



Sunday 8th August 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.

Welcome

Opening Prayer

As we come into your presence,
God of our salvation,
help us to calm and quieten our spirits.
Open our eyes, that we may catch the sight
of your glory.

Open our ears, that we may hear your word.

Open our hearts, that we may respond to your love:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn (StF 20): Be still, for the presence of the Lord

Sing/ Read /pray/ the words below

1 Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now

with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found --
we stand on holy ground.
Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

2 Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight --
our radiant King of light!
Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

3 Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him --
in faith receive from him.
Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

David J. Evans (b. 1957)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God,
you spoke the universe into being
and your word succeeds in the purposes
for which you send it.
It is not far from us, but very near,
implanted deep within us.
We thank you, eternal God.

Eternal Son,
Word of the Father,

you took our human flesh
and spoke to us the word of life.
Your Cross and resurrection
proclaim undying love for the world
and in you we are called to share your love.
We thank you, eternal Son.

Eternal Spirit,
in whom is life and peace,
your voice calls us to bear fruit in God's service,
and to grow in knowledge and grace.
You are our guide and inspiration,
our advocate and strength.
We thank you, eternal Spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: Exodus 4:1-17 & 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 2:5 A time of reflection

Moses is often depicted as the great pillar of faith - called by God on a rescue mission to fearlessly lead the Israelites out of slavery from Egypt. But if we take a careful look at Moses' calling – we see that he was far from the fearless leader we might imagine. In fact, from the image we have of him in our reading from Exodus 4 we see a rather shy and fearful Moses. He sees himself as someone with no strength or courage or eloquence when God calls him. He feels completely inadequate and makes every excuse as to why he can't do what God asks.

A similar sense of inadequacy is shared by Paul in our reading from 1 Corinthians. Paul is a bit like Moses. He says he does not come with eloquence or human wisdom. But the difference is, Paul is willing to offer what he has for God's Spirit to transform. Moses has yet to learn this lesson. So, God says to him: "What is that in your hand?"

What happens next is remarkable. Moses is willing to give to God his shepherd's staff, the tool of his trade, and God miraculously transforms it. The staff then becomes a symbol of God's power and authority for Moses' calling.

You see, the amazing thing we too can learn - is that God is greater than our inadequacies, and our lack of experience or talent. God calls us to work alongside him in his kingdom. Each one of us has a God-given purpose in life – and God always meets us where we are. He simply asks for trust - to give him what is in your hand - and he will transform it to bless you and bless others.

Rev Bryan Yardy

Hymn (StF 407): Hear the call of the kingdom

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)*

Prayers of Intercession

Let's pray...

Father, we thank you for the many gifts
you've given your church:
the gifts of leading, preaching and teaching;
the creative gifts of those
who enhance our worship with
music, art, craft, flowers;
the gifts of listening and understanding,
of a smile and hospitality;
the gifts that say, 'You are welcome here.'
Help us to see past the barriers that restrict,
and develop new gifts in ourselves and others.
Father, for all your gifts:
we trust and thank you.

We thank you for the many gifts of peace
that you have given this world:
for every world leader striving for peace;
for every politician who genuinely engages
in making the world better for those excluded;
for all those who give their lives
in the service of others;
for those who have given their lives in our service.
Father, for all your gifts:
we trust and thank you.

We think today of all those for whom
life holds few gifts:
for all those whose life is diminished by others' labels;

for all those disabled by illness,
in body, mind and spirit:
we think especially of ...
We ask that all these know
the precious gift -
of your healing, cleansing presence with them.
Father, for all your gifts:
we trust and thank you.

Help us to see this week
as we give of ourselves
that a gift never diminishes us,
but that giving to others
gives more to us than we could ever achieve
on our own. **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.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
take our faith, flawed though it is,
our love, poor though it may be,
and our commitment, for all its imperfections,
and use us in your service
to make known your gracious purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

