



Sunday 11th 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, along with a video for MAST Youth (teenagers) and MAST Kids (6-11yrs). 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

Lord our God,
eternal and wonderful,
wholly to be trusted:
You give life to all;
You help those who come to You
and give hope to those who call on You.
Set our hearts and minds at peace,
that we may bring our prayers to You with
confidence and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn: Angel voices, ever singing Sing / Read / Pray the words below

Angel voices ever singing
round Thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night:
thousands only live to bless Thee
and confess Thee
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that Thou regardest
sinful woman, man?
Can we know that Thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.

Lord, we know that Thou rejoices
o'er each work of Thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
for Thy praise design;
maker's art and music's measure
for Thy pleasure
all combine.

In Thy house, great God, we offer
of Thine own to Thee;
and for Thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best that Thou hast given
earth and heaven
render Thee.

Let us pray together

Loving God,
We are glad to come and worship You, glad to be
in Your presence and give You the honour due to
Your name.
You are greater than our highest thoughts,
mightier than we can ever comprehend, before
all, in all, and beyond all.
So we come, acknowledging Your greatness,
marvelling at Your power, rejoicing in Your love,
celebrating Your blessings, and praising You for
all the mercy You have shown to us throughout
our lives.
Teach us more of all You have done and will
continue to do, and help us to show the sincerity
of what we offer now by the way we live our lives
tomorrow and in the days beyond.

Loving God,
Even as we come as part of the great company
of Your people to offer You our worship we bring
also our confession for we have failed You in so
much. We come with sorrow and a sense of
shame, throwing ourselves once more upon Your
mercy, depending on Your grace to lift us up and
renew us once more.

Silence

Grant us Your forgiveness, and do not hold our
faults against us.
Give us time for repentance, and the strength to
turn from our sins back towards You.
Use now this time of worship to touch our hearts,
to speak to our minds, to transform our lives.
We ask these prayers through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Today's Readings:

Genesis 1: 26 - 2:3
Philippians 4: 4—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

We all like being happy. The problem with happy is that it's circumstantial. Happiness winks on and off like an indicator light. Hitting green lights all the way to work makes us happy. Getting rear-ended in the car park makes us unhappy. A compliment from a colleague makes us happy. Being criticised makes us unhappy. Happiness hangs out on the sports field and at family reunions. But it's an infrequent guest at funerals and hospital waiting rooms.

Joy is different. Joy isn't a feeling, it's more of a knowing. "For the joy set before Him Jesus endured the cross, scorning it's shame, and sat down at the right hand of God."

Jesus' joy was knowing He was about to make peace between sinful humanity and our holy God. Did He feel happy when He anticipated the agony of the cross, abandonment by His Father, the weight of our sins, and death? No - He was overwhelmed with sorrow! But even in sorrow He knew the joy of doing His Father's will: presenting the world with the forgiveness we could never earn.

A Christian's joy is closely linked to Jesus' joy. His joy was in giving that gift. Ours is in receiving it. We know - however dark our circumstances, however we feel - we have God's favour and a heavenly home. From that knowledge grows a joy that makes our hearts stand tall even when pummelled in earthly sorrow. A joy that smiles in every circumstance.

So please. Take a good long look at your personal relationship with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and ask yourself, "am I enjoying God?" If the answer is no, what needs to change? And if the answer is yes, Hallelujah! Take that joy out into the world!

We were made to worship and enjoy God. Please do. Amen.

Hymn: Teach me to dance

Sing / Read / Pray the words below
*Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart,
teach me to move in the power of Your Spirit,
teach me to walk in the light of Your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.
Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of Your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of Your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.*

You wrote the rhythm of life,
created heaven and earth;
in You is joy without measure.
So, like a child in Your sight,
I dance to see Your delight,
for I was made for Your pleasure,
pleasure.

Let all my movements express
a heart that loves to say 'yes,'
a will that leaps to obey You.
Let all my energy blaze
to see the joy in Your face,
let my whole being praise You,
praise You.

Prayers of Intercession

In faith we pray to God, who is far more ready to hear than we are to ask.

Let us pray for the whole church of God, remembering particularly the Methodist churches in *the Caribbean and the Americas; Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Belize and Honduras, Guyana, Haiti;* and the *Chester and Stoke District* of the British Connexion. Let us pray, too, for all churches in our Circuit, and in Churches Alive in Mann, rejoicing that in our common heritage, we may strengthen each other and be built up in love.

Let us pray for the life of the world, thinking especially of countries with no peace...

We remember all places in political turmoil of one form or another...

We pray for places suffering from natural disasters...

And we pray for all countries struggling with the Coronavirus....

Help us rejoice in our common humanity that we may reject the ways of greed, war and conflict and work together for justice and peace.

Let us pray for those of our community - church, family and friends - who need a special touch from You at this time. Help us to be Your hands and voice on earth as we share Your compassion.

Let us rejoice in the communion of saints, remembering those who have shown us more of You, that, strengthened by their faithful example, we may follow the way of Christ and live to God's praise and glory.

Give us wisdom, Lord, to know your will, and the courage to do it. May our words declare your love and may our compassion give substance to our words. We ask all these prayers in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

A prayer of blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Prayers adapted from the Methodist Worship Book and Nick Fawcett.
Hymns taken from Singing the Faith.

