



Sunday 27th 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.

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

Hymn: StF 213 O little town...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie !
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light ;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth !
For Christ is born of Mary ;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given !
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming ;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray ;
cast out our sin, and enter in ;
be born in us today !
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell ;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel !

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

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Let us pray together

Great and wonderful are the things
the Lord our God has done for us.
The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

In the silence and stillness
let us open our hearts and lives to God.

Ever-living God,
whose glory is revealed
in the Word made flesh,
may we, who have seen such splendour
in the coming of your Son,
be true witnesses to your self-giving love in the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Today's Readings:

Galatians 4:4-7.

Luke 2:22-40.

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

God's timing is perfect.
So many times in the Christmas story we hear the phrase "When the time came..."

We have our own idea of when things should happen and often we grow impatient but, as the Old Testament puts it, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Although we may not be able to see it, God is working his purpose out as age succeeds to age.

Hymn: StF 204 In the bleak...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone ;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him,
nor the earth sustain ;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter

a stable-place sufficed
God, the Lord Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
through the air —
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Belovèd
with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am ?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb ;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part ;
yet what I can I give him —
give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894)

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Prayers of Intercession

God of outreach,
we thank you for coming amongst us in Jesus.
We marvel at your humility, emptying yourself
“of all but love”.

We recognise our privilege
and pray for those with no home,
those who have had to travel to foreign lands,
those who flee persecution.
Emmanuel, God with us, be with them.

God of the familiar,
we thank you for the familiar scriptures at
Christmastide.
Speak through them of hope renewed,
of steadfast love,
of faith that flows full and free within and beyond
the familiar carols and services.

May your spirit call out goodness from all who
feel tired and estranged from the familiar today.
Emmanuel, God with us, be with them.

God of the strange,
we pray for all those
who miss familiar rituals and traditions –
both family and religious.
We pray for all those today who are sad or lonely,
all those who feel cut off from loved ones.
Emmanuel, God with us, be with them.

God of good will,
we pray that these difficult times may call out
goodwill from all who are made in your image.
Bless, we pray,
all those who reach out with Good News,
with practical help, with simple friendship.
Where we become caught up in ourselves,
break in with your message that
“it is in giving out to all that we receive”
Thank you for love and hope made known to us
in our Saviour, Christ Jesus
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.

Hymn: StF 330 Joy to the world...

Joy to the world, the Lord is come !
Let earth receive her King ;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns !
Let all their songs employ ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

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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.**



Some material taken from The Methodist Worship Book