



Sunday 21st March 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.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you were lifted up on the cross for us and for our salvation; help us to triumph over evil and to do good, to give ourselves to you as you give yourself for us, and to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith number 82

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die-I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, our burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away our sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home-what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: My God, how great thou art!

Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

vv. 1, 2, 4 based on O store Gud (1885) by

Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859-1940)

Prayer of Confession

Read as a prayer Psalm 51, verses 1-12

Today's Readings:

John 12:20-33

Find a Bible and read the above passage. If you do not have a Bible at home, ask your local minister who will gladly source one for you.

A time of reflection

In our reading from the gospel today, some Greeks come to Philip and request that he gets them an interview with Jesus. These Greeks were probably not Jews, but at Jesus' time many people respected the Jewish religion and even came to the city of Jerusalem in Palestine to observe at least, although they could not participate in, this great festival called Passover. Since Jesus is creating quite a big stir

among all the people in Jerusalem, these Greeks want to learn more about him. Perhaps even become followers of him, maybe even become believers.

Now it is evident that word of Jesus is spreading beyond the borders of Israel, Jesus says that the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

People from the gentile races are wanting to see him, so now the time has come, Jesus says, for me to be shown for what I am, what I am about.

In order for people to truly see him, to understand the glory of Jesus, they shall have to see it in his dying. There in the cross they will see his glory. He is dying to give many life. He is being lifted up on the cross, so that we can live.

It is there on the cross that we see Jesus' glory. He is all about giving life to us, who without him are dead in trespasses and sins.

On the cross he reveals the true nature of our Heavenly Father. Not a condemning God, but a God who has compassion beyond anything you and I have ever felt. The cross is God's greatest act of compassion towards all mankind.

There was a picture of the crucifixion that I bought in Israel a number of years ago, and it still shakes me when I think about it. Underneath the picture are the words "I asked Jesus – "Lord, how much do You love me?" "This much" He answered, then He stretched out His arms and died"

Jesus does not want to be saved from the cross, the events leading up to Good Friday are not some gigantic cosmic mistake, but the ultimate fulfilment of God's loving purpose.

Jesus draws all people to him on the cross. For it is there we must decide whether we will find ourselves

able to live only by trusting him, or whether we will reject his glory.

We can not see Jesus if we do not see the cross. If we choose to seek him only as a moral teacher, or a worker of miracles.

There are so many images and ways of showing Christ to others: If someone comes to you today and says “We want to see Jesus”, what will you show that person?

A King?

A Shepherd?

A Judge?

All of these images have truth contained within them – but the one that reveals most about Jesus, about God, about our human condition? Show them the cross.

Show them our King crucified.

Show them our Saviour killed.

Show them our Lamb of God slain.

Show them an empty tomb.

For there is our good news – that God’s own Son came down, was beaten, tortured, nailed onto a rough plank of wood with thorns driven into His head, and died in our place, but death could not hold him and through his death and resurrection the doorway has been opened that we too can have new life - and life in all it’s fullness.

The cross of Christ truly is foolishness to the wise. But to those who believe it is the very power and glory of God.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith number 276

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

- 1 Follow the path on which our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:
- 2 Each new-born soldier of the Crucified
bears on their brow the seal of him who died:
- 3 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine:
- 4 From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:
- 5 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee:
- 6 Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:

Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956)
and George William Kitchin (1827-1912)

Prayers of Intercession

Lord of the church, may we bring others to know you,
in knowing you to love you,
and in loving you to serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom.
Lord, as you give yourself for us,
let us give ourselves to you.

We give thanks for the passion and cross of our Lord,
for the gift of forgiveness found in Christ Jesus.
We pray for all troubled souls, those anxious about
their health, or their future.
We pray especially for those affected by the
Coronavirus pandemic, and ask that you help us to
know how best we can show your love to those
around us.

Lord, as you give yourself for us,
let us give ourselves to you.

Lord, give comfort to the bereaved, give courage to
the dying. Set all troubled hearts at rest, and help all
to trust in the God who gives life eternal.
Lord, as you give yourself for us,
let us give ourselves to you.

We ask our prayers in the name of 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 prayer of blessing

The Father who created light out of darkness,
the Son who is the light of the world,
the Spirit who enlightens our hearts
be with you, and and scatter the darkness from you.
May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and always.
Amen.

