



**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 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.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

### **Opening Prayer**

I come this day to worship You,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Open my heart, to receive Your love,  
my soul to receive Your Spirit  
and my mind to know to Your truth.  
For Your glory.  
Amen.

### **Hymn: Speak, O Lord, as we come to you**

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
to receive the food of your holy word.  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;  
shape and fashion us in your likeness,

that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us  
all your purposes, for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,  
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built  
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)  
Words and Music: (c) 2005, Thankyou Music.  
CCLI 2421471

### **Let us pray together**

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
mindful, compassionate, constant, thank you for  
loving us through every season of our lives.

Thank you for calling us into this new day, for  
calling each of us by name, for calling us your  
children.

Gathered or scattered, you hold us together in  
love.

Speak to us now by your Holy Spirit, and as we  
read your holy Word, have your way in our lives,  
and assure us of your mercy, forgiveness, and  
love.

In the name of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

### **Today's Readings:**

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

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**

Of all the disciples, I love the stories of Peter the  
best.

Peter is someone who often suffers from what I  
call "foot-in-mouth disease" – i.e. he only has to  
open his mouth to put his foot in it!

Peter experiences such high and lows in his  
journey with Jesus: It is Peter who makes the  
declaration at Caesarea Philippi "You are the  
Christ – the Son of the Living God" and is told by  
Christ that he is "the rock" upon which the church  
will be built. Only a few moments later we find  
him trying to Jesus against going to Jerusalem  
and he is sternly rebuked "Get behind me, Satan"

It is Peter who gets so caught up in the moment  
of Jesus' transfiguration that he wants to build  
shelters on the mountain and try to prolong the  
experience...

It is Peter who confidently declares "I will never  
deny you"...only to do so three times in the  
courtyard.

So perhaps it is no surprise that it is Peter – impulsive Peter - who is singled out in today’s gospel reading while the others stay in the boat.

Jesus says to his disciples ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid’ when he walks on the water to the disciples in the boat.,and Peter being Peter, wants to try and walk on the water too!

I love Peter for his spontaneity, his passion, his courage to take bold steps. Yes, he sometimes got it wrong – but he is still the person Jesus chose to build his church.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us all in this – in the book of Revelation the Lord says to the church in Laodicea: “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!”.

Peter could never be accused of being “lukewarm” – yes he made mistakes, but he was always passionate!

May we have that same passion in our discipleship, and the same courage to take bold steps in our journey with Christ.

### **Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us**

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee,  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know,  
thou didst tread this earth before us,

thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
tempted, taunted, yet undaunted,  
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words  
Edition, number 238

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Holy and gracious God, we pray for this world which you made and which you love. In the midst of the storms that surround us, help us to hear your voice speaking to us: “do not be afraid”.

We pray for all who are grieving at this time:  
Grieving for the loss of loved ones,  
loss of livelihood,  
loss of confidence and hope,  
loss of any sense of wellbeing.

**May they know your comfort, strong and everlasting.**

We pray for all who are there to care for those who are at their lowest, especially those working in health and care services.

**May they know your persevering strength.**

We pray for those who are working to make a difference and improve the lives of those around them and across the world:

**May they know your laughter and love.**

We pray for people who need the world to be a more just and equal place, and for those who have power and authority to make changes.  
**May they know your righteousness and peace.**

This we ask in the name of Christ.

**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**

In the storms of life,  
and the uncertainties which may come,  
take heart - Jesus is with you.  
take courage – He is calling you on  
take bold steps – and live for His glory.  
The blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and always.  
Amen.



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