

# Sunday Worship at Home

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Holy Habits LAUNCH DAY for Making More Disciples

Theme: The Great Commission

## Preparation

Take a moment to sit and be still. Breathe slowly and deeply. Allow God's presence to be felt as you bring yourself closer to him. Remember all those who will be worshipping and praying in their own homes and know that we are together in spirit.

## Opening Prayer

**Lord Jesus, we bring ourselves quietly into your presence to worship you and praise your name. We are still separated from others at this time which can be difficult, but we are comforted in the knowledge that you are in each home and we are all being held together by you. We lift our eyes to you and trust in you. Thank you for your never-ending love. Amen.**

## Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross

Sing/ Read /Pray /Proclaim the words or listen to it here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_fvFfPqjO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_fvFfPqjO4)

**When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

## Prayer for the Day

Holy God,  
faithful and unchanging:  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,  
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,  
that we may truly worship you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Saying Sorry

In a moment of quiet, hold up to God the thoughts, words and actions that you need ask forgiveness for.

**Heavenly Father, we come to you to ask forgiveness of our sins and to give thanks that you love us so much that you give it. Amen.**

## Reading – Matthew 28:16-20

### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

<sup>16</sup> The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. <sup>18</sup> Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

## Short Reflection by Peter Roslyk (audio file recorded by Revd Capt Clive Deverell)

Can you solve the 4 riddles?

**A:** What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?"

**B:** How many months have 28 days?"

**C:** What's black and white and read all over?"

**D:** What has 88 keys, but cannot open a single door?"

Good News, yes "Good News" the Christian Gospel message is "Good News".

During this challenging time for all, we should not forget that we as Christians have some "Good News".

"Making more disciples" is the last of the ten Holy Habits. The other nine are about community and personal Christian growth. This Holy Habit is vital to the life of the Church. If there are no new Christians or disciples then there will be no next generation, worshipping in our wonderfully restored church and our churches across the Partnership.

The Bible reading for today is often referred to as "The Great Commission". Jesus is telling the disciples to go and spread the "Good News", making more disciples or believers with the supporting power of the Holy Spirit.

The "Good News" is often summarized in John 3 v 16-17.

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

How people respond to the "Good News" is a mystery. I am sure that with your genius brain you quickly solved the four riddles. For some people understating and accepting the "Good News" is like understanding the riddle. It can be easily obvious for some; others may take longer but finally understand but for some even with the answers it never makes sense and they do not understand.

The making of more disciples involves verbally telling others the "Good News" and non verbally living our lives as Christ would have us do, resulting in the mystery that once a person

accepts the message then they are "filled with the Holy Spirit".

The uniqueness of the Christian faith, God dwells in man.

The last words of the hymn "When I survey the wondrous cross" are:

"Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my life my soul my all."

The cross is empty. The tomb is empty. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father.

Having shown us such amazing love, surely it is our privilege to continue to respond to the "Great Commission" making more disciples.

"Good News", yes "Good News" the Christian Gospel message is "Good News".

(Editor's note: the answers to the riddles will be given next week!)

## Intercessory Prayer

You could use the suggested prayer resources set for this Holy Habit (produced as a page at the end of this service) or follow a preferred model of prayer for yourself.

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory are yours  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **Closing Prayer for this time we live in**

**We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.**

**We are not people who protect our own safety:**

**we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.**

**We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.**

**We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs**

**For as long as it takes wherever you call us.**

## **A Prayer of St Benedict**

**O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Making More Disciples Challenge of the Week:**

**share a WhatsApp/YouTube Worship  
video with a friend**

**MMD Prayer:**

Lord, help us to go further than we might expect or feel is comfortable. Help us to share your love in places beyond the safety of the world we know, with people who haven't heard of you. Help us to feel secure in the knowledge that your Holy Spirit will guide us. Amen.

# Suggestions for Prayer today & during the week

## Lectio Divina

Using the Bible Reading from today's service, we can use the ancient way of praying called Lectio Divina (which means divine reading). It is a simple way of slowing down enough to really hear God. The following instructions are just one way of praying using this method.



1. Be quiet for a few seconds, take a couple of deep breaths. Decide to focus on God for the next few minutes, perhaps close your eyes.
2. Read today's Bible passage to yourself – either aloud or silently.
3. Read it again, slowly.
4. Start listening out for a word or phrase that jumps out to you, something that grabs your attention.
5. Read it one more time, this time decide on one word or phrase.
6. Think about the word/phrase you chose. What does it make you think of? What pictures pop into your head? What does it make you feel?
7. Turn the word into some kind of prayer – does it make you want to say thank you, please, sorry or something else? Say your prayer to God.
8. Just sit quietly for another few seconds.  
(taken from [engageworship.org](http://engageworship.org))

## Prayer Jars

It can be difficult at times to decide on what to pray for. Having something like a prayer jar may help.



You could put slips of paper into the jar over the course of a week, prayers for people or situations, prayers of thanks for answered prayers etc.

During the time of prayer today (and/or during the week), you could take them out (or a few) and spend time focusing on them, offering them up to God's love, mercy and care.

## Prayer Stones

The idea for using prayer stones is that they can represent people or situations.



As we are now in the Holy Habit of Making More Disciples, it may be that there is a person in particular who you are praying for to come to know and follow Christ for themselves. Think of people you know and love. Think of people you know about through the news. Is there anyone you can think of whose lives could be transformed by knowing the overwhelming love and grace of God?

Pray for them. Pray for them every day. Pray that they might come to know God's love for themselves. Pray that they might become a disciple of Jesus.

Choose stones, buttons or something colourful that can be kept somewhere as a prayer focus. When you look at the object, remember who or what it represents and offer a prayer to God.

## For Children

Make a prayer rainbow using any materials you have at home or have a rainbow hunt and find objects of each colour.

Use your rainbow to pray for...

everyone who is sick  
carers and delivery drivers  
all those who are special to us  
teachers and leaders  
everyone working for the NHS  
people who are feeling scared or sad  
yourself



The Rainbow is a sign of hope, a sign of God's promise. Pray that in this difficult time all people may come to know the love and peace of God.