

# Order of Service – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough, why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you?

## Opening Prayer:

*As we come to worship, you might like to have a time of silence and light a candle.*

*Then pray:* Holy and Loving God I come to worship you; as I do, I remember that I am a part of your church in my community and in the world, and I take comfort from the fact that I'm not alone.

Come by your Holy Spirit and help me to worship you in spirit and in truth.  
Amen.

## Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

## Let us pray together:

Holy and Loving God, all life comes from you, and in you all things hold together.

As we remember this, we pause to give you thanks and praise.

As we remember this, we are reminded that you hold the end from the beginning, and that nothing is too large or too small for you.

As we remember this, remind us that as all things are held, so we are held by you, in love.

Help us in our anxious thoughts.

Help us in our day-to-day lives.

Help us in this time of deep uncertainty.

We acknowledge that at times we are selfish, at times we do not seek you first.

But we know that you are always faithful, merciful, gracious, and forgiving.

*(Silence)*

We receive your mercy and forgiveness, faithfulness and grace.

In the name of Christ. Amen

## A Reading from the Old Testament:

**Ezekiel 37: 1-14**

## Today's Gospel Reading:

**John 11: 1-45**

## Time to Reflect:

*Today's readings are full of hope, reminding us that the resurrection is real, and new life is possible.*

*Take time to read the gospel passage slowly and prayerfully again.*

*Is there a word or a passage that stands out to you?*

*Pause to spend time with that word/  
passage.*

*What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?*

*If Jesus were stood before you what would  
you like to ask him?*

*Take a moment to sit quietly.*

**A time of prayer:**

Holy and Loving God, we pray for your world, for the leaders who are making difficult decisions as every day brings new changes and challenges.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation, that decisions might be made with wisdom and care for the benefit of all.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer.

We pray for our town/city/village, for all who live here that your peace might reign and that your perfect love might settle our fears.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer.

We pray for frontline workers, doctors, nurses, carers, shop workers, refuse collectors, postal workers.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer.

We pray for our loved ones, those we know who may be ill, those who are struggling, those who are confused and conflicted... *(you might like to name names here).*

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer.

And finally, we pray for ourselves: you know what is on our hearts and minds, and so we offer that to you *(you might like to name your own prayers & concerns).*

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer.  
Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, ...**

**Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus**

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

May you know the deep peace of the  
God who knows and perfectly loves you.

May you take the yoke of Jesus upon  
you, knowing that he bears your load  
with you.

May you know the indwelling Spirit  
bringing you wisdom and peace.

Amen

Adapted by the Lisburn & Dromore Methodist Circuit from materials prepared by the Methodist Church in Britain. Original contributions by Rev. Sally Coleman.