

A house not made with Hands



2 // Something to Still Yourself

Ave Maria. Chosen by Mary Tong because it is a beautiful hymn that brings comfort.

<https://youtu.be/tyGOQoXyWTA>

This week we explore building a house, not with our hands but with love. In a time where we are unable to meet in a physical building but are looking towards a future where we can meet again this is a particularly timely theme.

This service has been built by people throughout our church and the creation of it is an act of worship in itself. Thank you to everyone involved. We hope it brings you comfort and challenge for the week ahead.



3 // Hymn

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
Singing the Faith #161
Chosen by Kam Sokhi because the words are so beautiful to read and sing.
<https://youtu.be/bpxkaqzlkdM>



1 // Call to Worship

Paul says: *'For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'*

Even in our own homes we have journeyed to be here – the journey, it is past.
To this place we have come, the living God to praise.
In this moment we are here, now that moment is gone.
From this place we will go, it too will soon be past.
But in this new moment, as we gather,
live within us, Lord our God, and speak our name.
Amen.



4 // Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Read by members of the congregation.

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/a-house-not-made-with-hands>
(A text version is available)



5 // 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 (NRSV)

Read by Rev. Adam Nyawo (at start of address video)

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.



6 // Address

John Logan reflects on what he has learned about "the house not made with hands" during this lockdown period.

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/a-house-not-made-with-hands>
(a text version is also available, but the video version features Jenga!)



7 // Song - Build Your Kingdom Here

By Rend Collective (Lyrics on the video)
<https://youtu.be/m9USwkHHzZY>



8 // Prayers of Intercession

Written by Jo Barrett.



Father God,
Amidst the chaos of the world around us, You are with us. You guide us along Your path, to the Home we have with You, not built by human hands but with Your love. Strengthen our belief and keep us firm in the faith we have in You. Fill us with your peace during these uncertain times, that we may be a comfort to those we meet, showing others the way to You. Help us to trust in You and know Your presence in our lives.

Lord, help us to build Your House,
Not with our hands, but with Your Love.

We pray for the world around us, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues. This week, Brazil became the second country in which the number of deaths has risen above 50,000. On Wednesday, Florida reported 5,508 new cases. Germany, Spain and Portugal have had an increase in cases, leading to new restrictions. In the UK, restrictions are being eased, although many feel afraid and uncertain. Help us to trust in You and seek where we can help those suffering at this time.

Lord, help us to build Your House,
Not with our hands, but with Your Love.

We pray for all those affected by police brutality and the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and many, many others. We pray, too, for the recent Black Lives Matter protests that arose out of this violence. Open our eyes and ears to the injustice around us, that we may support the voices calling for a fairer society and boldly do what is right, no matter the cost. Help us to trust in You and bring Your peace and reconciliation to a troubled world.

Lord, help us to build Your House,
Not with our hands, but with Your Love.

We pray for those affected by the recent terrorist attack in Reading - for those who were present, fearing for their own lives, and for those who lost loved ones. We cannot begin to comprehend why, Lord, and shadows fall on places we once felt safe. Help us to trust in You and fight hate with love.

Lord, help us to build Your House,
Not with our hands, but with Your Love.

We pray for Your church, Lord. May it be a beacon of hope, even though the buildings are still closed. May those feeling uncertain, afraid, alone and troubled find sanctuary in the support we provide at this time. Strengthen us for the difficult road ahead. Help us to trust in You and follow Jesus' footsteps, whatever the future brings.

Lord, help us to build Your House,
Not with our hands, but with Your Love.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen





9 // Closing Hymn

Let us build a house where love can dwell

Singing the Faith #409

<https://youtu.be/eJR6EiO0pSk>



10 // Blessing

Go in hope and expectation that the Lord our God goes with us.
Go to do God's will and not ours.
We go seeking the eternal – not living for material things,
but living with them and using them to help all to see God.
Amen.



Collection

If you have found this service valuable please consider giving a small amount to support the work of the church. You can give online here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/donate>

There is also options to give regularly and with your current envelope number. Thank you.

Lord, let our congregation be a witness to you:
immersed in scripture,
constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving.

A loving, supportive community reaching out to those in need.

Accept these gifts we offer, in Jesus' name, Amen.

