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## EASTER 5A

7th May 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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**Hymn:**

471 STF – Lord I come to you - [YouTube](#)

**Opening Prayers**

Today, the Methodist Church marks as ‘Vocations Sunday’ and the lectionary reading this year invites us to consider that our vocations do not happen in isolation, but as part of work that God has done and is doing in the rest of our lives, our families and communities.

Let us pray.

Praise be to the Lord,  
for he showed us the wonders of his love.

Our God is the creator.  
Our God is the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.  
Our God is merciful.  
We worship and adore Him.

Praise be to the Lord,  
for he showed us the wonders of his love

We praise you for your work demonstrated throughout creation.  
We praise you for the life of the Son, Jesus Christ for his demonstration of your love in word and action.

We praise you that through Jesus’ death and resurrection we are forgiven and invited to new life,

Praise be to the Lord,  
for he showed us the wonders of his love.

We thank you for your Spirit living with us.

We thank you for the prompting of that still small voice in our lives, our churches and communities.

We thank you for continuing your work through us.  
Praise be to the Lord, for he showed us the wonders of his love  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit we praise your holy name

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

**You may now wish to say the Lord’s prayer in a version or translation with which you are most familiar**

**Reading:** John 14:1-14 – [Click for reading](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Opening prayers provided by Alison Ransome – Connexional Adviser for Vocations for the Methodist Church

## Response to the reading

The people of God are called to continue the work started by God that flourished in Christ. "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12

What in the life of my community is happening because of the people who still are part of a church community, or were part of the church in the past?

Jesus, in the passage we read from John's gospel, was comforting his disciples. These were ordinary people who had witnessed extraordinary acts of God.

Consider what you are doing to continue the work of God? Are you being nudged in a new direction?

Jesus was making known God's presence, God's greatness and mercy, God's grace and glory, God's persistent love on this earth. Jesus talks about the Son making known the Father's glory.

How is God's presence 'made known' to you? Do you make space to listen to what God might be saying to you today? Can you make more space, or help others make a space like this?

## Hymn:

706 STF – Longing for light, we wait in darkness - [YouTube](#)

What about you? Spend some time in quiet prayer, perhaps writing out some thoughts, doodling on a bit of paper, or admiring the view, and reflecting on what God might be inviting you to do this week, this month, the rest of this year, and beyond. What is yours to do?

## Blessing

God who calls me, equip me.

God who invites me, show me.

God who loves me, teach me to love you too.

God who seeks justice and peace, help me to be an agent of both.

May I come to see that all I do in your name, is part of the continuance of the work that you, loving God have done and continue to do for me, and for the whole world.

Amen.

## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week**

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

- Today is an extra bank holiday to celebrate the coronation of the new King of England. Use today as a day to pray for our leaders, in all forms – elected or otherwise.
- May they use their positions of power for justice, to care for those most in need, and not for their own ends.

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

- Find a ribbon or a piece of string. Tie a knot in it, and think of a person you know who needs prayer.

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

- Consider how God is love, and where there is love, there is God. Leave a note, or send a text message, to tell somebody you love them or you're grateful for them.
- Pray for them as you write.

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

- Think about the fruits of the spirit. Pick one of them that you don't feel you are very good at, or that needs some intentional work. Spend some time praying about this, and then practice it for a whole day in all you do.

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

- Pour a glass of water. Think about the things you do that get in the way of your relationship with God. You might think it muddies the water of your life, but God forgives us for all these things, and offers us living water.
- Drink some of the water and give thanks for the way God reaches out to you with love and forgiveness.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

- Light a candle. Jesus is the light of the world. Pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus light might shine there.