



Sunday 25th 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 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 (Psalm 71:5-6)

For you, O Lord, you are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.

Amen.

Hymn (StF 51): Great is thy faithfulness

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

- 2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Prayer of Approach

God our provider and life-giver,
source of love and hope,
maker of relationships,
giver of beauty and gentleness,
revealer of hidden things –
in you we live and move and exist.
You are our true home:
We praise you, O Lord.

We thank you that you have reached out to us
through the love of Jesus,
touching our hearts and minds,
making us your people.
That we can come from different places,
with different hopes and needs,
and find that we are one in you.

That we can come in joy and in sadness,
and find you holding us in love:
We praise you, O Lord.

We thank you –
that you have given us your church,
and drawn us together as your people.
That you help us create space
so that we can be aware of your presence.
That you place us within a community
in which we are valued and loved.
That you love us all in our variety,
and that you love us to the uttermost:
We praise you, O Lord. We thank you.
In the name of Jesus,
in whom we put our trust and hope. **Amen.**

Readings: Psalm 16 & Acts 2:22-28

A time of reflection

The two readings I've chosen for today are linked by King David – the ascribed author of Psalm 16. In Acts chapter two Peter, who is addressing the crowd gathered on the day of Pentecost, directly quotes from Psalm 16 and makes a connection with Jesus' resurrection. But it is the Psalm of David that has captured my thoughts for today. Whenever David wrote a psalm, he poured his heart out to God. When he felt abandoned – he simply told God. When he felt lonely or afraid, he didn't bottle it up inside, he shared it with the Lord. And when David was blessed by the touch of God or struck by the beauty of creation, he didn't keep it to himself either. He simply did the thing that was most natural – to sing the praises of the living God - the living God who can lift people from despair to new hope - the living God who can put real joy into our hearts too.

And reading Psalm 16 we are caught up with a cry from the heart. David recognises God as the one who is protective and caring. But there's more. David is

singing a song that speaks of present faith and also an expectation of future hope.

From his own experience David is saying that there is really nothing, in this life, really worth holding onto – except God. The only thing of real value we can have or depend upon in life - is our faith in a loving and forgiving God - and the hope he gives us for what is to come. David sings of the secret to real joy. True joy is far deeper than happiness; joy can be felt even in the midst of and in spite of our deepest troubles. Happiness is only temporary because it is based on our external circumstances, but real joy is lasting because it is based on God's presence within us through Christ Jesus. God living in us by his Spirit!

So, put your trust in the Lord and delight in him; and he will bless you with a real joy – a present faith and a future hope.

Rev Bryan Yardy

Hymn (StF 351): In Christ alone

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

- 1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.
- 2 In Christ alone! -- who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine --
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

Prayers of Intercession

Let's pray

God, our hope,
we pray for those who live in despair:
those caught up in the power struggles of others,
becoming the victims of warfare and persecution,
We pray for those blinded by false promises,
and now living under unjust and uncaring regimes,
Loving God, when hope is lost and faith destroyed:
Call us to repentance, renewal and trust.

God, our hope, we pray for those who live in despair:
those caught in the poverty trap
and unable to find a way out,
We pray for those dreading the next moment,
the next day because of illness, anxiety or loss,
Loving God, when hope is lost and faith destroyed:
Call us to repentance, renewal and trust.

God, our hope,
we pray for those who live in despair:
those caught in the web of sin, guilt and fear
unable to change and escape;
We pray for ourselves, when our pilgrimage of faith
takes us through dark places of suffering and doubt.
Loving God, when hope is lost and faith destroyed:
Call us to repentance, renewal and trust.

God, our hope,
through Jesus you have claimed us as your own.
May we never despair,
but live by faith in your promise of unfailing love,
made known to us in the life, death and resurrection
of our Lord and Brother, Jesus Christ. **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

Go in faith, go in hope, go in love,
In the confidence and joy
that one day you will fully know,
as you are fully known,
By your Lord of love. **Amen.**

