



Sunday 19th 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.

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

God declares:

I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.

**Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of your faithful people,
And kindle in us the fire of your love;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: StF 103 God is Love...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

God is Love : let heaven adore him ;
God is Love : let earth rejoice ;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love : and he, enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love : and though with blindness
sin afflicts each human soul,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides and keeps them whole.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain ;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874–1939) (*alt.*)

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Today's Readings:

Genesis 28:10-18.

Matthew 13:24-30.

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.

Let us pray together

Merciful God,

you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We

sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,
forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,
forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,
forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,
forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,
forgive us.

Silence

Jesus assures us that in his name our sins are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.
You search us out and lay your hand upon us.
You know what we are going to say even before we speak.
So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,
the lonely and the outcast,
and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Moirra Laidlaw's [Liturgies Online](#) website.

A time of reflection

Let both of them grow together until the harvest...

Jacobs Ladder and Wheat and Weeds. What have these in common? Perhaps they speak to us about not being too quick to judge or jump to conclusions. Jacob at first glance

is a cheat and a liar but God is at work in him. It's hard to tell the difference between good plants and weeds when they are small but let them grow and you will see from the fruit that they produce what their value is.

And what about the ordinary place where Jacob collapses exhausted only to wake to find, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it..."

Sorting good from bad, promising from hopeless, is never easy. Allow time for God to work and see how he transforms life.

Hymn: StF 351 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 in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone ! — who took on flesh,
fullness 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 ever pluck me from his hand ;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand !

Keith Getty (*b.* 1974) and Stuart Townend (*b.* 1963)

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Prayers of Intercession

In the silence let us pray for those who
we carry in our hearts at this time.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God.

We pray for our island and all those who serve the
common good. For those who have particular
responsibilities and carry huge burdens.

As this school year draws to a close we thank you for all
who work in our schools and have maintained their
workloads through difficult circumstances. Give them rest
and refreshment in the coming days.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God.

We pray for those beyond our shores who continue to
struggle with the effects of Covid 19. Those close to us and
those of whom we hear little. Help them to know your
presence.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God.

We pray for those who are anxious about the future. For
those whose employment is at risk and those who find
themselves fearful of what may come next. Give them
peace of mind and people who will listen to and support
them.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God.

Help us, as your church, to be a body of people who sow
seeds of hope and encouragement through our words and
our deeds.

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God.

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 the peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of
our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit.

Be with us all, this day and forever more. **Amen.**

