

mast
Methodists at service
together



Sunday 28th June 2020

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 calm my thoughts as I come into your presence to worship you.

Open my heart to welcome you in and to receive the blessing of Jesus' love, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, brothers and sisters, draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee,
then to thy need he like a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
sheddeh his light, chaseth the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him.

Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) and Rupert
E. Davies (1909-1994)

Let us pray together

Creator God, I praise you for the beauty of the world that you have made, for richness of texture, colour and form in nature, and for the caring communities around me.

God of abundant life,
you have called us to be your people and to walk in your way but there are times when we wander away, when we close our ears to your call and our eyes to your life. We remember those times before you.

Take all we have been and done and all we have left undone and transform it through your love and grace.

Open our ears to your words of forgiveness and our eyes to your glory.
May we hear the words
"Your sins are forgiven"
and know their truth.

Amen

Reading: Psalm 13

Find a Bible and read the above passage.

A time of reflection

There may well have been times during the Coronavirus crisis when you have echoed the Psalmist's cry: "How Long, O Lord?"

That's OK. David is described in Scripture as being a "man after God's own heart" and it is permitted to feel pain, even despair, at times and turn that depth emotion and feeling into heartfelt prayer and lament.

But David moves on. We have no indication at the end of the Psalm that his circumstance has changed – yet he turns his prayer from lament into praise.

We also have a choice before us. Emotions may still be raw from all we have endured: do we stay 'stuck' focusing on these things, or do we choose to fix our gaze upon the God who shows us steadfast love and salvation?

Hymn: Praise is rising

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to you;
we turn to you.
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for you;
we long for you.

'Cause when we see you we find strength to face the day.

In your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.

*Hosanna, hosanna,
you are the God who saves us;
worthy of all our praises.
Hosanna, hosanna,
come have your way among us;
we welcome you here Lord Jesus.*

Hear the sound of hearts returning to you;
we turn to you.
In your kingdom broken lives are made new;
you make all things new.

*Brenton Brown and Paul Baloche
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Reading: Matthew 10:40-42

Find a Bible and read the above passage.

A time of reflection

Throughout Scripture we find the same pattern emerges: God blesses His people in order that they should be a blessing to others.

Here Jesus gives an example of how we should show unselfish generosity to others through the giving of a cup of cold water to "little ones", arguably not just children but the adult poor or marginalised too. (see Matthew 18.6).

Like the disciples, our lives should reflect God's generous love to others. When we serve others, we serve our Saviour. How will you be a blessing to someone today?

Take a time to sit quietly

Hymn: Where can we find you?

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Where can we find you, Lord Jesus our Master?
We want to serve you, to answer your call.
Where do you lead us and ask us to follow?
What should we do in our service to all?

'Go to the hungry, to those who have nothing;
go where the farmlands are empty and bare.
I broke the bread for the people around me;
out of my plenty, think what you can share.

'Go to the homeless, to those who have nowhere;
go where my people sleep out in the rain.
I had no comforts but what others gave me;
offer them shelter, give ease to their pain.

'Go to the outcast, to those who have no-one;
go where my sheep are rejected and lost.
I dined with sinners and reached out to lepers;
go and do likewise, and don't count the cost.'

Where will we find you, Lord Jesus our Master?
We are your servants who answer your call.
You go before us, and there we will follow,
taking our cross in the service of all.

Allan Charles Dickinson (b. 1954)
Words: (c) 1993 Allan Dickinson
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Prayers of Intercession:

Lord Jesus, as we rejoice in our newfound freedoms on our island, we are aware of many across the world continuing to suffer the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, we pray for compassion and fairness in sharing practical resources and medical expertise so that there might be healing and wholeness for all.

We pray that all those who have influence over the lives of others, that they might make decisions based on kindness and for the common good.

Compassionate Christ, we pray for comfort and strength for those who are still isolated, for parents and children, for the elderly and those suffering long term illness.

Lord, lift anxiety from those who are worried about the future, their jobs, businesses and their financial situation. May they know that they are not alone, that You are with them.

Holy Spirit we pray for ourselves, for our plans that have been changed, for the people we have lost and miss still, for our hopes and dreams for the future. Strengthen our faith, deepen our commitment to your ways and help us to better serve God and to see Jesus in everyone we meet.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

A prayer of blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious towards us;
May the Lord look on us with kindness and give us peace. Amen.



Some original Materials by Claire Hargreaves

adapted by the Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team