
WORSHIP @ HOME



WHAT DOES YOUR SPRING WARDROBE LOOK LIKE?



Preparing for worship:

Christian meditation music <http://www.viewpure.com/g51ExyTuZbM?start=0&end=0>

Take a few moments to be still.

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'. Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting the candle:

O God, as light comes from this candle,
May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
Warming our hearts and brightening our way.
May Christ our Saviour

Bring life into the darkness of this world.

Amen.

Bible Reading:

A reading from Luke chapter 10 verses 30-37

Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. So happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.'"

And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?"

The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him."

Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A message:

Love is the core message of Christianity. The Bible instructs us to love our neighbour as ourselves. In response to this commandment, Jesus was asked 'Who is *my* neighbour?' Instead of simply answering the question, through the story of the Good Samaritan, he responded with a question 'Who *was* really a neighbour?'. We can, therefore, look around us for examples of people who love and help others.

So, the question for our time is how do we show the love of God to our neighbour during the current pandemic? What does it look like to 'put on love'? For it is love that over all virtues binds together in perfect unity. Such love is described as 'agape', love with no strings attached. Love that loves simply and purely - the God-kind of love. It perfectly fulfils what God requires of us in relationships. It is the basic, all-purpose garment never

to be without (Colossians 3:14). How can we wrap others in the clothing of love at this time? It is like offering a warm jacket on a chilly day or sharing a blanket with a loved one. How do we radiate warmth from the closet of our heart?

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1. Shopping for those who are high-risk
2. Special opening time for those who are high risk and for key workers.
3. Cooking meals for home delivery.
4. Volunteering to collect and deliver medicine and food parcels in the local area.
5. Paying upfront for 25 servings of our favourite coffee and cake to a local shop to help them through the outbreak.
6. Buying online gift cards from local businesses to use when things are back to normal or as gifts for others.
7. Distributing green and red postcards to each household in our street to place in their front window. These can be used to signal that everything is well or that they are in need of help. This is particularly useful if you know that



someone is living alone.

8. Supporting local charities online (there are more and more digital opportunities) or by donating money or food to a local food bank.
9. If you are of good health, do not forget the importance of giving blood at this time.

The possibilities are endless and everyone adds to the sense of community and togetherness during these challenging times.

Finally, we have seen so many ways that people are **encouraging others**. To encourage is to put back courage where it is missing! We have all seen the impact of social media and a phone call to lift the spirit and help people cope with the feelings of isolation. During daily exercise, we are lifted by the rainbows in windows, 'bear hunts' for young



children and painted stones in random places with messages of hope all raise a smile. Together we clap and perhaps play instruments or bang pans at 8pm on a Thursday to show our appreciation for key workers. At 7pm each evening, we light our candle in the window as a reminder of our prayers and the light in the darkness. All these things demonstrate love and, whilst done expecting nothing in return. In lifting others we lift our own spirit too. The cost is very little, but the impact ripples out wider and wider into the community.

What we have learnt is that love breaks down barriers and brings people together in peace. Where tension once reigned, kindness comes in and conveys the calm that Christ intended. For some, the garment of love that we choose to wear may be the only glimpse of goodness that exists in their environment. As an individual receives such love, they too are equipped to go and do likewise. May we begin each day by clothing ourselves with the love of Christ, so that we may go forth and love others as we have been loved.

A time for reflection:

How will you dress up in love?

How will you love your neighbour during this difficult time?

Who will you phone today? Who could you send a visual hug to? What message would you paint on a stone? Will you take time to light a candle and pray for others each day?

Remember, regardless of age, we can all serve, no matter how big or small the action.

Listen to Matthew West - Take heart:

http://www.viewpure.com/3osp2p_gLx4?start=0&end=0

Performed with his band from their homes for you! Be encouraged!

Closing prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
 you taught us to love our neighbour,
 and to care for those in need
 as if we were caring for you.
 In this time of anxiety, give us strength
 to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
 and to assure the isolated
 of our love and your love (words from The Church of England Website).

We thank you for your great love for us.
 Remind us every day that you are with us.
 Help us to 'put on love'

so that we can extend your love to others
and serve you well.

Thank you that as we go forth in your love,
we are bound together in unity with you.
Teach us to trust you more,
so that we depend on you to fill us and equip us,
so that we can love as you love.

Be glorified O God,
as we clothe ourselves in your everlasting love.

ALL: Amen.

A prayer from The Church of England website:

for your name's sake.

Amen.

**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.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

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