



Sunday 19th September 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 all glory,
You brought the universe into existence,
and raised up witnesses
to Your greatness and love.
We praise and adore You.
Grant that by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit
we may worship and serve You,
and praise Your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn: Sing / Read / Pray the words below:

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

*Gracious God, to You we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift and sign
of Your love so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

*Gracious God, to You we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

StF 102 © From *Revised Church Hymnary*

Let us pray together

Lord of life,
we gather this day to praise You,
to acknowledge You as Creator of heaven and
earth, to thank You for Your faithful provision, and
to celebrate the constant cycle of the seasons.
We praise You for this vast and awesome
universe in which You have placed us, for this
world in which we live, and for this Island which
we call home - so many reasons to count our
blessings, so much to thank You for.

Lord of life,
forgive us when we take Your blessings for
granted, complaining about what we haven't got
instead of rejoicing in what we have.

Forgive us for our irresponsibility in squandering
what You have given, frittering away earth's
resources with no thought of tomorrow.
Forgive us for wantonly polluting Your world
which You commanded us to care for.
Forgive us for wasting so much that others have
need of - food, clothing, land, sea, energy...

Lord of life,
today we remember this is Your world which we
have to steward not only for future generations
but for You. Remind us that thanksgiving must
be more than just words, we have to put them
into action through our commitment to You and
others as we care for Your Creation.

Amen.

Today's Readings:

Genesis 1:28 - 2:3

James 3:13 - 4:8a

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

Today is the start of The Great Big Green Week -
a week filled with Island wide activities and
events helping us to see what we can do to
prevent irreversible climate change.

You've probably gathered by now that this is a
subject very close to my heart, but it is one we all
need to get involved in. We can no longer sit
back and say "someone else can do it", or that
it's up to our governments to impose new
legislation. We all need to do our bit.

And it is very simple.

Keep reminding yourself that you don't own this
world - God does. He created it all in just six
days (however you want to interpret that) and
declared that it was good.

He created light from darkness; He separated the
waters from the sky; He created land and

covered it with plants; He put lights in the sky; He made the birds and the fishes; He made all the animals and us humans. But He also put us in charge of looking after the rest of His creation. Then He rested, and declared the seventh day Holy.

And that is where so many problems have started. We no longer have a Sabbath. Many people treat Sunday as special, some even go to church, but in reality it is just another day in the week.

Think of Sabbath in bigger terms. It's not just about a day off, or time for yourself. It should be about giving back to God, and that includes giving Him back the land He created.

Intensive farming at it's worst plants and harvests the same crop in the same field year after year after year and eventually the land can no longer produce the amount it used to so fertiliser is added with limited success on the crop, and disaster for the surrounding waters.

Scientists have now proved what God told the people in Leviticus - plow and reap for 6 years and leave the 7th fallow!

Working for six, keeping the seventh holy.

This works in so many ways, and places.

We've all seen the increase in need for mental health facilities - many citing Covid 19 as the reason. But what all the lockdowns gave us was a chance to stop, enabling our minds (and bodies) to play catch up after running on adrenaline and caffeine for years!

What would our world look like if after every 6 years all travel ceased for twelve months? So many people commented during summer 2020 that everything looked cleaner...

Looking after God's world is not just about giving up plastic, it's all the other things that come with it, which Fred Pratt Green says so much better than me!

Hymn: Sing / Read / Pray the words below
God in His love for us lent us this planet,
Gave it a purpose in time and in space;
Small as a spark from the fire of creation,
Cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,
Life that sustains us in body and mind:
Plenty for all if we learn how to share it,
Riches undreamed of to fathom and find.

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;
Long has earth bowed to the terror of force;
Long have we wasted what others have need of,
Poisoned the fountain of life at the source.

Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it,
Ours, as His stewards, to farm and defend.
From its pollution misuse and destruction,
Good Lord deliver us, world without end.

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Prayers

Almighty God You are the author of life, we see so much of Your goodness all around us. From the seas to the mountains, the plants and animals, and the way You bring life and peace to stormy seas and dry deserts. We pray that in this time of climate crisis and ecological emergency, You may help us to rediscover Your love of creation.

God, in your mercy hear our prayer.

God, You use ordinary and unexpected people to carry out Your ways, showing that it's Your power that works through us.

We thank You for contemporary prophets who are challenging us to act on climate change; for indigenous people and their invaluable knowledge of the land, for scientists dedicating their careers to warning us about changes to the planet, and for young people striking for their future.

We pray that those in power will hear these prophetic voices.
Help them to see beyond short term political priorities and give them wisdom and courage when they face difficult decisions.

God, in your mercy hear our prayer.

God of second chances, we recognise the damage we have done to the earth and the injustice we see in society every day, fuelled by worship of profit and possessions.

We pray for the coming of a better world with justice, kindness and humility at its heart. We ask that you guide us to be co-creators of this new world. Give us confidence to follow the prophetic voices and to stand against injustice to people and to planet.

God, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Amen

A Wooding

The Lord's Prayer

A prayer of blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up His countenance toward you
and give you peace.

Prayers adapted from the Methodist Worship Book and Nick Fawcett.
Hymns taken from Singing the Faith.

