



The Methodist Church

Bury St Edmunds Circuit.

Worship Sheet for Sunday 25th July 2021

Welcome to worship

We still ourselves ready for worship, to focus on God and his loving presence with us. You may wish to light a candle before you begin.

Call to Worship:

Let us bring ourselves to God,
whatever our age and gifts.

Let us prepare to share in worship,
giving thanks for all that God shares with us.
Let us open our hearts and minds
to know more of God's unconditional love and
care and be ready to share it with others.

Hymn: StF: 57 Let all the world in every corner sing

[LUKINGTON-LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING - YouTube](#)

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly,
the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

(George Herbert 1593-1633)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord, that you go ahead of us into our communities; you are there pouring out your generosity and your hospitality in our neighbourhood.

Thank you that as you are transforming our homes, our streets, our schools, our places of work, you are transforming us so we can play our part.

Thank you that we can come together as one, sharing all that you have given us.

Thank you, Lord.
Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

Hospitable God,
extravagant provider,
we worship you because we can.
You take our inadequacies, our limitations,
and pour out your blessings upon us.
We stand in awe of you,
sensing your presence among us.
Overwhelmed by your kindness,
we fall at your feet.

Amen.

Prayer of confession and assurance of forgiveness

Forgive us, Lord, when we are afraid to witness
to your risen presence in our world today.
Where we are reluctant, make us resolute;
and where we are daunted, make us daring,
that we would leave behind the tomb
of comfort and complacency and follow you
on an Easter adventure.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

God, you forgive us when we make mistakes,
when we have not shared what you have given us. We come to the cross knowing that we are healed and forgiven, and given a second chance to be the people you call us to be.

Amen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 14: 1-11

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ² 'But not during the festival,' they said, 'or the people may riot.'

³ While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴ Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? ⁵ It could have been sold for more

than a year's wages^[a] and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶ 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you,^[b] and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Mark 16: 1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?'

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."'

⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid

Hymn: StF 354 Jesus is the name we honour

[Jesus is the Name we Honour - Lyrics and Music Video - YouTube](#)

Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic Name above all other names,
The highest heaven and earth proclaim
That Jesus is our God.

We will glorify,
We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify,
We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.

Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
Let all creation stand and sing
That Jesus is our God.

Jesus is the Father's splendour;
Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
And every eye at last shall see
That Jesus is our God.
(Phillip Lawson Johnson)

Reflection: By Rev Val Spencer

Reflection for July 25th Bible Month 4 The Passion
Mark 14:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

Mark sets the scene. The authorities are out to get Jesus and kill him but are holding off until after Passover because with so many gathered in Jerusalem and quite a number following Jesus, there could be a riot.

Mark tells us Jesus is having a meal in Bethany, just outside Jerusalem when this incident of the woman anointing him with very costly ointment occurs. Kings are anointed. Does she want to signify that he is King of all? Or is it about his death? In this lead in to the 'Passion narrative' as we call it, Mark's gospel gives us a story of a passionate gesture, a giving of love, a visible, tangible sign of devotion and worship.

The woman, nameless of course - Mark was not one to give women much status - may

well have had some considerable means. It was expected at the Passover that good Jews would give to the poor. Hence their criticism of the woman's apparent wastefulness and their rather pious claim that she should have sold the precious ointment and given away the proceeds. But Jesus declares what she has done is a 'good work.' He says she has anointed his body for burial beforehand and then says something which shows the power and extent of Mark's gospel, "wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Mark then counterposes this event with betrayal. For money, Judas agrees to betray Jesus to the authorities. We move from an action of extravagant giving and utter devotion to an action of greed and selfishness.

What a challenge this is to us! I am inspired by the deep devotion of the woman and horrified by Judas' betrayal. I wonder where I am in comparison to them - probably somewhere in between. Am I not half-hearted in devotion and worship? Often my life and actions betray Jesus as I do not exemplify his love and compassion.

Mark is very direct and stark in places. We turn to the end of his gospel which has a shorter and a longer ending. Verses 1-8 of Chapter 16 give us the short ending with a sense of it not being finished. Early manuscripts do not have the longer ending. Whether the same writer provided the longer ending we cannot be sure - it seems unlikely. So let's look at that shorter ending.

Again we hear of a desire to anoint Jesus' body. The women, named this time, had been watching when Joseph of Arimathea wrapped Jesus' body in a shroud and placed it in a rock tomb and put a stone over the entrance. (See Mark 15: 43-47) Now these same women return and discover the stone rolled away and an empty tomb occupied by an angel who tells them Jesus is not there, for he is risen. We may be shocked to read that despite being told to tell other disciples about this the women fled in terror and amazement and said nothing to anyone.

They cannot get their heads round it. They are scared of what it all might mean. How can this be? They are dealing with what we might call the **mystery of faith**. Mark does not give us resurrection appearances in these verses like the other gospels do. That reminds us that our faith in the living Lord Jesus does not depend on such accounts but on the word of Jesus and disciples' experience of the power of God that is active through Jesus and his Spirit. Our faith is built not just by the disciples we read of in the Bible but also by those disciples we worship with, serve among, share with and know and love. It's built on our own experience of the love of God made known and real for us in Jesus Christ. The living reality of Jesus calls out from us a desire to worship and offer our service and devotion to God.

Despite the women's alleged silence the good news got out. The Cross had been an outpouring of love and a cruel death. The resurrection is a surge of life and grace for all humanity. Jesus' risen life was unstoppable. Thank God for the gospel of Mark which brings us good news of Jesus.
Amen.

Hymn: StF 297 Christ is alive!

[Christ is alive Let Christians Sing: Choral and Lyrics - YouTube](#)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,

till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

(Brian Wren 1936-)

Prayers of Intercession

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who long for the stone of their distress to be rolled away: those who are ill, those who have to watch others suffer, those whose relationships are breaking down. May they know your risen presence in their lives.

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

We pray for those who are too afraid to tell others what they feel and know: those who are being bullied, those who harbour guilt, those who think they won't be believed. May they know your risen presence in their lives.

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

We pray for all those struggling to find peace and those who don't know how to spread the good news of your resurrection. In a moment of silence we hold all our prayers spoken and unspoken.....*(Silence)*

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

We pray for those called to be witnesses in your world today: for all those in positions of opportunity and authority, for ourselves and for one another, that we would be bold not timid. Lord Jesus, may we all know your risen presence in our lives.

Amen.

We say together **Our Father...**

Blessing of our Gifts

We come as one body to give thanks for all that we have and by showing our thanks by the generous giving of our money and our time, our skills and our resources. Lord Jesus Christ, bless these our gifts and bless our lives for your service.

Amen.

Hymn: StF 661 Give me the faith which can remove

[Give Me The Faith Which Can Remove StF 661 - YouTube](#)

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'er-power,
And all my simple soul devour.

2. I would the precious time redeem,
And longer live for this along,
To spend and to be spent for them
Who have not yet my Savior known;
Fully on these my mission prove,
And only breathe, to breathe thy love.

3. 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.

4. 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.

(Charles Wesley 1707-1788)

A prayer of dismissal

The Blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be on you now and always. **Amen.**

THE GRACE We say together...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all ever more. Amen.

Some prayers adapted from: Roots on the web.
CCLI:7749.