



## Before you start

- You might want a pen and some paper.
- If you have received this by email, this document contains a number of clips from YouTube, just click on the link and your computer, laptop or tablet should find it for you.
- Why not sing the songs, with or without the YouTube clip – God will hear either way.

Take a moment and think! Where is the best place in the house where you might spend this time with God – the lounge, bedroom, dining room, garden?

When you have found your space, take an other moment to be still and just sit hearing the sounds around and sensing the smells.

## Say the call to worship

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Hallelujah Jesus is here

You are the King of Glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtccZ2y-88I>

You Are The King Of Glory  
You Are The Prince Of Peace  
You Are The Lord Of Heaven And Earth  
You Are The Son Of Righteousness  
Angels Bow Down Before You  
They Worship And Adore You  
For You Have The Words Of Eternal Life  
You Are Jesus Christ The Lord

Hosanna To The Son Of David  
Hosanna To The King Of Kings  
Glory In The Highest Heavens  
Jesus The Messiah Reigns

## Let us pray

This is the place  
and this is the time;  
here and now,  
God waits  
to break into our experience:

to change our minds,  
to change our lives,  
to change our ways;

to make us see the world  
and the whole of life  
in a new light:

to fill us with hope,  
joy and certainty  
for the future.

# LOVING OF NEIGHBOUR

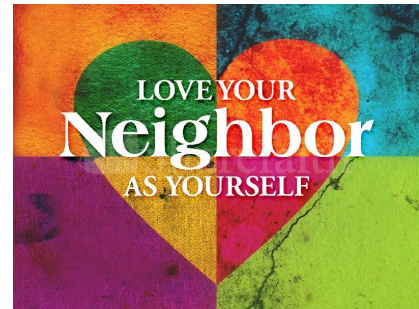
One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Mark 12:28-31

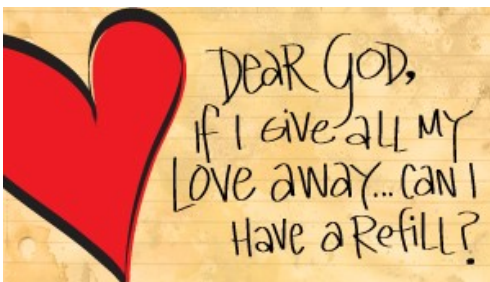
For many of us this time of crisis can lead to reflections on our present predicament. How can something so small and unseen as a little virus have such a devastating effect upon our lives?! Or, as some of you asked: "Is this a judgement from God"? I don't believe it is.

For years now Mark 12: 30-31 has been clunking around in my mind. In these verses Jesus sums up the Law: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, Love your neighbour as you love yourself". But how can we love our neighbour even as we are locked into our homes?

Even these days two things stood out for me. The first was sparked off by remarks made by Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick who indicated that a 3 month lockdown would destroy the America he loves and so 70 plussers should do the decent thing and take the risk of dying for their children and grandchildren so that the economy can keep going. What has struck me was that this sentiment is not around in most of the US or in the rest of the world. We seemingly do not question the need to help the weakest (or oldest) in our society and so we stay at home to protect the NHS so that it will be able to cope. Governments in most countries are going much further than ever in their support both business and employees with a massive cash injection. Is this loving your neighbour in action?



A second observation that struck me was how many people have lived out that command of 'loving our neighbour'. We had notes through our door offering help with shopping if we fell ill and another note inviting us, three times a week, to stand outside our house, drink a cup of coffee or tea (keeping our distance), whilst (shouting) asking and each other: "how are you doing?". I hear of people who have rung, texted, Skyped whatever method is available and are asking 'how are you doing?'. When we go for our hour walk in our neighbourhood, total strangers cross the street (away) and say 'good morning' and 'keep safe'.



This time of crisis shows us what it means to be human, the way that God has made us in His image, He is a loving God. We are created to love our neighbour and so when we watch all those small acts of love -shopping done for an elderly neighbour- a phone call made to check up on someone- what we are witnessing is women, men and children reflecting a loving God.

And for those who walk with Jesus in these times? The imperative is even greater than ever to express this love that is in us to be pro-active in this living a life of love as Jesus did.

And finally, love yourselves, look after yourselves and stay safe, spend time with God so that His love for you can feed you.

## Hymn Love Divine all love excelling

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmfqe\\_8SEI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmfqe_8SEI)

**LOVE DIVINE**, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place;  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

## Prayers

Pray for our world – think about what you have heard about what is happening in the world. Bring one particular story the front of your mind. And pray for that situation.

End that time by saying:

**Your kingdom come, O Lord**

**Your will be done.**

Pray for our country – for healthcare workers, those others who work on the frontline, our leaders and those have to implement decisions.

**Your kingdom come, O Lord**

**Your will be done.**

Pray for ourselves, the people we know and care for – spend sometime praying for who you know. Then say the Lord's prayer

### The Lord's prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in  
heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that 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.

## Song 10,000 reasons

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE\\_IRIOE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRIOE)

Bless the Lord O my soul  
O my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
O my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name

Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find

The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes

And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing

### **The Grace**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all for evermore

Amen