



The Methodist Church

Bury St Edmunds Circuit.

WORSHIP SHEET FOR 6TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to worship

Be still as we prepare ourselves for worship. If you wish please light a candle. We take time to reflect on those across our circuit worshipping together in the same service and yet in so many different ways.

Call to Worship

When two or three gather,

Christ lives in every moment.

Where two or three gather to worship God,
glad songs of praise are lifted, hearts are filled with hope, Christ is building shelters of peace.

Hymn: StF 28 : Jesus calls us here

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

- 1 Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise ;
praise the Son who calls us friends ;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

- 2 Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story ;
tell his tales that all may hear ;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

- 3 Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are ;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger ;
join the hands of age and youth ;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

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

Prayer of the day

God of justice, peace and righteousness
come into our midst today.
Breathe your breath, your Spirit of prophecy,
your energy,
your enlivening,
your imagination on us.

Wake us up
open our eyes, unplug our ears,
that we might hear,
that we might see,
that we might grieve,
that we might dream,
that we might follow the ways of your
extraordinary kingdom. **Amen**

Prayer of Praise

Great and wonderful God,
we bring you once more our worship.
We join with the great company of your people
on earth and in heaven,
to sing of your majesty,
to marvel at your love
and to rejoice in your goodness.

We affirm you as all good,
all loving,
all gracious,
all forgiving.

We bring to you now our worship,
our faith,
our church,
our lives,
offering them to you in grateful adoration.
You are our God, and we praise you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession

You do not ask much of us, Guardian of hope –
to love, to serve, to welcome.
Yet too often, it is words of bitterness we speak
to friends and family.
It is our stiff-with-judgement backs we offer to
those looking for help.
It is our hardened hearts people find, when they
reach out, hoping to touch grace.
Love lived as compassion, forgive us.
We are broken, so make us whole through the
life of Christ.
We are empty of peace, so fill us with the
reconciling Spirit of Christ.
We are alone, so take us by the hand and lead
us into your kingdom of joy and grace, brought
to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and
Saviour.

We pause for a moment of quiet as we bring
our own confessions to God...

Assurance of Pardon

Gathered as God's people we hear the good news: God has forgiven us, God has made us whole, God sends us to serve.

We will not wear jealousy or resentment, but put on the garments of peace and hope. We are forgiven by our God. Amen.

Bible Reading: Romans 13:8-14 NIVUK

Love fulfils the law

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

The day is near

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Hymn StF 351: In Christ alone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENtL_li4GbE

1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song ;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid ;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain :
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me ;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand ;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Keith Getty (b.1974) and Stuart Townend (b.1963)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18 : 15 – 20

Dealing with sin in the church

¹⁵ 'If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that "every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ 'Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ 'Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'

Reflection

What do you do when someone hurts or offends you? Do you keep the hurt to yourself and brood over your wounds? Or do you confront the person and give voice to your annoyance or anger? To tell or not to tell: that is the question.

There is a poem by William Blake, "The Poison Tree", which imaginatively explores this problem:

I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I water'd it in fears,
Night and morning with my tears;
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night,
till it bore an apple bright;
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole
When the night had veil'd the pole:
In the morning glad I see
My foe outstretch'd beneath the tree.

It is never easy to tell some that you think their behaviour is out of order. It is particularly unpleasant to do this to a loved one, or to a member of your Christian fellowship. In today's Gospel Matthew gives a setting for addressing issues and problems which arise in the life of the organised community of the local church. He is writing at a time when Jesus is present, not in the flesh, but in the spirit, wherever two or three are gathered in his name.

The advice is straightforward: "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves." The Gospel says that the offended party, not the offending one, should first seek reconciliation. It counsels personal intervention and honest confrontation. It encourages members of the Christian community to straighten things out with each other privately, if that is at all possible. Christians are to deal with each other candidly and personally – no anonymous complaints to the authorities, no whisper campaigns. It is about reconciliation. It is an honest attempt to avoid a poison tree springing up between two Christians.

All the practical advice in the Gospel centres on Christians taking responsibility for each other. Belonging to a community implies being involved in the life of its members. We belong to a community – a community that meets in so many different ways, but a community that is one together in Christ and therefore we want to heed his commandments to us, the commandment reminded to us in our second reading: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour." If love faces the real, it cannot avoid facing conflict. Where silence would permit greater division in the community, love

must do something. As Edmund Burke noted: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." And doing nothing in the face of wrongdoing and hurt is precisely what the Gospel opposes.

Today's Gospel is not easy to follow, but when we follow those words of love then we can and should challenge one another.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, you are among us even when we are few in number gathered in your name.
Strengthen and bless all who meet to celebrate your sacraments and feed on your word
In your love, fulfil all that your law upholds.

Lord of faith and truth

We bless your holy name

Lord, you are among us in disputes and agreements.

Open our hearts to your reconciling grace
Heal the hurts of injuries borne and evil intent.

Lord of faith and truth

We bless your holy name

Lord, you are among us when we share food and tell our stories of your guiding presence.
Encourage and sustain us in your fellowship.
Come alongside us as we accompany one another on our journey of faith.

Lord of faith and truth

We bless your holy name

Lord, you are among us in sickness and health.
Reach us to see through our frailty to your loving mercy that always holds us.
For clinicians' skill and friends who are there whatever befalls, we give you thanks.

Lord of faith and truth

We bless your holy name

Lord, you are among us when tears flow and day turns to night.
Gather to yourself all who have died.
Bring us to the joy of the dawning new day of your resurrection.

Lord of faith and truth

We bless your holy name

We ask these and all our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We say together the Lord's Prayer...

Blessing of our Gifts

Loving God we place before you our lives, fill them with your love.

We bring before you our gifts take them and use them to your glory. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 712 Put Peace into

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBgD3Rfut6I>

- 1 Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it, protect it like a candle-flame, with tenderness enfold it.
- 2 Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation ; be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.
- 3 Put peace into each other's hands like bread we break for sharing ; look people warmly in the eye : our life is meant for caring.
- 4 As at Communion, shape your hands into a waiting cradle ; the gift of Christ receive, revere, united round the table.
- 5 Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure ; in love make peace, give peace a chance, and share it like a treasure.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

We come to share together in our Love Feast

Jesus said "People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God." The first shall be last and the last shall be first, but we are invited.

Heavenly Father as we share in this feast we praise You for Your provision for us. You have been generous to us, you have heard our cry, you have provided food for all.

Father of earth and heaven,
your hungry children feed,
your grace be to our spirits given,
that true immortal bread.
Grant us and all our race
in Jesus Christ to prove
the sweetness of your pardoning grace,
the manna of your love.

(Written by John and Charles Wesley for a love feast)

Please take the cake/ bread or biscuit as we eat together.



Together we drink the water.



Bless us as we go our separate ways, that every meal we eat may be a sharing of Your love.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 712 Tell out my soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5Y5-fxLDfA>

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord !
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice ;
tender to me the promise of his word ;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name !
Make known his might, the deeds his arm
has done ;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same ;
his holy name — the Lord, the Mighty One.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might !
Powers and dominions lay their glory by ;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to
flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word !
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore !

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

A prayer of dismissal

Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.
Stay alert for the Lord is near.
Put on the armour of light
and live openly and honourably.
Pray for peace for all God's people.

And may God clothe you in the light of Christ;
May Christ Jesus teach you his ways;
And may the Holy Spirit keep you alert and
prepared
for the coming day of the Lord.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...In the name of Christ. Amen.

Some prayers from
Intercessions for years A,B,C- Ian Black
Prayers for all seasons- Nick Fawcett