



Sunday 20th December 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.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

Maybe it is in the waiting for God, not in the wandering from store to store, that we find our way.

Maybe it is in the friendship of God, not in the frenzy of the crowds, that we are led to the manger.

Maybe it is in the steadfast love of God, and not in the pile of stuff under the tree, that we find what we have been searching for all our lives.

Maybe, just maybe, God of Advent, this year will be different.

Maybe, just maybe, we will let you lead us to Bethlehem.

Thom M Shuman in *Candles and Conifers* by Ruth Burgess (compiler), Wild Goose Publications (2005), 157.

Hymn: The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

1. The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!
2. 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy
name:'
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!
4. Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will
ever say,
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

Prayers of Intercession

We are waiting, Jesus;
COME AND LIVE WITH US SOON.

Jesus, we are waiting because we know who you are:
the Creator of the world,
the God who took on human form,
the son of Mary, a girl just like any other girl.
We are waiting, Jesus;
COME AND LIVE WITH US SOON.

Jesus, we are waiting because we have faith in you.
We know that we can trust you.
We remember that you are good to us,
And we thank you for all the good things that you
give to us every day.
We are waiting, Jesus;
COME AND LIVE WITH US SOON.

Jesus, we are waiting here,
here in Colby, here in Ramsey,
here in Peel, here in Douglas,
waiting for you to come into our houses, our streets,
our shops and offices, to fill them with your light and
peace.
We are waiting, Jesus;
COME AND LIVE WITH US SOON.

Jesus, we are waiting for you to come and change things;
to bring health to our sick ones,
to make asylum seekers welcome,
to comfort those who have lost loved ones;
and to turn us around
so that we can be your hands and your feet,
your ears and eyes,
in this world that needs you so much.
We are waiting, Jesus;
COME AND LIVE WITH US SOON. AMEN.

John Davies (*alt.*) in *Candles and Conifers* by Ruth Burgess (compiler), Wild Goose Publications (2005), 150-151.

The Lord's Prayer

Today's Readings:

Luke 1.26-38
Luke 1.46b-55

A time of reflection

My soul magnifies the Lord

Hymn: Tell Out My Soul

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (*b.* 1926)
Reproduced from *Singing the Faith*, number 186

Closing prayer

We are waiting on God.

God is waiting on us.

Will we respond?

Will I respond?

O come, O come, Immanuel!

Amen.

