

## Whitley Methodist Church 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Welcome to worship this morning. You are joining with others who are following this service in their own homes too. We are the church gathered but not together. We are joining with the whole company of heaven and the church militant on earth. We meet in God's presence, held by his redeeming grace. Please ensure you have a hymn book with you. Feel free to sing the hymns or simply read these great words of our faith. You may want to read the words out loud or recite them in your head.

### Prayer

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we meet in your holy name to worship you the creator, saviour and sustainer of the whole world. We ask that you come close to us this morning. In your presence may we know ourselves as part of your family.

### Hymn 13 Praise my soul the king of heaven

### Prayer

Praise to you, Lord our God – King of Creation;  
Maker and minder of all we know: the very heart of all being.

We praise you.

Your glory is seen in majestic grandeur,  
in intricate miniature,  
in beauty and truth,  
in love, in laughter,  
in tears, in joy.

Praise to you, Lord our God – come amongst us.  
Redeemer of the world: healing brokenness,  
speaking truth,  
showing love,  
giving self on the Cross in Christ.

Praise to you, Lord our God,  
coming now,  
giving life,  
breathing hope,  
lighting minds,

lifting hearts,  
falling fresh on all who call.  
Praise to you, Lord our God. Amen.  
(‘The Word in the World’ Donald Hilton)

Lord’s Prayer – on the inside back cover of the hymn book

Pause/Reflection – what can you see through your window that warms your heart? Look at whatever it is and enjoy.

Hymn 333 For the beauty of the earth

Readings - Psalm 34 read it slowly maybe twice. What stands out for you?  
Why do you think those words/word stood out?  
John 19 v 25 – 27

Hymn 471 For your holy book we thank you

Reflection/Question

Today is Mothering Sunday. This is the reason for the particular Gospel reading. In the present climate the focus is on Mothers’ Day. Years ago the focus was on the Church as our mother. Consider when has the Church acted like a mother to you? Give thanks for those times.

An early church father, Cyprian, who died in 258 CE said

“No one can have God for his Father, who does not have the Church for his mother.”

What do you think of that quote?

Hymn 16 Praise to the Lord (notice verse 3)

Prayers

You might prefer to spend this time quietly praying your own prayers. You might consider praying around motherhood. Alternatively, you might use the following:

Gracious God, you love the world so much that you gave all you are to save it. Please hear our prayer for your world. Where there is fear conquer it with your perfect love. Where difficult decisions need to be made guide those making

them. Where there is war and conflict strengthen the arm of those seeking to bring justice and peace.

Silence

Gracious God, we come to pray for this nation. Our prayer, loving God, is that the present crisis will result in us being more caring and tolerant. Our prayer is that we will learn your art of caring and sharing so that all may benefit from the resources you have given. Give us a commitment to love our neighbour in practical ways.

Silence

Gracious God, we pray for your church. May we model the life of community you long for all to embrace. Forgive the times when we fall short – insensitive words, thoughtless actions, selfish decisions. (Pause)

Guide your church, Lord, in your ways.

Silence

Gracious God, we pray for those who need our prayers today .....

We thank you that you are present in each of the situations for which we have prayed.

Gracious and loving God, we offer these prayers in faith and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Hymn 704 O Jesus, I have promised

Grace (say these words to those who are sharing this worship & hear them saying the words to you)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen