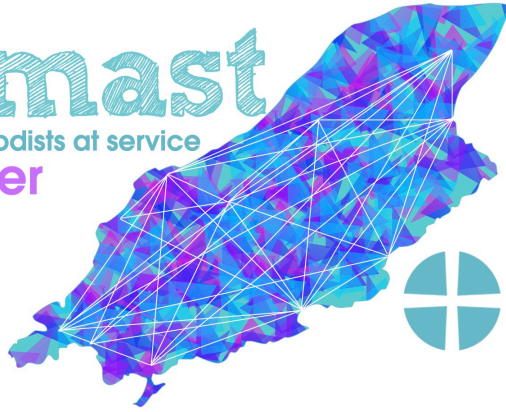


mmast
Manx Methodists at service
together



Sunday 4th October 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: H&P 355 Come Ye Thankful...
Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day
All offences purge away;
Give his angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come;
Bring thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There for ever purified,
In thy garner to abide:
Come, with all thine angels come,
Raise the glorious harvest-home!

Let us pray together

Loving Father,

We thank you for creating this beautiful earth and all the varied life forms within it. Forgive us for having recklessly exploited it, changing its weather, depleting its resources,

treating animals as 'commodities' and creating divisions between rich and poor, east and west, haves and have-nots.

Help us to turn away from our self-interest and greed, to protect the climate and the life which depends on it, and to begin to live in such a way that we do not rob others of the means to live, either those now living or those who will come after us.

We ask it in the name of Jesus, through whom all things were made. **Amen.**

Today's Readings:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11.
Matthew 13:1-9.

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

Remember the lessons learnt in the wilderness.

In the reading from Deuteronomy the people of Israel are told to remember their history so that they don't take for granted the good things they have. When life gets easy again remember the hard times because you experienced God there in a special way.

The traditional harvest parable of the sower speaks to us of an endless supply of love (the seed) which we can scatter far and wide because it will never run out and even the tiniest bit of growth is precious to God in ground which is hard and barren. It also repeats the warnings of Deuteronomy about the things that can come in and choke the love within us if we don't guard against them by remembering all that God has done for us.

Hymn: H&P 362 To thee, O Lord...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
In hymns of adoration,
To thee bring sacrifice of praise
With shouts of exultation:
Bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
The hills with joy are ringing,
The valleys stand so thick with corn,
That even they are singing.

And now, on this our festal day,
Thy bounteous hand confessing,
Before thee thankfully we lay
The first-fruits of thy blessing.
By thee thy children's souls are fed
With gifts of grace supernal;
Thou who dost give us earthly bread,
Give us the bread eternal.

We bear the burden of the day,
And often toil seems dreary;
But labour ends with sunset ray
And rest comes for the weary:
May we, the angel-reaping o'er,
Stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore
To garner bright elected.

O blessed is that land of God
Where saints abide for ever,
Where golden fields spread far and broad,
Where flows the crystal river.
The strains of all its holy throng
With ours today are blending;
Thrice blessed is that harvest song
Which never has an ending.

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 don't know what it is to have a
good harvest and who struggle to find food for themselves
and their children.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the developing Covid situation in the UK. Give
wisdom to those who have hard decisions to make and
patience to those whose lives are restricted by the
pandemic.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for employers and workers and all those whose
livelihoods are at risk through the effects of the Covid
crisis...

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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.**

