



Sunday 24th January 2021

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 of love, God for all,
your purposes are more beautiful than we
can possibly imagine.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Help us let go of all that holds us back.
Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of
humility and faith, of change and growth.
Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus
and show us the way.

Amen

Hymn: StF God it was who said...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

- 1 God it was who said to Abraham,
'Pack your bags and travel on.'
God it was who said to Sarah,
'Smile and soon you'll bear a son.'
Travelling folk and aged mothers
wandering when they thought they'd done —
this is how we find God's people,
leaving all because of One.
- 2 God it was who said to Moses,
'Save my people, part the sea.'
God it was who said to Miriam,
'Sing and dance to show you're free.'
Shepherd-saints and tambourinists
doing what God knew they could —
this is how we find God's people,
liberating what they should.
- 3 God it was who said to Joseph,
'Down your tools and take your wife.'
God it was who said to Mary,
'In your womb, I'll start my life !'
Carpenter and country maiden
leaving town and trade and skills —
this is how we find God's people,
moved by what their Maker wills.
- 4 Christ it was who said, 'Zacchaeus,
I would like to eat with you.'
Christ it was who said to Martha,
'Listening's what you need to do.'
Civil servants and housekeepers,
changing places at a cost —
this is how Christ summons people,
calling both the loved and lost.
- 5 In this crowd which spans the ages,
with these saints whom we revere,
God wants us to share their purpose
starting now and starting here.
So we celebrate our calling,
so we raise both heart and voice,

as we pray that through our living
more may find they are God's choice.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

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Let us pray together

Lord God, we thank you that you as we gather together
through technology, in our own homes, we are assured
that you are with us and that by your spirit we are united
with each other.

Thank you that every time and place is yours.
Forgive us when we forget this truth and believe that we
have to do everything for ourselves. Cleanse and renew us
by your Holy Spirit and help us once again to place
everything in your hands.

Thank you that forgive us and gives us a fresh start again
and again. Thank you that you choose to use us to build
your kingdom. Help us to be faithful to our calling.

Amen

Today's Readings:

Samuel 3:1-10.
Mark 1:14-20.

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

How do we hear God's voice?

A simple question to which I wish there was a simple
answer. There are some clues though in our readings
today. When, like Samuel, we are young in the faith and

have little experience of God we may need someone older and wiser to help us to hear. When like Eli the years have passed and we have become hardened to life we may need to hear God speaking through the simple truths shared by those who are young in the faith. One thing is clear. If we are to hear the voice of God we need each other. If we feel God is speaking to us about something then we must have the graciousness to take it to others both older and wiser and younger and fresher than ourselves and ask them to help us discern what God is saying. Both readings remind us that God's call needs a response and the new testament helps us to understand that in Jesus we meet not only the one who will call but also the one who will walk with us as we journey in response to the call of the kingdom.

Hymn: StF 407 Hear the call...

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

- 1 Hear the call of the kingdom,
lift your eyes to the King ;
let his song rise within you
as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy,
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

- 2 Hear the call of the kingdom
to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ ;
walking justly before him,
loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.*

- 3 Hear the call of the kingdom
to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion
in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness,

and a hope yet to come :
let the nations put their trust in him.

King of heaven, we will answer the call ...

Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

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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 are facing great challenges in this
difficult time wherever they are.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We particularly pray for those on the front line of care. For
the professionals who work in health care, government
and other essential services.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for wisdom as we face the future, whatever it
may hold...

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the wider world beyond our shores who face
the same challenges without the resources that we take
for granted...

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.**

