

Worship for Sunday 22nd March 2020

Edward Pender has created for us an act of worship for Mothering Sunday. You may use this at any time, but if possible, please try to use this resource at one of our regular worship times (10.30am or 6.30pm) as a way of gathering our church together in praise and prayer – gathered at the same time, when we are unable to be in the same place.

Edward writes:

The following is laid out like an order of service we might use on any Sunday, but that is its only similarity. This is offered to (with the Holy Spirit's influence) give you a way of private devotion, but knowing the same order will be offered to any and all those who link in. You may do with it what suits you.... spend what time you are able to give... take only a part which applies to you at the moment.... add to it what you think it lacks.....thank God for any new insights you bring to share with others. The aim is to keep in touch, and allow God to be part of our situation, whatever that may be at this unprecedented time. If you want to contact me for a chat or enlarge the I SEE theme, get in touch.

God Bless all our efforts in his name.

Edward.

HYMN

We begin with a hymn that reminds us of God's bounty.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion. 2
Corinthians 9:11

[With gladness we worship](#)

PRAYERS

Let us pray;

Let God lead your thoughts as you think about His greatness

His Grace and love and offer of forgiveness.

Think about something he has brought into your life in these troubled times.

We say the prayer that Jesus taught us:

OUR FATHER who is 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen

TIME TO REFLECT

We remember the children of the uniformed groups/Junior Church, who would have joined us for Mothering Sunday.

Imagine you are creating a mini-video; an interview with those around you, or those you contact by phone or other ways. Ask these questions:

“Why do you love your mum?” “Who else acts as a parent to you?”

Quite often you and I are led into a loving family relationship because another person has shown their caring and loving to us.

The Bible reminds us that we love God because He first loved us.

PRAY

for all who are part of your family circle in all its uniqueness and thank God for them.

HYMN

A hymn that reminds us of our great God. Three in one.

[Father, we love you, we worship and adore you](#)

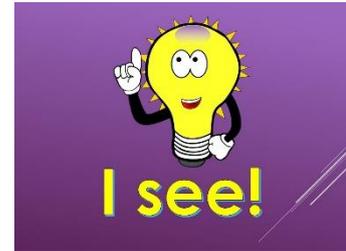
READING

John 9 v 1-41 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+9&version=NIVUK>

TIME TO REFLECT

It's a long reading! Take time to ponder these questions:

John 9 verses 1-12 We see Jesus using spittle and earth to make clay and sending the blind man to the pool to wash his eyes. What would you have thought if it was you that Jesus healed?



John 9 verses 18 – 23 The Pharisees call the man's parents. They seem to be trying to keep out of trouble. Would you and I have stepped back and said "No, no we don't want to be drawn into trouble with the law!" Would we have courage to be a witness to Christ's miracle?

John 9 verses 13 – 17, 25-27 & 30 Perhaps our reaction is one of growing realisation of who Jesus is? The man in the story answers all the questions and reminds us that, to him, Jesus was a man, a prophet and the Lord. Did the man go on to become one of those who spread the Good News after Pentecost?

The writer of the Gospel of John uses miracles to point to Jesus; the same Jesus who says "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD". Have you ever had a "lightbulb moment?" "I SEEEE... Oh YES, I hadn't seen it quite like that before!" Nothing to do with eyesight but everything to do with expanding our thought, experience and understanding of life. When was the last time you said "I SEEEEE!?"

HYMN

We remind ourselves that the eternal God is older than the world and younger than the life in each of us. A song to sing when we are wondering what "one more step" might mean.

[One more step along the world I go... from the old things to the new](#)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

There is no shortage of subjects and people to pray for in these difficult days. I am sure when we focus our minds God helps us to pray, even if it's only a groan, or a WHY? Let's spend some time in honest conversation with God.

FINAL BLESSING

One of Andrew Pratt's hymns starts with this verse:

*Best of all is God is with us,
God will hold and never fail.
Keep that truth when storms are raging,
God remains though faith is frail.*

After a long, adventurous and sometimes challenging life, the words of the first line are reputed to be John Wesley's final words.

And so, may God bless all we do. May we be strengthened in faith that we may be able to say together,

BEST OF ALL IS GOD IS WITH US! Amen and Amen!

