



Sunday 3rd May 2020

Dear friends,
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). Don't forget also that Judith Ley is broadcasting "At Your Service" on Manx Radio FM at 0930 every Sunday which includes prayers, readings, hymns, and teaching.

Our prayers are with you all,
Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

Lord our God,
eternal and wonderful,
wholly to be trusted:
You give life to all;
You help those who come to You
and give hope to those who call on You.
Set our hearts and minds at peace,
that we may bring our prayers to You with
confidence and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn: Be still, for the presence of the Lord Sing / Read / Pray the words below

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear:
in Him no sin is found -
we stand on Holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with Holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned:
how awesome is the sight -
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace:
no work too hard for Him -
in faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

David J. Evans

Let us pray together

Blessèd are You, Holy God,
creator, redeemer and life-giver;
You have spoken the world into being
and filled it with wonder and beauty.

Blessèd are You, Holy God,
for people of every language and culture
and for the rich variety You give to life.

Blessèd are You, Holy God,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,
truly divine and truly human,
living and dying for us,
and going before us into heaven.

Blessèd are You, Holy God,
for Your Spirit,
the fire burning in our hearts,
bringing us to faith,
and calling us to holiness
in the Church and in the world.

Blessèd are You, Holy God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen

Holy God,
if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, You, who are faithful and
just, will forgive us and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

silence

Holy God,
be merciful to us as we claim Your promised
forgiveness, and assure us of Your pardon and
peace. Amen. Thanks be to God.

Today's Readings:

Ruth 1
Psalm 13

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

A time of reflection

Poor Naomi.

She left a place of famine with a husband and 2 sons to move to a better life. Things went well for a time as her sons married and life was good. Then her husband died followed shortly after by both sons.

How much of this story resonates with immigrants of today? Leaving one desperate place full of hope for a new life only to end up worse than before? And that's before you add in any racial stigma that might come from being in a different land.

Naomi takes the brave decision to return to her home country where things seem to have improved, and Ruth insists on going with her whereas Orpah chooses to remain with her old family.

Again, hard decisions for both to make. We hear no more of Orpah and can only hope that she does get a new husband and family.

But Ruth stays with her new mother, and chooses Naomi's faith and God over the ones she has always known.

So we see God at work many generations before Christ welcoming gentiles not only into His chosen nation, but also into His chosen bloodline.

Looking back, can you see where God has been at work in your life? Especially in those dark times when all seemed lost? Thank Him for always being there.

Hymn: In the wonder of creation

Sing / Read / Pray the words below

In the wonder of creation,
when all nature shares on song,
showing God's imagination,
all may see His love goes on.
Through the Holy Story spoken,
of God's people called as one,
gathered, exiled, saved and broken,
this we learn: His love goes on.

In the Christ who died to save us;
in God's risen, living Son;
through the Spirit, whom He gave us;
this we know: His love goes on.
In the telling of the gospel,
Matthew, Mark and Luke and John
join the Church in testifying
through the years: His love goes on.

From the perfect days of gladness
when the sun has brightly shone,
to the slog of working madness,
all the while His love goes on.
Through the times of harsh temptation,
seeking strength but finding none,
in our human desperation,
mercy comes: His love goes on.

In the joys of celebration,
of new birth or victory won,
in the deep peace of salvation,
tell the world His love goes on!
Through the dark days of depression,
when all sign of faith is gone,
hope may find no fresh expression,
but we trust His love goes on.

Through the hopes of our tomorrows,
and the things we've left undone -
future joys and present sorrows -
through all time, His love goes on.
In our Kingdom-shaped endeavour,
when God's glorious work is done,
to the promise of forever,
God is here: His love goes on.

Andrew T. Murphy

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for all people everywhere according to their need.

Let us pray for the Church of Christ throughout the world; for its unity in Christ; for the fulfilment

of its mission; for all ministers of the gospel; and for all Christians everywhere.

Let us pray for all the nations and peoples of the world; for all who serve the common good; for our own country and government; for all in authority.

Let us pray for those we know and love; for the local community; for our families and friends.

Let us pray for all who suffer; the sick; for those who mourn; for those without faith; for those who serve the needy.

Heavenly Father,
You have promised to hear what we ask in the name of Your Son: we pray You accept and answer our prayers, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as You know and love us in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

A prayer of blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Prayers adapted from the Methodist Worship Book.
Hymns taken from Singing the Faith.

