



Sunday 29th March 2020

Dear friends, what follows is a service which you can use as a way to worship in your homes this Sunday (or any other day of the week).

If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from Sunday morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel, along with a video for MAST Youth (teenagers) and MAST Kids (6-11yrs).

If you don't have access to the Internet or emails, and would like to receive this sheet by post each week, please let your local minister know and this will be arranged.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

As we come to worship you might like to have a time of silence and light a candle.

Then pray: Holy and Loving God I come to worship You, as I do I remember that I am a part of Your church in my community and in the world, and I take comfort from the fact that I am not alone.

Come by Your Holy Spirit and help me to worship You in spirit and in truth.

Amen

Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me lie in pastures green,
he leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone,
and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

- 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil;
and my cup -- it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.

- 3 And though I walk the darkest path --
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words
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Words and Music: (c) 1996, Thankyou Music.
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Let us pray together

Holy and Loving God, all life comes from You,
and in You all things hold together.

As we remember who You are, we pause to give you thanks and Praise.

As we remember who You are, we are reminded that You hold the end from the beginning, and that nothing is too large or too small for You.

As we remember who You are, remind us that as all things are held, so we are held by You, in love.

Help us in our anxious thoughts.

Help us in our day to day lives.

Help us in this time of deep uncertainty.

We acknowledge that at times we are selfish, at times we do not seek You first.

But we know that You are always faithful, merciful, gracious, and forgiving.

(Silence)

We receive Your mercy and forgiveness
faithfulness and grace.

In the name of Christ.

Amen

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 11: 1-45

Find a Bible and read the above passage. If you do not have a Bible at home, ask your local minister who will gladly source one for you.

A time of reflection

Today's readings are full of hope, reminding us that the resurrection is real, and new life is possible.

Take time to read the gospel passage slowly and prayerfully again.

Is there a word or a passage that stands out to you?

Pause to spend time with that word/ passage.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

If Jesus were stood before you what would you like to ask him?

Take a time to sit quietly

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge --
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819-1886)

Prayers of Intercession

Let's pray

Holy and Loving God we pray for Your world, for the leaders who are making difficult decisions as every day brings new changes and challenges.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation, that decisions might be made with wisdom and care for the benefit of all.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer

We pray for our island. For all who live here that your peace might reign and that your perfect love might settle our fears.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer

We pray for frontline workers, doctors, nurses, carers, shop workers, refuse collectors, postal workers.

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer

We pray for our loved ones, those we know who may be ill, those who are struggling, those who are confused and conflicted... (you might like to name names here)

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer

And finally we pray for ourselves, You know what is on our hearts and minds, and so we offer that to You (again you might like to name your own prayers and concerns)

Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

A prayer of blessing

May you know the deep peace of the God who knows and perfectly loves you.

May you take the yoke of Jesus upon you, knowing that he bears your load with you.

May you know the indwelling Spirit bringing you wisdom and peace.

Amen



Some original materials by Rev. Sally Coleman,
adapted by the Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team