



**Sunday 27<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 09:30 every Sunday which includes prayers, readings, hymns, and teaching.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

## **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 25:4-5)*

The psalmist wrote:

'Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me.'

Let us also seek the way and the truth of God.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn (StF 345): And can it be**

*Sing/ Read /pray / the words below*

1 And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!  
Who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the first-born seraph tries  
to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
let angel minds enquire no more.

3 He left his Father's throne above --  
so free, so infinite his grace --  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me!

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray --  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,  
my chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

5 No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving**

I'm grateful, Lord God,  
that you love me and care for me,  
that Jesus lived and died for me.  
I'm grateful that you are interested in me,  
even me with all my faults and failings.  
Thank you for sharing my life and my living,  
for being within my hopes and dreams.  
Thank you for giving me purpose and meaning.  
Thank you for showing me how to live a life of  
goodness and truth, a life of caring and sharing.  
Thank you for your generosity and abundance -  
even if I fail to see it.  
Thank you, God, for being you -  
and thank you for making me, me.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of Confession**

We sometimes think  
that the more we have the happier we will be.  
'If only', then all will be well.  
We sometimes turn the other way,  
closing our eyes and ears,  
ignoring what we see,  
choosing to neglect those asking for help.  
Sometimes we refuse a helping hand to those in need  
– we want to do 'our thing' instead.  
We do not want to confess these things  
but, Lord God, in this moment, in this place,  
in this space that we've been given,  
give us the desire to confess our failings and our sins,  
renew us from within –  
and set us free from all that shackles us.  
Set us free to be the human beings –  
you would have us be.

**Amen.**

## Readings: Philippians 2:1-13 & Matthew 21:23-32

### A time of reflection

Are we like the second son in parable of the two sons? Have we said 'yes' to God while in fact going off in the other direction? What direction is God wanting us as individuals and as our church community to take? Do we, as Paul says to the church at Philippi 'look not to your own interests but to the interests of others'. This goes against our natural inclinations but as Jesus 'emptied himself taking the form of a slave' so we are called to serve those we encounter and our neighbours across the world.

*Caroline Salmon*

### Hymn (StF 272): From heaven you came

*Sing/ Read /pray / the words below*

- 1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled,  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

- 2 There in the garden of tears  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.
- 3 Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.
- 4 So let us learn how to serve  
and in our lives enthrone him,  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

## Prayers of Intercession

*Let's pray*

So often we want to pray for others.  
But sometimes, God, we don't know how.  
We can't remember names or numbers;  
other issues weigh heavily on our hearts.  
Thank goodness, God,  
that you know what we mean when we pray.  
So, we bring in this moment  
those names and faces, images and desires for others  
that pop in and out of our minds throughout the day:  
the old lady at the bus stop –  
who needed a hand up the step;  
the young mum at the checkout –  
trying to contain her four kids;  
the chap up the road –  
who's lost his dog and is calling for him;  
the teachers struggling to understand –  
the needs of those in their class;  
the doctors who wants to give us more time –  
but who simply can't;  
the young families who can't make ends meet;  
those without work, who can't find new jobs;  
those helping people to find work -  
knowing it is an uphill struggle;  
those with mental health issues and seeking help,  
or who are afraid and ashamed to seek help,  
or who are ignored and can't get help.  
So, God, for all these people and countless others,  
we offer our prayers.  
We know you do not need reminding,  
but you do need willing workers – even us –  
to help them know your love –  
and have their needs met.  
Hear our ramblings, O 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 sending out prayer

May we go, Lord God,  
to meet the needs of others  
and share the love we have from you.

**Amen.**

