



The **Methodist** Church

**Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit**

Home Worship Sheet – 19<sup>th</sup> April

This short act of worship has been prepared and written  
for you by Mrs Jenny Thomas.

Welcome to worship.

This second Sunday of Easter we come, a Church without walls,  
alive in Christ Jesus. All praise and honour, glory and power be  
given to You this day.

**Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing**

To listen to this hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab  
after the hymn.

- 1        **Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!  
The heavens are not too high,  
his praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
his praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!**
  
- 2        **Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!  
The Church with psalms must shout,  
no door can keep them out;  
but above all, the heart  
must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King!**

George Herbert (1593–1633)

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## Prayer

Holy God, when testing times threaten to isolate and overwhelm us, we, like Thomas, cry for proof of the living Christ.

So, faithful one, strengthen our resolve, dispel all pessimism, show us afresh your hands and side, that we may fully comprehend the depth of your uncompromising love.

May we know new life in Christ, not through any virtue of our own, but in your renewing power.

By meeting you, and knowing you let our doubt and fear be overcome, so we may be transformed into your likeness, knowing your Peace that passes understanding.

Amen.

Taken from URC Prayer Handbook 2005

## Psalm 16

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; I have said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord, all my good depends on you.'

2 **All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble in heart.**

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

4 **The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; in your hands alone is my fortune.**

5 My share has fallen in a fair land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

6 **I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, and in the night watches he instructs my heart.**

7 I have set the Lord always before me; he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

8 **Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my flesh also shall rest secure.**

9 For you will not abandon my soul to death, nor suffer your faithful one to see the pit.

10 **You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

From Common Worship

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## John 20:19-31

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway, in a new tab press **Shift** and **Ctrl** together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'

But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'



Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## Reflection - My Lord and My God

Thomas the Puzzled, did not always understanding what Jesus meant. "I am going to prepare a place for you," Jesus said. Thomas asked, "where might that be Lord?"

Thomas the Courageous, was a disciple who was prepared to travel with Jesus to visit Lazarus, even though he knew that the temple authorities would arrest Jesus if they could.

Honest Thomas could not accept the report that Jesus was alive, honestly speaking up before the group of shocked disciples, "well unless I see for myself I cannot believe" he said.

Thomas overwhelmed, it would have been easier to die for Christ than be without him. When the Risen Christ Jesus comes to him, showing him the scars of crucifixion, Thomas says the words of affirmation of the Risen Christ in worship and praise, "My Lord and My God."

We owe our thanks to Thomas' witness of his life as a follower of Jesus. He has been given a bad press, remembered as doubting, yet the other disciples did not believe the witness of the women who were first at the tomb, thinking they were overcome by grief. They had to be convinced by Jesus appearing to them as they met together in fear of arrest and death. Knowing how difficult it is to believe the unbelievable I suspect the other disciples were relieved that Jesus came again a second time to that gathering of the faithful.

We owe our thanks to Thomas for wanting to know for himself, for it is only as we meet the risen Christ that we can echo his words, overwhelmed that Christ loves us.

We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, not because of the witness of the disciples but because the Risen Christ encounters you and I in a living way, opening a relationship between God and ourselves. Now we know that it is so, we have proved it for ourselves, Jesus is alive. We are Blessed by God, we believe because into our day Jesus comes and says, "Hello, My Peace be with you," and as we read in Paul's letter to the Romans there is nothing that can separate us from that Love.

I find it hard to believe what is happening around the world in these days of Covid19. If someone had told us at Christmas that we would be living in isolation by March I would not have taken them seriously. Yet here we are. The experience of the disciples on the first Day of Resurrection and what we are currently experiencing is similar, waiting in hope and fear, wondering what the future will be like, so much we took for granted now distanced. What next!

We can move from a place of fear to an experience of Hope for God is with us. As we listen to the news of the rising number of dead and those who grieve, God is with us, as we hear reports of sacrificial living of those on the front line, volunteers who work tirelessly and many who are using this time in worship, prayer and in the service of others, the Living Christ is with us. Alleluia.

## **A Poem of Reflection**

### **God of my faith, I offer you my doubt** Colin Ferguson (b. 1937)

To listen to the tune set for this poem whilst reading it (Anima Christi – Maher) press **Shift** and **Ctrl** together and click [here](#). There is a 45 second introduction, close the tab after the hymn.

**God of my faith, I offer you my doubt,  
for life at times seems far too dark for me,  
and my belief becomes more insecure,  
when worldly cares produce uncertainty.**

**God of my hope, I offer you my fear,  
when I am scared by my anxiety,  
when all I hear is suffering and woe,  
in all my shadows you will walk with me.**

**God of my joy, I offer you my grief,  
when I sink down in sadness or despair,  
when in depression I cannot be touched,  
I pray in all my depths to find you there.**

**God of my love, I offer you my pain,  
when I'm alone and feel nobody cares,  
in aching age or in rejected youth,  
you bear my cross and dry my human tears.**

**God of my life, I offer you my dreams,  
light in the darkness where I hide from view,  
light in my faith, my hope, my joy and love,  
light in my life and all my life in you.**

## **Prayers for the world**

**I'm staying home Lord, and I take this responsibility for the good of all, grateful that You are with me, remembering those who have no home, whose home is not a place of safety.**

**I'm staying home Lord, grateful for each connection with others, the wave from the window, the phone call, united in cheering the work of the NHS, postal workers, bin men, shop workers and those who keep maintaining the amenities I continue to enjoy.**

**I'm staying home Lord, help me resist the temptation to be apathetic or despairing, lighten my mood by the power of your Holy Spirit that speaks of life and hope, and joy.**

**I'm staying home, Lord, listening to the struggles of others, on the news, on the phone, turning to your word for consolation, turning to you in prayer for others exhausted with caring, burdened by grief. Naming them before you now in this time you have given me.**

**I'm staying home, remembering in the cycle of prayer for today the church in Singapore and Malaysia, and the witness of Christians in the Manchester and Stockport District**

**I'm staying home Lord, whether in joy or lament you are my guiding hand, in the darkness of the night I wait for your light to dawn to sing of your Grace, for in the darkness you are both Refuge and Comforter.**

**I'm staying home, never alone for you are here. I welcome you as guest and host, I am open to your Love and Life.**

**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.***

*The Risen Lord Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday, today and for ever. He invites us to live with him and for him. In the words of our last hymn we are reminded that his presence and his power are a reality wherever we are and whatever our situation. Let's join together to sing of our love of the Living Lord.*

### **Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us**

To listen to this hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the hymn.

- 1**      **Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
you are one with us,  
Mary's Son;  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in;  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
living Lord.**
  
- 2**      **Lord Jesus Christ,  
now and every day,  
teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this, in remembrance, Lord, of you;  
into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.**

**3 Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
born as one of us,  
Mary's Son;  
led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free;  
living Lord Jesus, help us see  
you are Lord.**

**4 Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
live my life for you,  
Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true;  
your many gifts will make me new;  
into my life your power breaks through,  
living Lord.**

Patrick Appleford (b. 1925)

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## **The Blessing**

**May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.  
May his love dwell in you throughout every day.  
May his countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May His Spirit be upon you in your place.  
Amen.**

German  
translated by Maria Ling  
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