

# Family Worship at Home



## **Some words by Revd Dr Sam Wells – Vicar of St Martin in the Fields**

We come to church each Sunday, we pray and read our Bibles through the week, to prepare ourselves. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, travelled around Galilee to prepare himself for Jerusalem. In Jerusalem people discovered who he truly was, and what his words and actions really entailed. We've spent decades, many of us, preparing we knew not what for. Well, now we know. This is the moment when the world finds out whether being a Christian makes any difference or not.

In Britain, we say pray for a sunny day, but take an umbrella. I'm not saying in the face of the virus we don't take sensible steps. We must follow public health advice. We do so not because others are a danger to us, but because we might, directly or indirectly, be a danger to them. We're a community defined not by fear but by trust, not by scarcity but by plenty, not by anxiety but by communion. It's time to show our true colours.

This is the time to find ways to overcome isolation that don't involve touch. We have this opportunity to explore the hinterland of the word with, that doesn't always involve physical presence, but still means solidarity and kindness, generosity and love. We will limit our contact to protect the most vulnerable, but we still need to proclaim that there's something more infectious than coronavirus – and that's joy and peace, faithfulness and gentleness.

It was in its most bewildered hour that Israel in exile found who God truly was. This is our chance to discover what God being with us really means. None of us would for a moment have wished this crisis on anybody, let alone the whole world. But our faith teaches us that we only get to see resurrection through crucifixion; that we see God most clearly in our darkest hour.

Remember what Isaiah tells us. You shall cross the barren desert; but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety – though you do not know the way. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed. If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you through it all. Be not afraid, says our God. I am with you like never before.

This is our faith.

***Please do use this service as part of your daily devotion at home.***

Please regularly check the FaceBook page and Website for daily prayers and updates.

## **FAMILY WORSHIP AT HOME**

*When it isn't possible to join with the local church, this outline is designed to help you have a short time of worship as a household. Please adapt it to suit those who are present – add anything you might usually do in church or omit anything that you are not comfortable with. Have a variety of voices leading, not just the oldest!*

*As you prepare:*

- *Choose a place where you can sit comfortably – it might be on the floor, round a table or even in the garden (if the weather is good enough). A rug or cushions might make it more comfortable if you are sitting on the floor.*
- *Agree a time to worship together. It might be first thing in the morning, before your lunchtime meal, or before bedtime begins.*
- *Decide who will lead – it doesn't have to be an adult or just one person. Think of ways in which the youngest can also help lead.*
- *Gather the things that will help create a sacred space – we suggest a cross, Bible and candle. If you do not have these as physical objects, find or draw pictures that could be used.*
- *Look through the service and gather any materials you might need – paper, pens, modelling dough, Lego etc.*
- *If you enjoy singing, decide one a song or hymn to start with and one to end with. There are some suggestions at the end.*

## **TIME TO GATHER**

**Leader:** We usually go to church to worship God with God's people, but today we are being church here in this place.

**Everyone:** God is with us.

*Place the cross in the middle of your gathering.*

**Everyone:** God is with us.

*Place the Bible in the middle of your gathering.*

**Everyone:** God is with us.

*Light the candle and place it in the middle of your gathering.*

**Everyone:** God is with us – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Sing a gathering song or hymn.*

## TIME TO SAY SORRY

**Leader:** Let us think about the times we forgot we are followers of Jesus. The times we were unkind or hurtful, the times we did not care for the world or other people. When we say sorry to God, God promises to forgive us.

*(Either use this Confession or one of the creative ideas suggested.)*

**Leader:** We are sorry for the times when we lacked love. Lord have mercy.

**Everyone:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** We are sorry for the times when our words and actions were hurtful. Christ have mercy.

**Everyone:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** We are sorry when we failed to care for your world. Lord, have mercy.

**Everyone:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Everyone:** Amen.

## TIME TO READ THE BIBLE

*Choose a passage or story from the Bible. Read it from the Bible or a Bible story book, act it out or watch a video that tells the story. (You might want to use one of the Lectionary readings, or a favourite story, or choose one of the suggested passages.)*

**Leader:** For the Word of the Lord,

**Everyone:** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*How might you think together about what you have just heard? You could:*

*Wonder together.* I wonder what was your favourite part of that passage/story? I wonder which part surprised or puzzled you? I wonder what it tells us about God? I wonder how it helps us to live as Christians?

*Draw or sculpt.* Use paper and pens, modelling dough, Lego or pipe cleaners to respond to the passage or story. Share with each other something about your drawing or model.

*Bring something to the circle:* Look around where you have gathered and find something to bring to the circle that helps you think more about what you have heard. Share why you chose that object.

## **TIME TO PRAY**

**Leader.** God hears us when we bring our prayers to him.

*We usually pray for the Church, the world, our local community, people who are suffering and ourselves. You could use these prayers, or one of the creative suggestions at the end.*

**Leader.** Lord our God, we pray for your Church, for our Bishop (*name*) and our priest(s) (*names*).

Lord, in your mercy,

**Everyone:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader.** Lord our God, we pray for your world. Help us to care for it. We pray for our Government. Help them to govern wisely and justly.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Everyone:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader.** Lord our God, we pray for our community of (*name*). We pray for health workers, our schools, our shop keepers and local businesses (*add anything you particularly want to pray for*).

Lord, in your mercy,

**Everyone:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader.** Lord our God, we pray for people who suffer because they are ill, anxious, sad or lonely. Especially we pray for (*names*).

Lord, in your mercy,

**Everyone:** Hear our prayer.

*Say the Lord's Prayer together in whichever form is most familiar to you.*

**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 END**

**Leader:** May God keep us, may Christ shield us, may the Spirit bring us healing and peace. May God the Trinity keep us in light and grace today and forever.

**Everyone:** Amen.

*You might sing a song or hymn to finish.*

*Compiled by Mary Hawes ©The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England*

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## WORSHIP AT HOME RESOURCES AND IDEAS

### Gathering songs

This is the day, this is the day, that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

<https://gospelchoruses.wordpress.com/2014/12/04/this-is-the-day-that-the-lord-has-made/>

Thank you, Lord, for this new day. Thank you, Lord, for this new day.

Thank you, Lord, for this new day, right where we are.

Alleluia Praise the Lord, Alleluia Praise the Lord,

Alleluia Praise the Lord, right where we are.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DUYPEUu5JM>

Lord, we've come to worship you, Lord, we've come to praise,

Lord, we've come to worship you in, oh, so many ways.

Some of us SHOUT and some of us sing,

And some of us whisper the praise we bring

But Lord, we all are gathering to bring to you our praise.

Ian Smale (Ishmael) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f32Y0MV23\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f32Y0MV23_E)

Welcome everybody, it's good to have you here,

Welcome everybody, it's good to have you here,

Welcome everybody, it's good to have you here gathering in this place.

Fischy Music [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPjMoKP6Y\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPjMoKP6Y_Y)

## WORSHIP AT HOME RESOURCES AND IDEAS

### Closing songs

May you find peace, may you find hope,

May you find joy this day.

May you find love, may you find rest here in this place together.

*Fischy Music* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6v-UIvMXgU>

Shalom, my friend, Shalom, my friend, Shalom, shalom,  
May peace and joy be with you today, Shalom, shalom.

Shalom chaverim, Shalom chaverim, Shalom, shalom,  
Lehitraot, lehitraot, Shalom, shalom.

<https://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/songs-and-hymns/hymns/shalom-myfriend/>

Father we adore you, lay our lives before you, how we love you.

Jesus, we adore you, lay our lives before you, how we love you.

Spirit we adore you, lay our lives before you, how we love you.

<https://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/songs-and-hymns/hymns/father-weadore-you/>

### Ideas for confession/saying sorry

*Sorry bins*

**You will need** paper, pens and a bin

Write or draw something you are sorry for on a piece of paper. If you don't want to write it down, just hold the paper and imagine it. Say sorry to God and ask God to forgive you. Screw the paper up and put it in the bin to show that God has forgiven you and taken your sin away.

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2012/01/sorry-whiteboards-sorrybin.html>

## WORSHIP AT HOME RESOURCES AND IDEAS

### *Sorry boards*

**You will need** whiteboards (or laminated white paper), whiteboard markers, wet wipes

Write or draw on the whiteboard what you are sorry for. Ask God to forgive you. Wipe the board with a wet wipe to show that God has forgiven you and wiped the sin away. (You could also use slate and chalk.)

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2012/01/sorry-whiteboards-sorrybin.html>

### *Sorry stones*

**You will need** some heavy-ish stones, a basket, a cross

Place the stones in a basket. Say something like, 'When we do wrong things, it can feel as though we are weighed down. Take a stone from the basket. As you weigh it in your hand, think of what is weighing you. When you are ready, place the stone by the cross.'

When everyone has placed their stone by the cross, use the words at TIME TO SAY SORRY.

### **Ideas for Bible passages**

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Lent> will give you the Bible readings (alongside artwork) for each week.

*Or use one of these:*

Psalm 23 – The Lord is my shepherd

Psalm 46:1-7 – God is our strength and refuge

Psalm 100 – Make a joyful noise to the Lord

Matthew 5:1-12 – The Beatitudes

Matthew 6:5-14 – The Lord's Prayer

Mark 1:16-20 – Jesus calls the first disciples

Mark 6:30-44 – Jesus feeds the 5000

Luke 2:41-52 – Jesus in the Temple

Luke 15:1-7 – The Lost Sheep

## **WORSHIP AT HOME RESOURCES AND IDEAS**

John 15:12-17 – A new commandment

John 20:19-23 – Jesus is alive

Galatians 5:22-26 – The fruit of the Spirit

Philippians 4:4-9 – Living the way of Jesus

[LecDeck](#) will give you a Bible passage, some questions and a challenge for each week of the year.

## WORSHIP AT HOME RESOURCES and IDEAS

### Creative prayer ideas

#### *Praying with sweets*

**You will need** a packet of coloured sweets e.g. M&Ms or Skittles

Open the packet of sweets and take it in turns to pick one. Before you eat your sweet, say a prayer asking God to help or do something for someone or something in that category (see below).

Red: family

Purple: friends

Green: the environment/animals

Yellow: the world

Orange: school/work

*(Change the colour code to fit the colours of the sweets you use.)*

<https://godventure.co.uk/prayer-activities/sweets-prayer/>

#### *Playing card prayers*

**You will need** a pack of cards

Shuffle the pack of cards. Take it in turns to pick one and say a prayer:

Red number- Pray for the world

Black number- Say a thank you prayer

King- say a word that describes how great God is

Queen- pray for a girl or woman you know

Jack- pray for a boy or man you know

Ace – pray for your church

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2013/08/playing-card-prayers.html>

#### *Pray using your hand*

Thumbs up – thank God for something good

Index finger – pray for those who point the way to God

Middle finger – Pray for those who govern our country

Ring finger – pray for your family and friends

Little finger – pray for people who are ill, or anxious, or worried and need God's care