



The Methodist Church

WORSHIP SHEET FOR

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2020

Methodist Conference Sunday

Call to worship:

The steadfast love of the Lord is established for ever.
His faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
The Lord invites us and welcomes us.
Let us worship the Lord. **AMEN**

Hymn: StF 412 See how great a flame aspire.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Rw6Jg_Vm2U

1 See how great a flame aspires,
Kindled by a spark of grace.
Jesus' love the nations fires,
Sets the kingdoms on a blaze:
To bring fire on earth He came;
Kindled in some hearts it is;
O that all might catch the flame,
All partake the glorious bliss!

2 When He first the work begun,
Small and feeble was His day:
Now the word doth swiftly run;
Now it wins its widening way:
More and more it spread and grows,
Ever mighty to prevail;
Sin's strongholds it now o'erthrows,
Shakes the trembling gates of hell.

3 Sons of God, your Saviour praise,
who the door hath opened wide;
He hath given the word of grace,
Jesus' word is glorified;
Jesus, mighty to redeem,
He alone the work hath wrought;
Worthy is the work of Him,
Him Who spake a world from naught.

4 Saw ye not the cloud arise,
Little as a human hand?
Now it spreads along the skies,
Hangs o'er all the thirsty land.
Lo! the promise of a shower
Drops already from above;
But the Lord will shortly pour
All the spirit of His love.

(Charles Wesley 1707-1788)

Prayers

O God, your Spirit draws us into your presence,
and so we come – drawn by love, upheld by grace – to
encounter Jesus, our Saviour. We know him as our
master. We know him as our friend.

In him we see the Father, whose love sent Jesus to us.
Spirit, Son and Father, we draw close in faith to offer
our praise and worship.

Amen.

You, O Lord, are the glory and the strength!

Happy are those who know the festal shout:

who walk in the light of your countenance.

Your love is secure and unending.

Happy are those who know the festal shout:

who walk in the light of your countenance.

Your righteousness and mercy are without measure.

Happy are those who know the festal shout:

who walk in the light of your countenance.

Accept our praise and adoration, Lord, we pray.

Amen.

We are sorry, dear Lord, for the times we judge others
and find them wanting.

We are sorry that we turn away from your children in
their need.

We are sorry that we think we are too busy.

We are sorry for the times our welcome has been
lukewarm.

Forgive us, and help us to remember the warmth of
your welcome, and to be inspired to share that
warmth with all people.

Amen.

HYMN StF 661 Give me the faith which can remove.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Juya3B08xp8>

1. Give me the faith which can remove
And sink the mountain to a plain;
Give me the childlike praying love,
Which longs to build Thy house again;
Thy love, let it my heart o'erpow'r,
And all my simple soul devour.
2. I want an even strong desire,
I want a calmly fervent zeal,
To save poor souls out of the fire,
To snatch them from the verge of hell,
And turn them to a pard'ning God,
And quench the brands in Jesus' blood.

3. I would the precious time redeem,
And longer live for this alone:
To spend and to be spent for them
Who have not yet my Saviour known;
Fully on these my mission prove,
And only breathe, to breathe Thy love.
4. My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
Into Thy blessed hands receive;
And let me live to preach Thy Word,
And let me to Thy glory live;
My every sacred moment spend
In publishing the sinner's Friend.
5. Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine,
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a zeal like Thine,
And lead them to Thy open side,
The sheep for whom the Shepherd died.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10: 40-42 NRSV

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Matthew 10: 40-42 The Message

“We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger. Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing.”

REFLECTION

I have decided to use two versions of the gospel reading this week. Firstly the translation we are probably more familiar with from the NRSV and then the translation from the Message Bible. This, I feel,

gives us a different way to look at the short passage set for today. In the Message translation, instead of using the word prophet is substituted for the word messenger. Have you ever received a message from someone and been annoyed with the person who delivered it because you didn't like what the message was about. I remember, when I was teaching and the time would come each July to learn what year group and children I would be teaching in the September. My headteacher would delegate this role to one of the deputy heads if she knew the 'message' wasn't going to warmly received. 'Don't shoot the messenger' the person would say and I would hold my breath until I had been given the news. Usually it meant me taking on more responsibility or having children with challenging behaviour. I sometimes did want to 'shoot the messenger' metaphorically speaking. This is what Jesus was saying. Don't shoot the messenger! Treat the person bringing the message as if it was the message giver themselves. Treat the messenger like the king who sent it. And if we did this we would receive a reward. What is the reward that Jesus is promising us? A place in the kingdom of God, the greatest reward of all.

In this passage, Jesus was paving the way for his disciples to take the message of the good news out to all people. He was asking that they were received as if it was Jesus himself speaking. The reference of 'one of these little ones' was meaning that any one however insignificant or humble any follower of Jesus should be treated as if it was Jesus himself. This then would be our reward. Other peoples kindness that was shown to us would be reward enough.

This Sunday would have been Methodist Conference Sunday. It is the Sunday when Ministers are brought into full reception of the Methodist church and when Probationer ministers and deacons are ordained. And, it is where the President and Vice President of Conference are welcomed to serve the Methodist people during their year in office. This year however, ordinations will not be taking place at this time but at a later date. Those who qualify will be brought into full connexion during an on line service on Saturday (yesterday). Even though Conference won't meet in a physical form it will still meet so that the message of the Methodist people continues to be heard

As Christians we try to live our lives in the way that Jesus would want us to. We show acts of kindness and we do good deeds but not in the hope of a

reward but as a response to Jesus kindness for us. So the promise of a reward is an added bonus. We will be rewarded for the things we do that will make the world a better place and for the small things like giving someone a drink of water. During Corona virus we have been very wary of getting to near to people and we have been advised not to have folk in our homes. But, if a delivery man comes to the door and needs a drink of water what would we do? Give him a drink or say sorry go away. I think we would still offer that small act of kindness and give a drink of water. We would be standing in the place of Jesus. I don't think we would hesitate. We are shown that when we accept the message it is the same as giving the message, when we show an act of kindness it is the same as receiving an act of kindness from someone else. As the words of the hymn say 'Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too' (StF 611). **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 249 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSDNwuAcrrpE>

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. **(Refrain)**
2. Neighbours are rich and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near and far away. **(Refrain)**
3. These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbours to us and you.
(Refrain)
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet;
this is the way we should live with you.
(Refrain)
(North Ghanaian song)

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for those on the fringes of society;
for those who feel rejected;
for those who are overlooked;
for those whom others avoid.

May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.
May they know the welcome of your love.

Silence

We pray for those who are lonely.
May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.
May they know the welcome of your love.

Silence

We pray for those in prison; especially those kept in isolation.
May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.
May they know the welcome of your love.

Silence

We pray for the work of the Methodist Conference as they meet virtually during this time of uncertainty.
May their discussions be fruitful and decisions helpful for the future of the Methodist people.
May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.
May they know and welcome your love.

Silence

We pray for children unable to go to school; for their families and those with responsibility for their education. For the friendships that are distanced
May they know they are welcome in your kingdom.
May they know the welcome of your love.

Silence

Loving God, as you welcome us, may we welcome others with warmth and steadfast love. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing of our gifts

We come before you now to ask for your blessings on our gifts of money and ourselves as we come to you in worship. We ask that our money is used wisely and carefully and all that we can offer is also used wisely. We know that in our giving the church in earth can continue to flourish. **Amen.**

HYMN: StF 440 Amazing Grace!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3yLV2M0rlc>

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.
2. God's grace that taught my heart to fear,
his grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I
have already come;
God's grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.
5. And, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace
6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.
(John Newton 1725-1807)

Blessing

Go in the name of Jesus,
to follow the way of Jesus,
to love with the love of Jesus,
and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus.
Amen.

We join together in the words of the Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the
love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. AMEN.**

The Methodist Conference in action (2019)



The President and Vice President of Conference 2020



Rev'd Richard Teal (P) and Carolyn Lawrence (VP)

The Methodist Conference 2020

