

Welcome to written worship for the third week of Bible Month



Planning ahead: This week we challenge ourselves to read our passage from Mark's gospel in a translation which is significantly different from our usual choice. If you are an internet user you may find <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/> useful – Bible Gateway allows you to search lots of different versions of the bible. If you are using a printed Bible, you may like to arrange a (Covid-secure) swap with a friend, ask to borrow a different version from your church or the resources centre, or you might have an alternative translation on your bookshelf. It may help to read out loud...

As you **prepare for worship**, find a comfortable, still place and pause; recognising God's presence with us. You may like to recall some of the people whose skill and love bring us to this place...those who have told us the story of God's love in their work as translators or story-tellers, or in their personal relationships with us. Give thanks to God for them, and for those who will share this act of worship this week. Though we may be alone, we worship within the community of God's people.

Hymn: Praise the Lord! You heavens, adore him StF 86, H&P 15, MP 920

And so we **pray**...¹

God of divine power,
what a spine-tingling, hair-raising event the disciples experienced!
One minute they were looking upon Jesus, the man.
Next, they were tuned into your glory shining in and through him
as he transformed before their eyes:
your confirmation of his deity.
God of life-changing moments, we glorify you.
Your same radiant light,
available to us through relationship with Jesus your Son,
transforms our hearts.
God of life-changing moments, we glorify you.
Your divine Holy Spirit tunes our faith in unexpected ways
through the transforming radiance of your love.
God of life-changing moments, we glorify you.
Amen.

When we find it easier to walk the way of the world and not the way of the cross,
Forgive us, Lord, and set our minds on you.

When we place self before others and seek reassurance in our own importance,
Forgive us, Lord, and set our minds on you.

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When we turn our backs on God because we fear the consequences of looking to the future,
Forgive us, Lord, and set our minds on you.

When we give up our lives for the sake of a comfortable existence,
Forgive us, Lord, and set our minds on you.

When our vision is narrowed by what we think we might achieve,
Forgive us, Lord, and set our minds on you.

When the cross is rough and heavy, and our shoulders ache and we feel unable to carry on,
Forgive us, Lord, and set our minds on you.

God of love, whose hands we see in Jesus,
we offer our hands to you and all who we touch,
that your compassion may be known through us,
bringing wholeness, healing, peace and love. **Amen.**

“Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea,
Tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee;
And how the Master, ready and kind,
Chided the billows, and hushed the wind.”

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 read the suggested passage in a translation which is different to your usual choice. If you can, you might even like to compare two translations and wonder about the differences you find.

The New Testament was originally written in the Greek of the time. It has been translated many times down the centuries. Each translator uses different tools and methods to decide which word in English (or another language) fits best for the Greek word being translated. Some prioritise accuracy, some ease of reading or accessibility; some paraphrase into the everyday language of their time and place. The Holy Spirit is at work in translation, just as in the original writing and in our reading. The more different translations we encounter, the richer our understanding of a passage may be.

Read: Mark 8:22-10:52

Once you have read the 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 *On the Way...*

And now, after all the demonstrations, remonstrations
Kingdom teaching - Peter can affirm it loud and clear
"You are the Christ," the expected, the longed-for, Messiah.
Not just a prophet, a teacher, or a seer.

Jesus then began to deepen teaching and predictions
To tell of what would happen in future days
But the disciples were not ready, they could not really grasp it!
He had to show them, on the mountain, in dazzling ways.

Twice Jesus used the children to demonstrate his teaching
Of the kingdom – the importance of the meek
Not position, recognition not power or prestige
Or a place at His side in heaven, should they seek.

There were more tricky questions, but Jesus was quite clear
That the importance of the keeping of the law
Is not just about doing right and doing good,
But it is giving and providing for the poor.

The great must be the servant. The first, the slave of all.
The message of the kingdom rings out clear
Then they moved towards Jerusalem and events that lay ahead
Jesus told them what would happen, did they hear?

As we join them on the journey, the disciples and the crowd
Those who faithfully followed Jesus all the way
The end is sight now, as Bartimaeus shouts out loud
"Son of David" – take us onward in your story, now we pray.

Hymn: The Kingdom of God, is justice and joy StF 255, H&P 139, MP 651

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**:

"I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. Mark 8:2

Lord, we ask for your compassion on all those who are hungry today through no fault of their own, because of war, famine or an unforeseen change in

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

circumstances. We pray that we will learn to share our food and take more care of your creation so that all people may have enough food to sustain them through each and every day.

Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Mark 8:25

Lord, we ask for your compassion on all those who are spiritually deaf and blind and cannot understand your love for humankind. We pray that you will rise up your church in this place, so that all may have the opportunity to hear your word and see your love in our actions.

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:36-37

Lord, we ask for your compassion on all children, those in our family, children of friends, children we pass on the street day by day and children in the wider world. We pray that all children are welcomed and valued in your church. That they may find encouragement and have the space to flourish into who you have created them to be.

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Mark 10:2

Lord, we ask for your compassion for those whose relationships are breaking down. We pray that couples will still treat each other with respect and care however complex or different things are now, so that wider family relationships are not damaged beyond repair.

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: We have a gospel to proclaim StF 418, H&P 465, MP 728

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