



Sunday 13th 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 73 Fill thou my life...
Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone
nor e'en the praising heart
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part :

Praise in the common things of life,
its goings out and in ;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.

Fill every part of me with praise ;
let all my being speak
of thee and of thy love, O Lord,
poor though I be and weak.

So shalt thou, gracious Lord, from me
receive the glory due ;
and so shall I begin on earth
the song for ever new.

So shall no part of day or night
from sacredness be free ;
but all my life, in every step,
be fellowship with thee.

Horatius N. Bonar (1808–1889)

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Let us pray together

Loving God,

As we come seeking forgiveness and healing for ourselves
help us to recognise the power of forgiveness.

We have the power within us to hold on to past
resentments or to let them go.

Just as knowing your forgiveness sets us free, help us to
see that forgiving others also sets us free.

In the quietness think of those who have caused you hurt
in the past... Now offer it to God and let it go...

And the peace of God which passes all understanding will
restore your peace and make you whole again.

Amen.

Today's Readings:

Psalm 103:1-7,8-13.
Matthew 18:21-35.

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

Forgiveness from the heart.

What a strange question Peter asks and yet if we are
honest we would probably share his concern. Can you keep
forgiving someone if their behaviour doesn't change. It's all
about perspective I guess. Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us...

Forgiveness must come from the heart. It's not conditional
or limited. There is no 'if' involved. In the end harbouring
resentment will destroy us, not the other person.

Forgiveness is good for you and for the person who upset
you. So, don't waste time. Just do it!

Hymn: StF 615 Let love be real...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own ;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go.

*As God loves us, so let us love each other :
with no demands, just open hands and space to
grow.*

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free ;
that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are
weakness ;
give me your love in spite of all you know.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control ;
let us accept each other's incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and
disappointments ;
give me your trust when all my failings show.

Michael Forster (b. 1946)

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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 those who carry hurt from the past.
Lord show us where there are things we need to do

to bring healing and help us to be open to the healing work
of your Holy Spirit.

The Lord hears our prayer
Thanks be to God.

We pray for those whose physical and mental wellbeing
have been damaged by the Covid crisis, here on our island
and beyond our shores. Open hearts, minds and doors
that people may find healing.

The Lord hears our prayer
Thanks be to God.

We pray for the gift of courage as we face the future,
whatever it may hold...

The Lord hears our prayer
Thanks be to God.

We pray for the leaders of the nations as they seek to steer
a path through these troubled waters. Give them wisdom
and courage...

The Lord hears our prayer
Thanks be to God.

We pray for the church as we seek to discern what it
means to serve the present age and fulfil our calling.

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
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.**

