



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 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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### **Let us pray together**

God of Goodness, we come into your presence aware of  
our human frailty and yet overwhelmed  
by your love for us.

We thank you that there is no human experience that we  
might walk through where your love cannot reach us.

If we climb the highest mountain you are there and yet if  
we find ourselves in the darkest valley of our lives, you are  
there.

Teach us today to love you more.  
Help us to rest in that love that asks nothing more than the  
simple trusting heart of a child.

**Amen**

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

Romans 13:8-14.  
Matthew 22:23-40.

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**

Pharisees – Saducees; What about Love?

Have you ever noticed how sometimes people ask  
questions, not because they want to know the answer but,  
because they want to trip up the person they are  
questioning

Listen to the Today programme any morning and you will  
find perfect examples of people being backed into a corner  
where they end up saying something they never intended  
to, or something that others can misconstrue.

Backed into a corner Jesus reminds them of what really  
matters. You can have all the rules you like but what  
matters most is your love for God which results in your  
love for all God's people. As the passage from Romans  
reminds us "love is the fulfilment of the law."

## Hymn: StF 41 Blessed be your name...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Blessèd be your name  
in the land that is plentiful,  
where your streams of abundance flow,  
blessèd be your name.

And blessèd be your name  
when I'm found in the desert place,  
though I walk through the wilderness,  
blessèd be your name.

Every blessing you pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say :

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your name.*

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your glorious name.*

Blessèd be your name  
when the sun's shining down on me,  
when the world's 'all as it should be,'  
blessèd be your name.

And blessèd be your name  
on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering,  
blessèd be your name.

Every blessing you pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say :

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord ...*

You give and take away,  
you give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
'Lord, blessèd be your name.'

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord ...*

Matt Redman (b. 1974) and Beth Redman

## 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.**

Let us pray for all those returning to education this week  
as our schools and colleges reopen. For those who teach  
and those who study... For those who lead and those who  
follow... For those who long to be able to return to  
normality but cannot...

The Lord hears our prayer

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for those who carry the responsibility for  
steering us through this strange time. For government and  
those who manage... For the emergency services here on  
the island and beyond... For employers faced with difficult  
decisions...

The Lord hears our prayer

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the work of All We Can (Methodist Relief  
and Development) as they work with the those in the  
developing world facing the challenges of Covid alongside  
all the other difficulties which their lives present.

The Lord hears our prayer

**Thanks be to God.**

At the beginning of this new church year we pray for the  
Methodist Church. For those who have responsibility for  
the life of the church throughout the British Isles and  
beyond... For ministers taking up new appointments this  
month... For churches and circuits facing the future  
without the ministers they had hoped for... We especially  
pray for the Revd Sean Turner and his cousin Lee who are  
waiting patiently for the door to open for them to travel  
from the United States to serve the churches in the south  
of the island.

The Lord hears our prayer

**Thanks be to God.**

We offer our prayers in Jesus name.

**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  
God and of his son our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of  
God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

