

# Church Together

Never Enough Time – Time To Choose!

15th May 2022



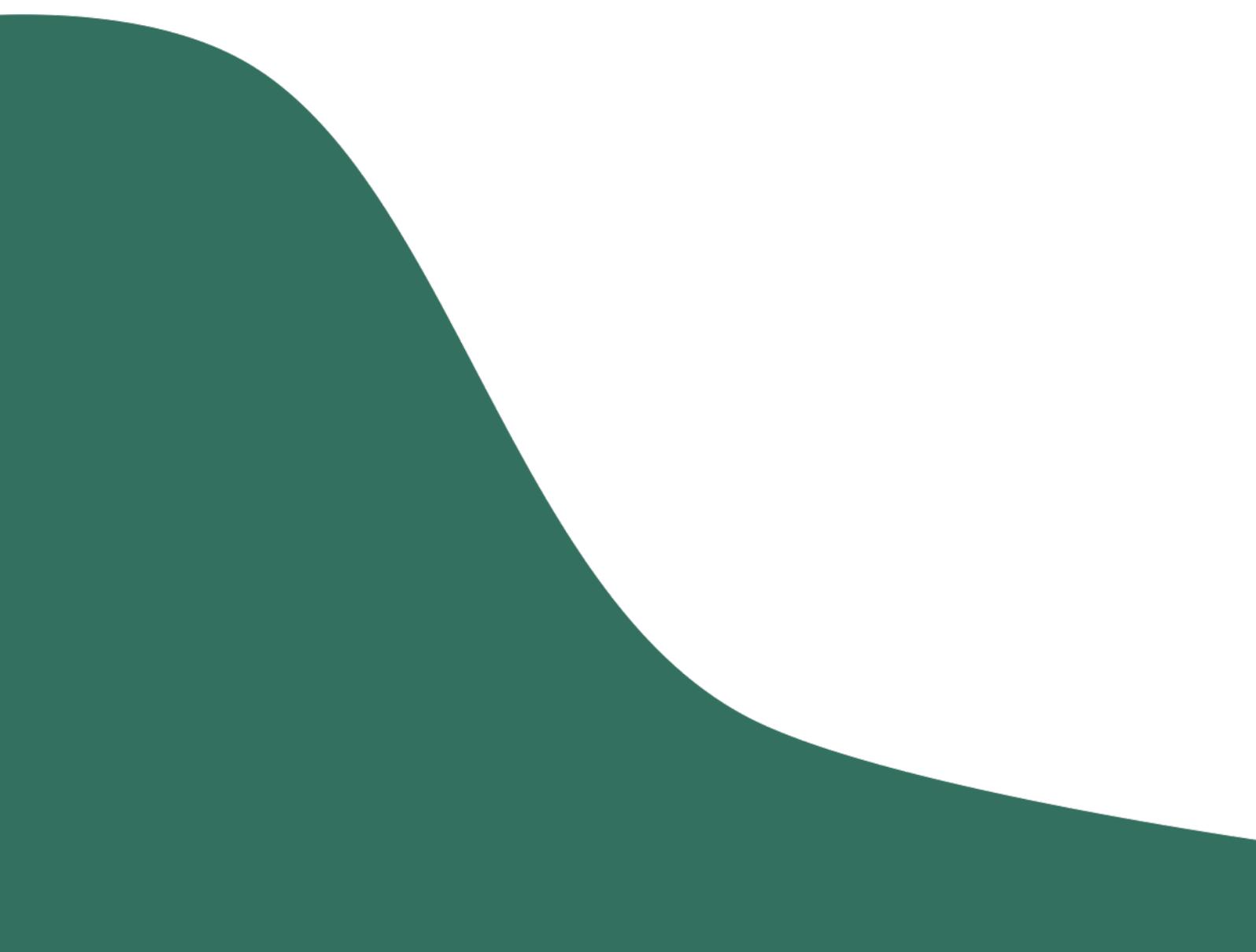
# Welcome

Welcome to **Church Together**.

**No matter wherever you are, whatever you do,  
whoever you are, together we can grow as Church  
Together.**

Today's Service for this Third Sunday in May 2022 will  
be looking at: **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 10 – 20**

The theme for today's service is: **Never Enough Time  
– Time To Choose!**



Today's service will also includes  
**Communion.** We hope that you will be  
able to engage with everything that has  
been produced for this service and that  
you would be able to **Choose The Right  
Way With God's Help And Guidance!**

# Call To Worship

## **Isaiah 40 v. 28 - 31 NLT**

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, The Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary;

His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

And strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, And the young will fall exhausted; But those

who wait for the Lord Shall renew their strength,

They shall mount up with wings Like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

# Opening Prayer

Loving Lord God, whether we have rushed or taken our time in coming to church today, help us this morning we pray to prepare ourselves to receive all that you will give us this day.

You have invited us to meet with you today; you have created space for time together that will affect all the other moments of the week. You have called us to take time to recall your great love and mercy. However Lord, our minds and thoughts might be elsewhere. We may have lists on our minds of things we want to sort out: of feelings and emotions that we want to gain and which will last us without too much effort.

Help us we pray, to spend this time together as we wonder at the scope of your love. You care for each of us as if you care for each one alone. Help us face you today, to receive what you want to give us and wonder at your eternal love.

**Amen**

# The Lord's Prayer

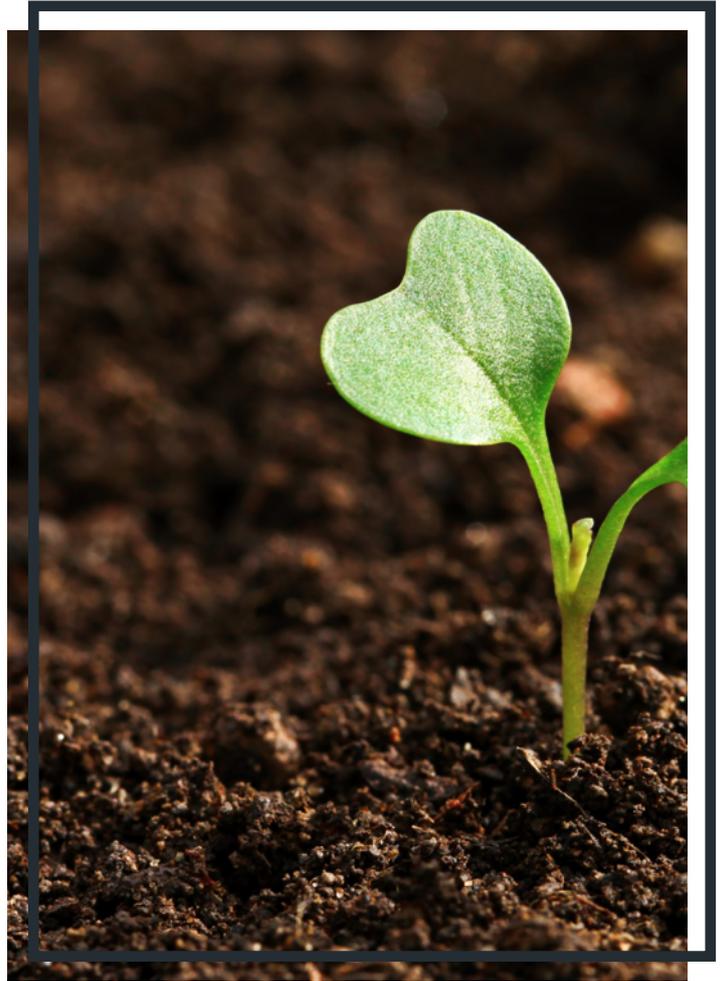
Our Father who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
And the glory, forever and ever.

**Amen**

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# Song Suggestion

Be Thou My Vision



# Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

Now that we find ourselves once again holding services in Church, we are able to give of our finances to the work of the Lord when we are in church.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



# Bible

# Reading

## **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 10 – 20 NIV**

10 Whoever loves money never has enough;  
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.  
This too is meaningless.

11 As goods increase,  
so do those who consume them.  
And what benefit are they to the owners  
except to feast their eyes on them?

12 The sleep of a labourer is sweet,  
whether they eat little or much,  
but as for the rich, their abundance  
permits them no sleep.

13 I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:  
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,

14 or wealth lost through some misfortune,  
so that when they have children  
there is nothing left for them to inherit.

15 Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,  
and as everyone comes, so they depart.  
They take nothing from their toil

that they can carry in their hands.

16 This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,  
and what do they gain,  
since they toil for the wind?

17 All their days they eat in darkness,

with great frustration, affliction and anger.

18 This is what I have observed to be good: that it is

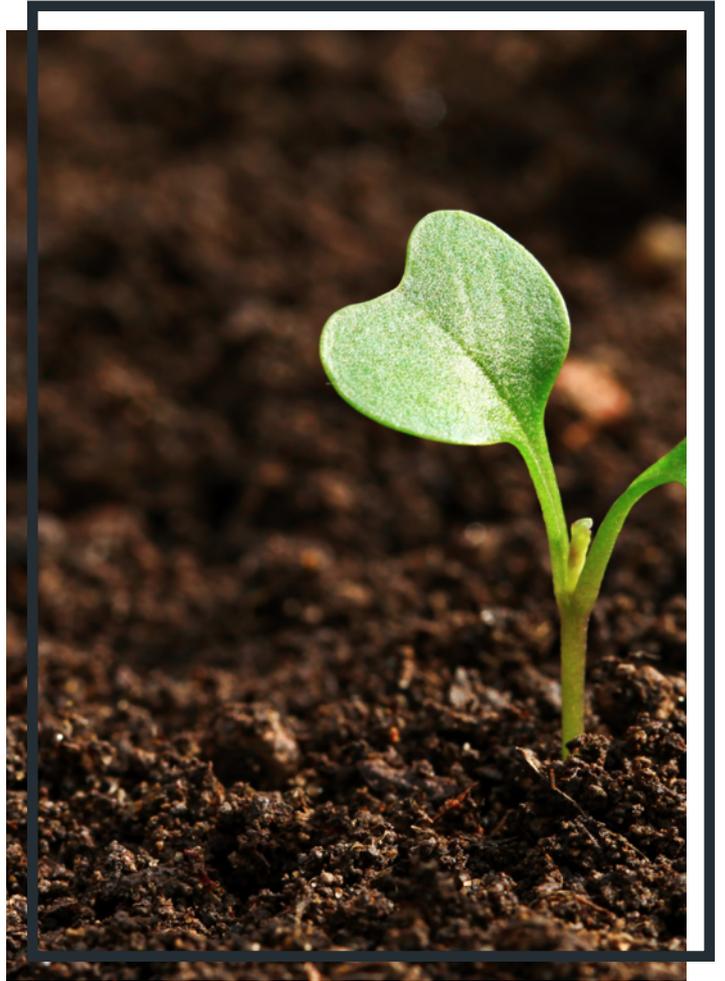
appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find  
satisfaction in their toilsome labour under the sun during  
the few days of life God has given them—for this is their

lot. 19 Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and  
possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their  
lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. 20 They  
seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God  
keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

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# Song Suggestion

Come Let us Sing Of A Wonderful  
Love



You are influenced by who and what you surround yourself with on a daily basis.

**Choose Jesus.**

# Church Together Thought

A meaningful life is more than a healthy bank balance and a 4x4 off - road vehicle! As we read **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 10 – 20** Solomon gives us some bad news and some good news regarding possessions.

## **THE BAD NEWS**

In Ecclesiastes 5 v. 10 – 17 we read: 'Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. 11 As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them? 12 The sleep of a labourer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep. 13 I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners, 14 or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when they have children there is nothing left for them to inherit. 15 Everyone comes naked

from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands. 16 This too is a grievous evil: As everyone comes, so they depart, and what do they gain, since they toil for the wind? 17 All their days they eat in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger'.

In these verses, The Teacher, that is Solomon, notes that for those who love money, enough is never enough. This is one reason why wealth is not the key to the meaning of life. Here in these verses we are given additional reasons to avoid a passionate search for wealth. Firstly, money doesn't satisfy (**Ecclesiastes 5 v. 10**). Wealth is poor food for the soul. Something else is needed to deal with that empty feeling.

Secondly, the more money we have, the more money we spend, saving nothing. Possessions have limited value we are told in **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 11**. They are either consumed or evaporate leaving us longing for more.

Thirdly, the greater our empire, the more we will worry about it as **verse 12** tells us; and then in **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 14**, we read that wealth can be lost. Through bad investment, accident or extravagance, wealth can disappear, and we are left penniless.

Fourthly, as we see in **verse 13 – 17** we can't take any of it with us when we die. Material

things are futile at death (**Ecclesiastes 5 v. 15 - 17**). So, what is the point of working hard for possessions and wealth if at the end of life, we leave it behind?

God never intended for us to live for our possessions. We need to make our relationships with God and others the primary concerns in our lives.

### **ILLUSTRATION**

Sir James Picton, the founder of the Picton Library in Liverpool, tells of his successful father – in – law, Henry Pooley, who ran a famous iron foundry business in the city. After a long struggle, he became a Christian and his business went from success to success. He tells how he so enjoyed the position, the wealth and adulation of fame, that he quickly lost his desire for God. His business subsequently collapsed. He lost everything, and then lost his wife through death. In such a crisis he turned again to the Lord and re-ignited his faith. He never let go of God again. (Sir James Picton Isbister, pp.70 - 73)

Solomon's assessment of wealth reminds us of Jesus' famous words on such matters, that are found in Matthew 6 v. 19 – 21, which says: '19 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves

treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'.

Wealth is a tool for our use, not an end in itself. We are to value our relationship with God, and each other, more than things.

## **THE GOOD NEWS**

Solomon moves on from these verses to some more positive news. In **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 18 – 20** we read: '18 This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. 19 Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. 20 They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart'.

Within these verses we are given an alternative to materialism. We are to celebrate the beauty of God's gift of life and its simple pleasures. If we are content with what we have, we need very little material wealth to really enjoy life. The Teacher shows in these verses, how important contentment is by stating that the person who is not content is worse off than a stillborn child, as

we read in **Ecclesiastes 6 v. 3 – 6**. Though the Teacher probably exaggerated to make his point, his message is clear. The celebration and enjoyment of life are extremely important. We need to take the time to enjoy life's simple pleasures to gain strength for the battles we face.

Solomon also indicates a number of other things that he sees as good. In **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 12**, he says that sleep is the reward of hard work, a clear conscience and few possessions to concern us. Worrying about money and deals can lead to restlessness and ill health.

Solomon, in **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 18** also observes that food and drink are to be enjoyed. Similarly, in 1 Timothy 4 v. 4 we read: 'Everything created by God is good'. We are not to feel guilty about having good things. We must not feel guilty about enjoying material goods - although we should avoid the pride that comes from having more than we need.

Likewise. In **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 19** we are told that all we have comes from God. God provides enough for us to enjoy. For a variety of reasons not all of us can enjoy these blessings. Governments, missions, aid agencies and we ourselves can help to redress the balance and be God's agents of his provision. The gifts of the harvest as well as the fruits of industry and commerce are

God's good gifts. We should thank God for our wealth and ask his direction in our use of it.

Finally, Solomon identifies that work is intended to be pleasurable, as we read in **Ecclesiastes 5 v. 20**. Without God, work for many people is a chore. With God, work can be transformed into service to humanity, as well as an act of worship.

### **ILLUSTRATION**

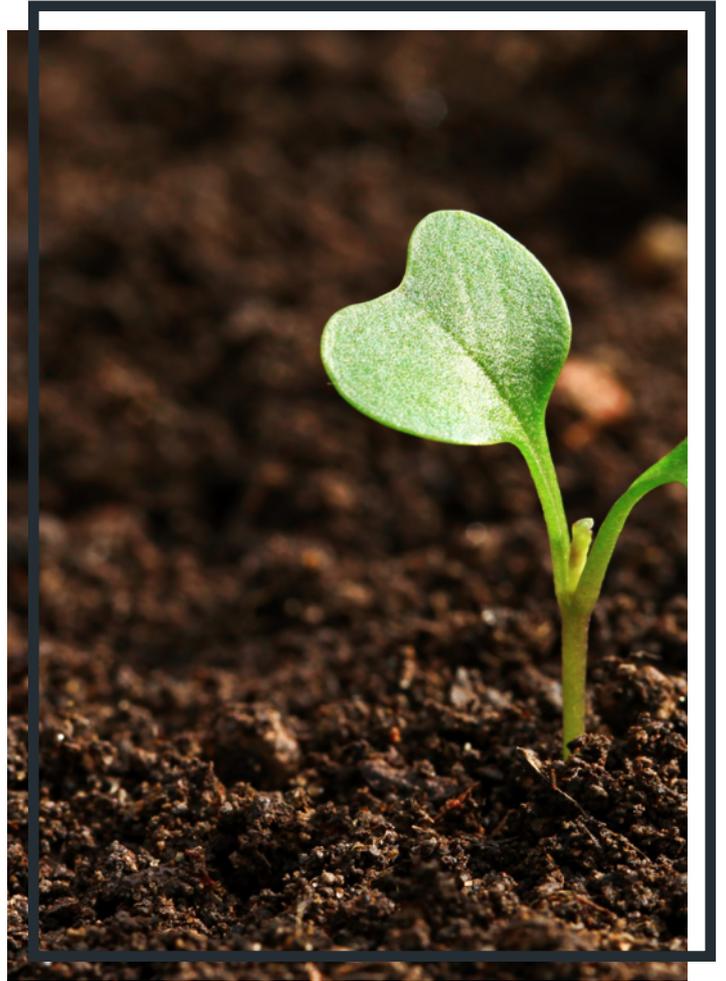
Jenny Bradley was a remarkable woman. She was no highflyer with a great education. She cleaned public toilets in Glasgow. Rather than seeing this as something to be ashamed of, she took great pride in her work, making sure everything was spick and span. She saw her work as a service to the Lord as well as the public.

So, let our work be a service to the Lord and let us make the right choice in how we serve him!

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# Song Suggestion

Give Me Oil In My Lamp



Choosing Jesus  
over the world:  
Choosing Jesus  
as Lord everyday.

# Prayers Of Approach

Father of free will,

Help us to choose wisely.

Refer to you regularly

And clearly know your will for our lives.

We understand that there is no virtue in poverty and no approval in wealth.

We know that all we have must be finally surrendered,  
That nothing will remain to us but your grace and salvation.

So, help us to hold on to what has eternal value  
And take momentary pleasure in what will be lost.

We know that unless we master the wealth that you have given us, it will eventually master us.

Help us to keep the balance of family responsibilities and our moral obligation to you.

In our vulnerability, educate our consciences to choose right despite the pressure of time

And circumstance, to perceive right despite the form it comes in,

To live correctly so that even our unconscious moments honour you.

**Amen**

# Communion

Today is a Sunday when we would normally share communion together. We come together today remembering the love and sacrifice that Jesus made on the Cross for our sins and for our forgiveness. We gather together here in Church or at home as the body of Christ in order to share the bread and the cup together.

We are able to do this by getting a small glass of red juice (fruit juice, squash etc.) and a small piece of bread and 'sharing these elements' at a time that is convenient to you.

(Normally as a church we will do this during the service at about 11.30am.)

Our normal practice is to say these words:

For I received from the Lord what I pass on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, (you might like to pray at this point) he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' (this is the time to eat the bread). In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' (now is the time to drink the cup). For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11 v. 22 - 26

If you would like to do this today with us, if you are at home, then please do so, and may the Lord's richest blessings be with you today.

# Prayers Of Intercession

God our Creator, Father and Friend, we give thanks today for the wonderful gift of life, with all its joys and responsibilities, its experiences and its opportunities. We praise you for good health and daily food, for the shelter and care of our homes, and the love and loyalty of our friends.

We are reminded of our responsibilities as your people to follow instructions and laws in order to be good disciples. When we hear and watch the news though, we can see that times are difficult in many places around the world, especially places like Ukraine. Loving Lord Jesus, we long for what we consider normal times, help us to protect others and ourselves so, that one day soon we may sing your praises to you once again.

We continue to pray for our own Government and Governments around the world, that you will guide them in the difficult decisions that they are having to make concerning politics within their own countries. We pray for peace in countries throughout the world where wars are still raging, bringing death, famine and terrible suffering to so many. God in your mercy, bring hope and peace we pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that the church is not the building, that the Church is the people. Help us Lord to work together as your people here in this place to

stay connected with each other and with you through these days. We pray for those from our Baptist Churches who have gathered together at the Baptist Assembly in Bournemouth this weekend; may they know fellowship together and the blessing of your Holy Spirit on their lives. We pray today for the world - wide church and we pray especially for the local churches here in Huddersfield and for our own church family. We pray for all who minister to the community in whatever way and in whatever role, may you guide and support them in all that they do. Loving Lord Jesus, we continue to pray this day for those who are unwell and sick, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. We pray for all those who care for their needs, both professionally and in the family. So again, as we share some moments of silence together, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus, in our hearts.

Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for our own families and friends. Lord we all face the normal ups and downs of life in many different ways. We thank you that Jesus knows our every situation. Help us today we pray to face the different situations we face with dignity and love. Give us peace in our hearts and minds when we have not been able to see or be with our families or friends for a long time.

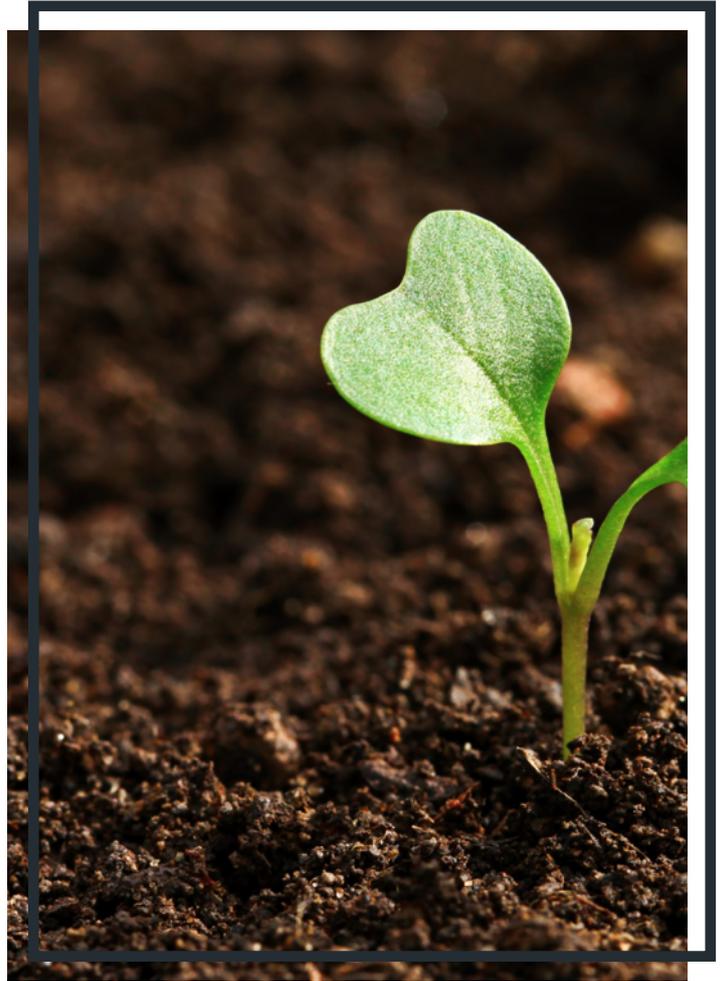
And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care. Please accept these our prayers, in Jesus name.

**Amen**

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# Song Suggestion

Jesus Is King And I Will Extol him



# Blessing

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May you see opportunities to bring hope, healing and peace where others do not. May you have the courage to speak up for those that get overlooked. May you be aware of God's spirit at work in the words you speak, in the safe spaces you create and the relationships that you build. You are loved by God, and as you leave this place may those you encounter know they are loved too.

**Amen**