

Pause

Sunday 27 December 2020

Before You Begin

Our hope is that this is a resource that will help us to engage meaningfully with God's word and invite us into a sense of worship, despite being unable to meet face-to-face. Use it in a way that feels comfortable and helpful to you.

A table of contents has been added to give you a sense of what will follow and allow you to move more easily through the worship elements.

Prepare

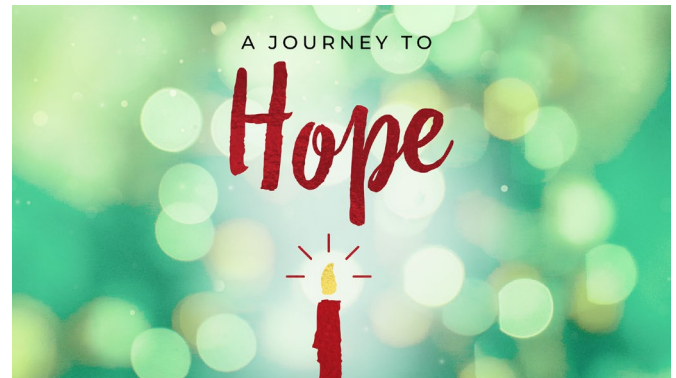
Have your Bible close by and some food and drink prepared for communion. It doesn't have to be bread and grape juice; it could be whatever is available (tea and a biscuit) to use in this symbolic time.

Get into a 'Sacred' Space

Be intentional. Sit somewhere. Have some visual representation of God (perhaps a small cross, your Bible, a symbol or image) or you might play some reflective music. Start with a few moments of silence and deep breathing.

Consider your environment

What will work for you in the space you have? If you have others in your house (housemates/family), consider sharing this time with them, each reading or participating as appropriate. You might simply reflect individually, in your own time and space. Afterwards, you might connect with others through technology to share your reflections, or an encouragement, with them.



What's Inside

On a computer, you can click these links

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Call to Worship

Penny Martin

Hi everyone and welcome to worship today. As we stand on the cusp of a new year, after a pretty crazy year, I actually thought it would be good just to do something pretty simple and inspirational today: I thought I might read you a story. It's a story I bought for Noah, called *Songs for Our Sons*. I don't want you to think today that if you're not a son then it's not going to apply to you because it could just as easily be called 'Songs for our Daughters' or 'Songs for Everybody'. It is a beautiful reflection on just what it means to be exactly who we are meant to be and be inspired to be all that we can be, as we each step into the future. What better way to start our journey into the new year! So, sit back and enjoy this story.

Story: *Songs for Our Sons* by Ruth Doyle

Born on this star-scattered night, kissed by the Cosmos – a child made of moonbeams. In your newborn cry, songs of peace long for release. So unfurl your fragile fists, little one.

The world holds its breath at the wonders you bring – all coiled-up potential, like a seedling in spring. So dance up your dreams sing out your spirit-song, and let the light that's inside you guide you along.

Never change, fib or follow, just to try to fit in. Be proud, free, and happy in your own unique skin.

Be a sequined sparkler, a dynamic dazzler, a kaleidoscopic colour-catcher. Or a rain-bouncing, puddle-pouncing, soil-squelching, mud sculptor!

Honour your huge heart – your feelings are real. And pain is a big deal, that crying can heal. If anger invades you, breath out long and slow. And let in the joy, as the bad feelings go.

Your true power and value can't be measured by size. So don't judge or be judged by what's seen with the eyes.

Be a nature-explorer, a wonder-discoverer. See the shapes inside snowflakes, the path that the hare takes. Hear the rhythms the rain makes; birds singing as day breaks.

Keep a still place inside, that you can call home. And know how to find it, wherever you roam.

Weave wise words as weapons, be a barrier-breaking rapper. A champion of change, a fearless truth writer. A tender defender and non-violent fighter.

Knowing that we're all the same inside, rejoice in the differences you'll find. Be universally kind, and stand hand-in-hand with the whole human nation. In chain-breaking, life-changing, mutual ovation.

So get ready for life, planet earth has been waiting. For the gift that is you, and the hope you're creating. Sing the song of your heart, be an enlightened wrong-righter. And help build a world so much gentler and brighter.

Written by Ruth Doyle
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What the Lord Has Done in Me

Let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Let the blind say I can see
It's what the Lord has done in me

Hosanna Hosanna
To the Lamb that was slain
Hosanna Hosanna
Jesus died and rose again

Into the river I will wade
There my sins are washed away
From the heaven's mercy stream
Of the Saviour's love for me

Hosanna Hosanna
To the Lamb that was slain
Hosanna Hosanna
Jesus died and rose again

I will rise from waters deep
Into the saving arms of God
I will sing salvation songs
Jesus Christ has set me free

Hosanna Hosanna
To the Lamb that was slain
Hosanna Hosanna
Jesus died and rose again

CCLI Song # 2582803
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Communion

Have some food and drink prepared for this time

If you're able, join us at 11am Sunday through Zoom to share in communion together at rngwd.com/communion or via Facebook live rngwd.com/fbv.

If you are unable to join us, then please use the following reflection to take communion in your own way today and after, consider who you can call to have a chat as you would on a Sunday morning after a church service.

Welcome to this time of Communion. Today our theme is Pause.

Max Moody

I've been thinking of a man, probably resting at home, when three men appeared at his door, they had come, it seems, to ask a favour, they advised him that they had come from The Teacher, whereupon he recognised them and consented to their request.

See, Jesus had decided that his time had come, that this day was to be the start of his journey to the cross. So sitting with his men probably on that hill amongst the olive trees, he asked Peter and John to go to the city and meet a man with a water jar and follow him to a house.

The men had asked the owner if The Teacher could use his upstairs room that evening in order to remember the Passover.

I am intrigued as I ask, 'who was this homeowner?' He obviously knew who the teacher was. I suspect he was one of Jesus' followers. Was it perhaps Zacchaeus? That wayward tax collector. Or Bartimaeus? Who once was blind. Or someone else who had had their life changed by Jesus? I prefer to think he was such a person.

As the disciples met with Jesus at his table that evening I wonder if the curious owner might have climbed the outside stair to listen at the door wishing he could be part of the celebration.

As we come to Jesus' table this morning is it possible that there are any amongst us, some who may feel that they are effectively outside the door feeling that they are not quite free to sit at his table, perhaps carrying a burden, perhaps lacking that initial enthusiasm they once had, perhaps simply unsure or feeling distant all of which may be forming a barrier.

Jesus doesn't have an A and B list of invitees, we are welcome as we are to come to his table and receive his blessing today and any time.

I have a mind picture of Jesus standing at the foot of the cross, arms outstretched in welcome, saying come meet me here, any or all who are carrying a load or are weary of life, leave it here with me and go on your way this week enveloped in my peace.

Isaac Watts writes, "At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight."

Fanny Crosby, another well respected hymn writer, says, “Jesus keep me near the cross, near the cross a trembling soul love and mercy found me, help me walk from day to day, with its shadow o’er me.”

As you take your emblems of remembrance I trust that some of these words will become yours. We invite you to eat and drink in remembrance of Him.

January Update

Brendan Petty

We will continue to be quite a scattered community throughout Summer and so we will be providing ways for you to worship that might be accessible for you. We’ll be producing pre-recorded worship videos, paper church, communion reflections and also opening the chapel for the worship video, communion, tea & coffee and the chance to chat with others. Communion will be served in the chapel in sealed, single-serve cups to minimise handling as we re-engage with this practise together. The chapel will be again open from Sunday 3 January.

Connect cards online

Click this link or enter it into your web browser rngwd.com/connect.

We love to know that you have been able to connect through worship today. Please click on the link (or enter it into your web browser) to our online connect cards letting us know which ways you have been able to worship, and if you want to let us know how we can praying with you.

Thank you!