



Welcome to written worship for the second week of Bible Month

This week, as we read our second portion of Mark's gospel, you will need a pen or pencil, and some paper or a notebook. You might like to find these as we prepare ourselves for worship...then find a comfortable, still place and pause; recognising God's presence with us...

Hymn: With gladness we worship, rejoice as we sing StF 17, H&P 19 or Now in reverence and awe MP 902

And so we **pray**...¹

Eternal God,
we adore you for your incredible, life-changing love.
A woman in the crowd is called daughter.
Parents are given back their beloved child.
You care enough to heal those considered unclean.
You care enough to ensure a fragile child is fed.
You are mighty in power and yet so gentle.
God our creator, our redeemer and our comforter,
we adore you, and we raise our hands in praise
singing, **Alleluia, Amen.**

We make our confession...

God of the streets and crowds of the world,
we come to you in sorrow and shame
for the times we have allowed prejudice to distance us from those you would draw close to.
We bring to you the times when we have been too proud to ask for help and too distracted to help others.
We acknowledge the times we have been quick to judge those we don't easily identify with, and ignored those whose plight we have not taken to heart.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

And we hear assurance of forgiveness...

Lord Jesus,
you restored the woman with haemorrhages to her community and the stricken child to her parents.
We thank you for restoring our relationship with you and one another through your forgiveness and grace.
As we step out in thankfulness,
may we also reach out across barriers
to give and receive, to restore and to heal,
in your name. **Amen.**

“First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
And I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
All in the love light of Jesus’ face.”

Each week during June we suggest a slightly different way of approaching the passage of scripture, hoping that this will both enrich our worship and maybe also offer us new ways of reading going forward.

This week we invite you to use an ‘active reading’ approach which some (for reasons which are lost in the mists of time) call the ‘Swedish Method’. This invites us to use symbols to prompt us to notice things which catch our attention in the text. As you read, you are invited to jot down verses, words or ideas, together with one of the following symbols, or other symbols you might like to add...



Lightbulb - Something that ‘shines’ from the passage as you read



A question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question we would like to ask the writer of the passage or of God



A bell: That rings a bell! It reminds me of a situation I recognise...



An arrow: Something I might do next in response to what I’ve read



A link: Connections we see between part of the bible and another

Read: Mark 4:1-8:21

Once you have read your passage for this week, you may find that there are further reflections you want to capture – in words, doodles, drawings or other creative ways. Take some time to do that now, if it’s helpful to you.

Each week we are pointed towards a theme which emerges from the set passage, and we will offer a **reflection** based on that theme². This week that theme is *Mission and Boundaries*

What action
What drama
Such fast moving pace

What journeys
What healings
All over the place!

What movement
Excitement
Incredible scenes

What wonders
What teaching
The making of dreams!

² Reflections are offered to us by Moira Hunt, prayers by Erica Hartley

The crowds by the lakeside
The man from the tomb side
The pigs from the hillside
And folk from the towns

We see they all RAN
They knew Jesus was powerful
Only in Nazareth was he 'just a man'.

This action
This drama
This fast-moving pace

These journeys
These healings
All over the place

Were tiring
Exhausting
Relentless each day

For strength
Jesus went out alone to pray and prepare for:

The stilling of raging, wild frightening seas
The feeding of hungry crowds, some with disease
The glad restoration of many in need
The careful instruction for disciples to heed.

The sending of followers to share the Good News
Of the Kingdom, long awaited, but not understood.
The rejection by some folk, who should hold him dear
And the wrath of the pharisees, growing with fear.

In the midst of this action, we see Jesus sleep
From the crowd he withdraws his disciples to teach
He takes time to listen, to care and to pray
All this we see in Mark's Gospel, today!

Hymn: Come, let us sing of a wonderful love StF 443, H&P 691, MP 94

Our prayers of intercession² this month pick out verses from our long bible reading to lead us into our prayers for others.

Let us **pray**:

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. Mark 4:26-27

² Reflections are offered to us by Moira Hunt, prayers by Erica Hartley

Lord, we ask for your peace to spread through all of your creation in all its complexity. We pray for a change in people's actions and priorities so that climate change made be calmed, floods and drought can be lessened and scarce resources can be shared by all.

*for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.
Mark 6:20*

Lord, we ask for your peace to be with those in leadership, who hear your gospel but don't yet understand it. We pray that you will bring knowledge and wisdom to all those who have authority over us that they will have the courage to change so that everyone can live in just and fair societies.

He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. Mark 6:31

Lord, we ask for your peace for those who are tired, tired from work during the pandemic, tired because they are working so hard to feed and clothe their families, they don't have time to stop. We pray that this summer will bring relaxation and rest so that they can then pick up their work again with a renewed spirit.

He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?' Mark 4:40-41

Lord, we ask for your peace for all those who are going through the storms of life today and feel lost and alone. We pray that you bring calm and stillness so that people can see you working in their situations.

and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' Mark 5:23

Lord, we ask for your peace for those who are close to death, for worried families and all those who care for them. We pray that when death comes you may be there in the midst of grief.

We ask all these prayers and the prayers in our heart through your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer, in whatever language and version comes most naturally to us.

Our Father...

Hymn: The Church of Christ, in every age StF 415, H&P 804 or How shall they hear MP 250

***The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore
Amen***