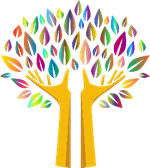
**Sunday 3rd July 2022 ‘At Home’ Worship**

**Peace to this house**

(Sourced from Roots worship resources)

**Call to worship** *based on Psalm 66*

Let us make a joyful noise,  
singing glory to God,  
offering glorious praise.  
Let us say to our God:  
‘How awesome are your deeds.  
Holy is your name.’

**A gathering prayer**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
we rejoice in all that you have done.  
We gather to praise you  
and to reflect on how we can play our part in your work.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, be with us now –  
inspire us, enrich our worship and encourage our mission,  
in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

**First impressions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | For artist's details, see [this issue's illustrators.](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2022/120-july-august-2022-c/issue-120-illustrators) |



**Questions for the image**

* Where do you feel at peace or a sense of being blessed?
* What does receiving God’s peace or blessing mean to you?
* So, what does sharing God’s peace look like in practice?

Song : I**mmortal Invisible God Only Wise. By Walter C Smith** [Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deLc8Egb0Js&t=15s)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessèd, most glorious, the ancient of days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish-but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
But of all Thy rich graces this grace, Lord, impart  
Take the veil from our faces, the vile from our heart.

All laud we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee,  
And so let Thy glory, Almighty, impart,  
Through Christ in His story, Thy Christ to the heart.

## ****A prayer of confession****

God of blessing and abundance, God of peace and love,  
you have offered and given us so much,  
you have revealed so much to us,  
you have guided and guarded us on our life’s journey,  
and yet…we are so often ungrateful.  
So often we ignore what has been given.  
So often we have failed to see all that you show us.  
So often we have not sought peace with those around us.  
So often we have not shared with others your word of love and peace.  
Forgive us, O God, that your blessings have been squandered by us,  
ignored by us, misused by us, abused by us.  
Forgive us, O God, and in the silence of this moment,  
accept our confession. **Amen.**

## ****Assurance of forgiveness****

Blessed be you, Lord God, for your forgiveness.  
Blessed be you, Lord God, for your guidance.  
Blessed be you, Lord God, for your acceptance of us.  
Blessed be you, Lord God,  
that we can know our sins, our failings, are forgiven. **Amen.**

**Prayer for the Day**

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Bible passages**



### **Luke 10:1-11, Luke 10:16-20 NIV**

### Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

**10**After this the Lord appointed seventy-two[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010:1-11,Luke%2010:16-20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25365a)] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. **2**He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. **3**Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. **4**Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

**5**“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ **6**If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. **7**Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

**8**“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. **9**Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ **10**But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, **11**‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’

**16**“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

**17**The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

**18**He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. **20**However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

## Reflection

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**Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication**

It’s hard to remember when and where we learned to say ‘Bless you’ when somebody sneezes. It’s an automatic reflex reaction for many of us, and I don’t suppose most people think either of God or what ‘bless’ means when they say it. In fact, some people even feel it’s rude not to say ‘bless you’ – whether they believe in God or not. Dr Gail Saltz (a psychiatry professor at a New York medical college) describes it as: ‘An utterance without specific meaning other than a response to a sneeze that is considered to be polite.’ It’s just what you do when someone sneezes. But is that all a blessing is? Is it just an utterance without specific meaning?

In the same way, most acts of worship end with a blessing of some kind. Is that just a liturgical full stop, words spoken but without any significant impact or meaning?

Jesus told the 70 that whenever they entered a house the first thing they should say was, ‘Peace to this house.’ Are these empty words? Is this just a fancy way of saying ‘Hi folks’? Clearly it is not, because Jesus goes on to say (Luke 10.6): ‘And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.’ Jesus describes peace as a unifying facet of our lives. It is as if we each have a portion of peace that we can offer. But this peace can never just hang about in the air. It is either received – and thus enriches the heart of the recipient – or it bounces back to the one who is offering it. God’s Spirit works to enhance the relationship between the one who offers and the one who accepts.

If you ever have been in a situation of offering to shake a person’s hand and been rejected, you will know that it is an unpleasant and awkward situation to be in. However, in the end you will be at peace with yourself because you stretched out the hand of friendship. You did the right thing even though that which you offered has bounced back, as it were, into your stock.

Back to sneezing… It is thought that the practice dates back to a time when people believed that a sneeze somehow loosened your soul from the rest of you. It might even have escaped along with the ‘atchoo’. But, by saying ‘bless you’, the soul was restored to its rightful place and the devil was prevented from snatching it away. It’s doubtful that many people would believe that explanation today, whether they believe in God or not, but the idea of blessing someone in response to something physical is interesting. It demonstrates that a blessing is an act of love; it reveals a desire for the other person to be protected, and it is motivated by a hope that they will remain whole. May God bless you.

Song : Be still, for the presence of the Lord [Be still for the presence of the Lord - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U)

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.

Words: David J Evans

## ****We pray for others****

## Loving God, you call us to bear one another’s burdens, so we seek your discernment in aiding those struggling to stand beneath the ravages of physical and mental ill health. **Peace and mercy be upon them.** Help us to speak up for the marginalised and the vulnerable burdened by the ever growing onslaught of social media. **Peace and mercy be upon them.** Help us to get alongside and bring comfort to those fighting their way through the dark forest of grief. **Peace and mercy be upon them.** Lord, with an ever growing population there is great need of you in the world today. We pray for all those in the field of mission, at home and abroad, particularly for those just stepping out on their journey. **Peace and mercy be upon them.** May your blessings be poured out to all in need as we journey in step with your Holy Spirit. ****Amen.****

## ****Song**** [Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxxVhv5RkvQ)

## Go in peace, go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

## Go out into your world and do not be afraid.

## Be witnesses to me in what you say and do.

## You are never on your own, your God will be with you.

## Go in peace, go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

## In darkness bring my light, in sorrow bring my hope.

## My people seem so lost; they know not what they do.

## You are never on your own, your God will be with you.

## Go in peace, go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

## And judge not those you see who struggle to believe.

## It’s I who speak through you, no matter what you do.

## You are never on your own, your God will be with you.

## © Leo Watt 2015

## A sending out prayer

## Glorious God, you shine your light into the dark places of our lives and of our world. Gentle God, you touch us with your healing love and make us whole. We ask you to be with us and shine through us this week, and use us to bring hope and healing to others. ****Amen.****

## ****Go with God 24/7****

We demonstrate God’s peace and blessing when we graciously give to and receive from others. Invite people to discuss ideas and share opportunities they could have to give or receive from other people this week. Might there be opportunities to talk to someone specifically about God’s blessing(s)? Or to do something that would be a blessing to someone?



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