

STOURDENE

We Exist To Make Christ Known

Reflection for Sunday 6th February 2022 Created and led by Maggie Bannister

Quoted text from Archbishop Justin Welby

"Reconciliation is one of our greatest needs and toughest challenges as human beings. In a world plagued by conflict, division and indifference, the Church has a crucial role to play as a community of reconcilers. Jesus calls every one of us to love God, our neighbours, ourselves and our enemies – a challenging command, with nobody left out.

The word 'reconcile' literally means to bring together – or heal – that which was broken. This healing is much more than the absence of conflict. It's certainly not about suppressing difference. Reconciliation is about seeking to transform relationships that have become damaged or destructive into relationships of trust that bring new life.

The journey towards this is not easy. It requires humility, time and patience. Most of all, it demands a decision to let go of the destructive power of memory and past hurt. It's precisely because reconciliation is so difficult that it is so powerful.

Reconciliation is at the heart of Christ's good news. It's at the centre of the call he makes to those who follow him. That's why I've made it a personal priority for my ministry.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are the story of God's reconciliation with humanity. Through them, Jesus opens the way for a restored relationship between God and us. If we embrace that joyful new relationship, it should overflow into the way we relate to one another. This will look different in each of our lives – from making cups of tea to acting as professional mediators."

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/priorities/reconciliation/message-reconciliation-archbishop-justin-welby>

Prayer from Inclusive Church

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/>

Song: Take This Moment

Take this moment sign and space
Take my friends around
Here among us make the place
Where Your love is found

Take the time to call my name
Take the time to mend
Who I am and what I've been
All I've failed to tend

Take the tiredness of my days
Take my past regret
Letting Your forgiveness touch
All I can't forget

Take the little child in me
Scared of growing old
Help me here to find my worth
Made in Christ's own mould

Take my talents take my skills
Take what's yet to be
Let my life be Yours and yet
Let it still be me

CCLI Song # 1430623

Graham Maule | John L. Bell

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