

**~AT HOME WORSHIP~**

**Sunday 8th of May 2022**

**Theme: The Healing of Dorcas.**

**Preparation:** Today we hear about the healing of Dorcas, who is in your thoughts in need of healing at this time.:

**Hymn/Song:**

## [Jesus Christ is Waiting [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CSzEviUc_o)

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 raging, Raging in the streets,
Where injustice spirals
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom’s causes
Let me rage with 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 dancing, Dancing in the streets,
Where each sign of hatred
He, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion’s graveyard
Let me dance with 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. ©1988  WGRG, Iona Community, Govan, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

**Opening Prayers**

In our worship today let us remember that the love of God for his people and for his church knows no limits. The Psalmist talks of God’s love reaching up to the heavens and his justice to the depth of the ocean, and yet he blesses us as individuals with the gifts of his Spirit so that his Church, his people might be a light in this place, to his glory.

Father God, we bring our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives through this coming week. May we go from this place knowing that we have met with you and been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your glory. Amen

We are drawn to your feet in worship
Your creation facing its creator
Hearts laid bare by your light Humbly asking for your mercy.
We come to you as a people in need of assurance and forgiveness. We come to you as a people in need of healing and wholeness. We come dependent upon your love.
Draw us close. Enfold us in your arms. Fill us with your Spirit
that we might reflect your light within this dark world,
speak your Word with boldness and draw others to your feet.
We ask this through your dear Son Jesus Christ.
**Amen**

Living God whose Word became flesh in Jesus and whose Spirit of Truth speaks into our hearts all honour and glory and worship belong to you. As our praises pronounce your wonder may our lives overflow with love, that our words and deeds might tell of your goodness and declare your infinite grace. **Amen**.

**Saying Sorry:** Listen to, and sing these songs reflecting on our need for forgiveness.

[Graham Kendrick & Nicki Rogers - O Lord Your Tenderness / Such Love (with lyrics) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajLL3y5H_Ek)

O Lord Your Tenderness,
Melting all my bitterness,
O Lord, I receive Your love.

O Lord, Your loveliness,
Changing all my ugliness,
O Lord, I receive Your love.
O Lord, I receive Your love,
O Lord, I receive Your love.

Such love, pure as the whitest snow
Such love, weeps for the shame I know
Such love, paying the debt I owe
O Jesus, such love

Such love, stilling my restlessness
Such love, filling my emptiness
Such love, showing me holiness
O Jesus, such love

Such love, springs from eternity
Such love, streaming through history
Such love, fountain of life to me
O Jesus, such love

Gracious God with gratitude and gladness we hear your promise of liberation: that in Christ we are forgiven and set free, and restored to serve you. Thanks be to you, Living God! **Amen.**

**Prayer for the Day**

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people maybe gathered into one flock, to the Glory of god the Father **Amen.**

**BIBLE READING**

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# Acts 9:36-43

# New International Version

**36**In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. **37**About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. **38**Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

**39**Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

**40**Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. **41**He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. **42**This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. **43**Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon

**REFLECTION TIME**

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The fallen disciple of Joppa was an especially admirable woman, claimed the messengers according to Acts, “full of good works and alms deeds, which she did,” for a community so diverse that she went by two names, Tabitha and Dorcas (Greek and Aramaic, respectively, for gazelle). Peter agreed, possibly sensing an opportunity to advance the new Church, and hurried to Joppa, given the urgency of burial rites. Upon arriving, he was led to an upper room where Dorcas was laid out. Ostensibly to emphasize her virtues, weeping widows showed “the coats and garments which she had made, when she was with them.” Peter sent all from the room, knelt and prayed (as with Aeneas, invoking Jesus’ intervention), then turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, arise.” When she opened her eyes, he took her hand and, calling the “saints [fellow Christians] and widows, presented her alive.”

What a theatrical as well as pivotal scene! No wonder there are so many images of it like the one shown here. How differently Peter acted from Jesus who swore those present to secrecy (though the stories leaked, luckily for us, and images abounded).

Dorcas’ story concludes with word of this newest witnessed miracle (the first raising of the dead in the New Testament) spreading like wildfire throughout Joppa, gaining even more converts to Christ.

We can assume that, as hoped, Dorcas returned to her exemplary life of devotion and good works until a later well-earned rest in peace.

Much has been made of the story as a key element of Peter’s witness. His miraculous raising of the dead Dorcas, through prayer to Christ, demonstrated his vaunted ongoing link to the risen Son of God and contributed heavily to his building the new Church in its earliest years. His revival of Dorcas thus more broadly provides a crucial milestone in the history of the faith and Church.

Through his intervention with Dorcas, as portrayed by her fellow disciples, Peter also can be seen as publicly certifying her as a model Christian, male or female. His act dramatically foregrounds charity as a Christian virtue. Both Jewish and Christian communities urged generosity of everyone regardless of gender, class, and means, either directly or through gifts to the synagogue or church. For Christians, service to the needy fulfilled the Word. Dorcas epitomized the “doer” of the Word in James 1:22, not just someone who merely heard it.

Selfless and alive with the spirit, such ongoing generosity provided an alternative to Jesus’ daunting mandate for self-perfection: “If thou will be perfect, go sell what thou hast, and give to the poor

**Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet**

## [LYNGHAM-O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-dEfvz6Vms)

Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer’s praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace

Jesus! the name that charms our fears
That bids our sorrows cease
’Tis music in the sinner’s ears
’Tis life and health and peace

He speaks, and listening to His voice
New life the dead receive
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice
The humble poor believe

My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of Thy name


**Time for Prayer: Let us pray**

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness;

in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers,

and all the holy people of God.

Wash us through and through,
**And cleanse us from our sin.**

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, especially Ukraine

and for all who govern and judge.

Purge us from our sin,
**And we shall be pure.**

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst,

those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror,

and those without a place to lay their head.

Make them hear of joy and gladness,
**that those who are broken may rejoice.**

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress,

and those who are lonely.

Give them the joy of your saving help,
**and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.**

In this Easter season we pray for those who prepare for baptism,

and we pray that we all might be given the grace and strength

to repent and grow closer to you, O God.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
**and renew a right spirit within us.**

We especially pray for… **at home, at this time, please pray for those people or things of concern you have on your mind.**

Lord Jesus,

it was your will that your Father’s House

would be a place of prayer for all people;

grant us the strength and wisdom to be a people

consumed with prayer and zeal for you,

this day and always. **Amen.**

**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 Prayers**

Generous God, you have nourished us with your word. Take us, bless us and send us, that our lips be touched with the gentleness of your peace ; that our hearts burn with your passion and integrity; that our lives declare the good news of your *love for the whole of creation, in the name of Christ,* ***Amen***

*Faithful God whose Word does not return empty but accomplishes all that you purpose, may your blessings fall like rain to water the earth, nourishing seed for our food, and filling us with the abundance of your love, through Jesus Christ your living Word.* ***Amen.***

**Hymn/Song**

[*Bruce Springsteen with the Sessions Band - This Little Light of Mine (Live In Dublin) - YouTube*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0qAYq1GVec)
Well now, this little light of mine, yeah I'm gonna let it shine
Well now, this little light of mine, yeah I'm gonna let it shine
Well now, this little light of mine, yeah I'm gonna let it shine
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Gonna let my little light shine

Well Jesus gave me light (Jesus gave me light), I'm gonna let it shine (I'm gonna let it shine)
Well now Jesus gave me light (Jesus gave me light), and I'm gonna let it shine (I'm gonna let it shine)
Well now Jesus gave me light (Jesus gave me light), I'm gonna let it shine
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
I'm gonna let my little light shine

Well this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Well now, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Well now, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Every day (every day), every day (every day)
Gonna let my little light shine

**Dismissal**

**This earth, full of your glory, praises your name
through unspoken words of beauty and peace,
reveals your love through hand of stranger and gift of grace.
This earth, full of your glory, praises your provision
through living water and food to eat,
reveals your Word through daily blessings and breath of life.
This earth, full of your glory, praises your name. As we feast on your Word of Life may the blessing of God, ever three and ever one, be upon us, now and always.**

**Amen.**



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