

## Worship and Prayer Resource for Sunday March 22

9.30am

Light a candle

As you light it, think of the light of Christ bringing peace into the world and give thanks.

Think of your sisters and brothers in Christ doing the same wherever they are and how that connects us as one people and give thanks.

Read:

1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-41

Reflect:

Refer to week 3 in the Lenten study. Available here

[https://craigmitchell.typepad.com/mountain\\_masala/2020/03/weekly-lenten-studies-reflections.html](https://craigmitchell.typepad.com/mountain_masala/2020/03/weekly-lenten-studies-reflections.html)

or request a copy.

(See further worship ideas below)

Something to think about:

“And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.”

Kitty O'Meara

Pray:

Use this opportunity to pray in silence for our Church, our community and the world.



*(If you are with others, one can read this prayer, while others can join in with the words in bold)*

Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray:

Lord, we are in interesting times -  
things are changing so quickly.

We are unsure what to do, where we can go,  
what we still hold and what we cancel.

Together: **Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

Lord, there is fear around us -  
people are afraid and anxious.

As people try to control something they can,  
and hence toilet paper is stockpiled -  
help us to be a people of peace and hope.

**Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

Lord, you are our peace, our hope,  
in all times, including troubled times.  
Help us to reach out to our families, friends,  
neighbours and work colleagues with your hope.

**Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

We pray for those infected and for those caring  
for them.

We pray for those living in fear, including children  
and elderly,  
for those isolated – now even more so,  
and for wisdom for all those making decisions.

**Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

Loving God, we pray for a cure -  
we pray for all those working on this.

We pray too for paramedics, doctors, nurses

and all those working tirelessly in our healthcare  
system.

**Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

We pray for casual workers without work,  
for all those affected financially,  
for travel agents, airline staff, sportspeople,  
those working in tourism, supermarkets, schools  
and venues,  
and for the vulnerable already struggling to make  
ends meet.

**Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

Lord, help us to be wise as a community of faith,  
to be mindful of each other and others in this.  
Help us to not forget the thousands dying every  
day

from hunger, disease, violence and war.

**Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

As a scared world needs a fearless church,  
help us to be a prophetic voice in our  
communities,  
drinking from the living water of grace and  
forgiveness.

Help us to draw together at the well,  
and to reflect your love, compassion, grace and  
peace.

**Lord, we look to you today, lead us we pray**

Amen

Rev Lynne Aird, 14/3/20

shared in the Prayers that Unite facebook group

## Offering

All that we are, and all that we have is first a gift from God. Our offering to God is from the fullness of all we have received. You may wish to consider how you can use the gifts God has given to you at this time. For some, the Coronavirus has resulted in huge amounts of work and stress, and God-given gifts may be called upon. For others, life is significantly quieter. Are there ways you want to offer your gifts to God in a new way: offering a listening ear for someone feeling lonely, helping someone navigate technology over the phone? Spend some time thinking about how we can use our resources – financial, physical, emotional and spiritual in these unusual circumstances.



## Blessing and Benediction

May God strengthen us in times of uncertainty,  
grant us peace when we are afraid,  
empower us to love, as we have first been loved,  
and grow within us eternal hope for the future.

In the name of God, the source of all life,  
Christ, the sustainer of all being,  
and the Spirit, who connects us all together.  
Amen.

The Centre for Music Liturgy and the Arts:  
“Tethered to God” from “Worship in Times of Isolation”



## Further Worship Ideas

Here are some more ways that you can connect with God's Word:

- Rev Mark Kickett was to be our guest preacher this week. Listen or download here for a past message that he gave at Burnside City Uniting Church: [https://burnsidecityuc.org.au/worship-messages-audio/?sermon\\_id=254](https://burnsidecityuc.org.au/worship-messages-audio/?sermon_id=254)
- Morialta Uniting Church is planning to offer a weekly worship service on YouTube beginning with a limited edition this Sunday. Click here for more information: <http://www.morialtauca.org.au/virtual-church/>
- Our website has past sermons available. This is in the process of being updated. Please keep checking back over the next week or so. <https://athelstonechurch.org.au/sermons-2/>
- CMLA (the Centre for Music Liturgy and the Arts) are preparing resources: <https://www.cmla.org.au/resources/worship-in-times-of-isolation/>
- LifeFM radio station 107.9 are starting a 10am Worship music and address from 2 ministers this Sunday
- "A Sermon For Every Sunday" website has produced a worship service outline to use with others at home. Click here for a link to the resource. It also includes a link to sermons to listen to: <https://mailchi.mp/asermonforeverysunday/this-weeks-sermon-1744145?e=e9aed2be77>
- Songs of Praise – a TV show with inspiring hymns and songs, together with uplifting stories of faith from around the UK and beyond is available on ABC TV and ABC iView

Thank you to all those who have contributed to these resources. We will add to this list in coming weeks. .  
Keep your ideas coming!

