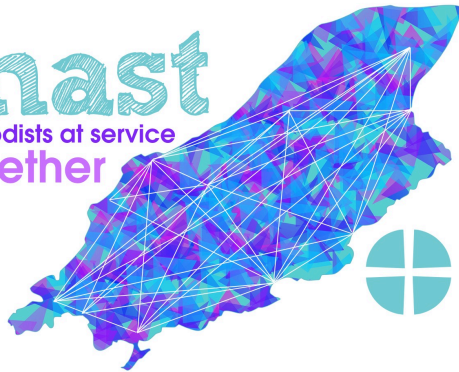


mast
Methodists at service
together



Sunday 5th July 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

We praise You, O God, we acclaim You as Lord; all creation worships You, the Father everlasting. To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Day by day we bless You.

We praise Your name forever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.

Lord, show us Your love and mercy, for we put our trust in You.
In You, Lord, is our hope: let us never be put to shame.
For You are holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Amen.

Hymn: In Christ alone

Sing / read / pray / the words below:

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here is the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can her pluck me from His hand;
till He returns, or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Let us pray together

In the chaos before anything was, Lord, You spoke bringing life in abundance.

In the darkness of an early morning garden and the dank coldness of death and the tomb, Lord, You spoke bringing resurrection, defeating death and giving us abundant life

In the dark places of our lives, Lord, You speak and bring recreation, transforming and calling us to life in abundance

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

Today's Readings:

Psalms 145:8-14

Matthew 11: 25-30

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

Have you noticed the similarity between these two passages? Both give praise to God for all He has done, and thank Him for the ability/privilege in casting all our cares on Him. I'm sure we all have friends we can turn to when we need a shoulder to cry on. Do we have friends we can trust to cope with our frustrations and anger? And do we have friends who we can sit with in silence where no words need to be spoken? In all of these we treasure the times shared which help to deepen and grow our friendship.

God asks us to do the same with Him. His arms are always wide open to give us a hug. His shoulders are big enough to absorb the world's tears. And His chest can withstand all our frustrated thumping! Turn to Him in all circumstances and remember it is a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus

Sing / read / pray / the words below:

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!

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.

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

Into the closed doors of this world, Lord, come and speak Your words of peace and life.

We pray for all those who are afraid at this time.

We pray for all those who are ill and for those who yearn for their health.

We pray for those who are homeless and for those who struggle to feed themselves and their families.

We pray for those who have lost their incomes or whose businesses are at risk.

We pray for all those who offer care during this crisis often putting their lives at risk to do so.

We pray for our government and all the governments of the world, for business leaders and all who hold any power.

We pray for those who feel voiceless and powerless.

We pray for those situations that no longer make the headlines for those suffering from conflicts,

war and oppression, for those seeking refuge and those who have no place of safety.

Come into these places, Living Lord, and establish Your way of justice, love, joy and peace, that all may know Your presence and power, Your glory and grace.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
Yours, now and for ever. Amen.*

A prayer of blessing

May the light of the resurrection shine on your way
May the peace of the resurrection hold you fast
And may the abundant life of the resurrection fill you and empower you.
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.



Some original materials by R A Bending, and from the Methodist Worship Book, adapted by the Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team