work that you, loving God has done and continues to do for us, and all we serve.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, forever more, **Amen**