



Worship from home

Service sheet – Sunday 12 July 2020

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that others across the circuit and beyond are sharing this act of worship with you.

It is also **Action for Children Sunday**. Action for Children is a Methodist charity to protect and support children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives. Last year, they helped more than 387,000 children and families across the UK. Access more information [HERE](#)

The service will be led by Simon Africanus Rowe, Local Preacher from Dene Holm. The Broadcast will commence at 10.10am with praise and worship songs and the service proper will begin at 10.30am. Throughout the Service, technology allowing music and words will be broadcast and the words will appear on the screen.

[Click on this link to join the Service](#)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Theme: God of all people and all things

God is a Spirit and those who worship HIM **must** worship in Spirit and Truth

1. Welcome
2. Silence – A lit candle will be on the screen to focus on. If you cannot join the service, focus of something around you for a minute. **“Be still and know that I am God”**
3. Opening prayers -Led by Sonia Rowe (Simon’s daughter)
4. Song – Beauty for brokenness (StF 693) (SoF 664)
5. Reading – Matthew 13: 1 – 9 (Read by Simon Rowe Jnr (Simon’s son))

6. Reflection – Jesus Christ, Master Teacher, Master Enabler, Master Carer and our Risen Lord presented another parable to his disciples – this time about the Sower. Key points:
 - We see Jesus the Master Teacher, Master Enabler, Master Trainer, Master Carer, Master Tactician, Master Leveler, Master Encourager and on the side of all people. Calm in the face of opposition and a potential banana skin
 - The seed sown is the WORD of God
 - The Sower is Jesus Christ himself and all those responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and living out its discipleship in worship and mission
 - Jesus Characterised the hearts of all people into 4 groups – 4 grounds/4 characters
 - Fruitfulness is what set apart those who sow on good grounds
 - The **challenge** for us is not just sowing on good grounds that brings forth fruits but aiming to consistently multiply **a rich harvest of souls**.
7. Song – For the beauty of the earth (StF 102) (SoF112)
8. Action for children – Lyle’s story. Watch [HERE](#) or read about it below
9. Prayers of intercession – It includes a prayer written by Joanna Tettey, one of our Mission Partners in Togo, working with the church there on their community health strategy and on women in leadership. Listen to it [HERE](#)
10. Song – Lean on the everlasting arms (National Methodist Choir of Great Britain: featuring Lou Fellingham) Sing along [HERE](#)
11. Blessing



Lyle's story

Lyle* was physically and emotionally abused by his parents. They punched and kicked him, and he'd often go hungry. After turning to alcohol to numb the pain, Lyle ran away from home. Action for Children stepped in to find him a safe and stable place to live.

"Drugs were always a big problem in my family and there was a lot of violence," Lyle explains. "I wasn't fed at home and my big sister would sneak food into her room most nights. But we'd often go days without getting food."

Lyle was left to fend for himself after his parents threw his sister out. "I didn't have clean clothes. Mum and dad wouldn't let me bath or shower. I wasn't even allowed to get my hair cut," he says. After getting bullied at school, Lyle started to isolate himself. At 14, he started drinking. "Mum and dad would offer me alcohol all the time, and eventually I said yes. I'd get home from school and they'd give me glasses of things. I'd just drink them. I couldn't feel anything. I thought nothing bad could ever happen when I was drunk." Lyle left school and found a job he really liked. But things at home got even worse. "I loved my job. But I was the only one putting money in the house. And if I didn't give the money to them for drugs, they'd take it out on me." Lyle's depression and anxiety started to take their toll. "I just knew I had to get out," he says. "I left that house with nothing apart from the clothes on my back. I was in a really bad state. I came to Action for Children with nothing." Action for Children found Lyle a safe place to live in supported accommodation. "They reminded me that I'm enough," he says. "They helped me recover from alcohol. Without them, I don't think I'd be alive. I nearly took my own life and, if it hadn't been for my support worker coming and just talking to me, I wouldn't be here." I've got no memories of my childhood. Well, no good "memories anyway. My childhood didn't exist"

ACTION FOR CHILDREN CHRITY changed Lyle's name to protect his identity