



# The Methodist Church

**Bury St Edmunds Circuit.**

Worship Sheet for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Welcome to worship

We are blessed as we meet together across the circuit, in churches, homes, hospitals and care homes to praise God. As we do so we remember that God is always with us in every time and place and so we pause now to focus on his presence. You may also wish to light a candle as a symbol of Jesus, the light of the world.

## Call to Worship: StF661

Lord of life, we come to you.  
Lord of all, our Saviour be.  
Come to bless and to heal  
With the light of your love.  
(Catherine Walker)

## HYMN: StF: 94 To God be the glory [To God be the glory - YouTube](#)

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.  
  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!
2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he  
hath done,  
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.  
(Frances Jane van Alstyne)

## Prayer of praise and adoration

May this be a day of hope,  
of expectation,  
of relishing each moment  
as a gift from you.  
May this be a day of freedom,  
of breaking free,  
of loosening the chains that  
still surround us.  
May this be a day of peace,

of wholeness,  
of knowing that our lives  
are in your hands.  
May this be a day of joy,  
of blessing,  
of living in your kingdom  
as a child of God.

This world is yours, planned in eternity,  
created in a moment of sheer exuberance,  
permeated with love,  
well made.

This place is yours, in its simplicity,  
blue sky and countryside, pure creativity,  
painted with care,  
well made.

This day is yours, pure generosity,  
given for moments of gentle reflection,  
in the bustle of a day,  
well made.

This moment is yours in its entirety,  
a drop of time in an ocean of history,  
gifted with joy,  
well made. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, Lord, for all the times  
we are too quick to form opinions,  
too quick to judge others;  
the times we don't give people the benefit of the doubt;  
or fail to consider what they might be going through.  
Open our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as you do.  
**Amen.**

## Assurance of forgiveness

The Gentile woman and the deaf man  
opened their minds and hearts to Jesus.  
When we open our minds,  
God helps us to understand his ways.  
**We bless you, Lord.**

When we open our hearts, God sees deep within.  
He loves us and wants us to turn to him,  
even when we've done wrong.  
**We bless you, Lord.**

God comes to us now and listens to us,  
loves us, and forgives us.  
He makes us whole.  
**We bless you, Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## Bible reading : Psalm 125

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be shaken but endures for ever.  
<sup>2</sup> As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

so the LORD surrounds his people  
both now and for evermore.

<sup>3</sup> The sceptre of the wicked will not remain  
over the land allotted to the righteous,  
for then the righteous might use  
their hands to do evil.

<sup>4</sup> LORD, do good to those who are good,  
to those who are upright in heart.

<sup>5</sup> But those who turn to crooked ways  
the LORD will banish with the evildoers.  
Peace be on Israel.

#### **HYMN: How deep the Fathers love for us**

[How Deep The Father's Love For Us - Stuart Townend  
\(Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

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I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

(Stuart Townend)

#### **Gospel Reading: Mark 7: 24-37**

##### **Jesus honours a Syro-Phoenician woman's faith**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup> In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup> 'First let the children eat all they want,' he told her, 'for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.'

<sup>28</sup> 'Lord,' she replied, 'even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.'

<sup>29</sup> Then he told her, 'For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.'

<sup>30</sup> She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

##### **Jesus heals a deaf and mute man**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup> After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spat and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, 'Ephphatha!' (which means 'Be opened!'). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosed and he began to speak plainly.

<sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. 'He has done everything well,' they said. 'He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.'

#### **Reflection by Rev Rita Carr**

The gospel reading for today, shows us a feisty woman who argues with Jesus. I am sure He would have been taken aback by her persistence. Jesus would have felt drawn to minister to the people he knew and worked and lived with, the Jewish people of his time. But instead of welcoming him and his ideas the Jewish religious leaders were suspicious of him, and at times confrontational.

Here we see Jesus wrestling with the tension of the Jewish people and the Gentiles. Jesus wants to

bring the message of God and the Good News of God's grace to the children of God, the Jews. However, time and again he sees that the people who really get him are not the Jews but those who are often deemed to be outsiders. This could be due to their gender, race, traditions or health. It seems to be these people who actually grasp what he stands for and how he is trying to get his message across. They understand him and challenge him.

The way Jesus speaks to this woman seems off hand even harsh at first. But her persistence pays off and Jesus recognises that she is wise and understands what he is about. Sometimes it takes those on the outside to see what's happening on the inside. In part, the prophecy of Simeon is met in this encounter (Luke 2: 29-32). Jesus becomes for this woman 'a light for revelation to the gentiles...' as he shares with her something very personal. He offers healing to her child which she has longed for. In this act Jesus embraces the gentiles. The woman must have been overjoyed when she returned home to find her daughter cured. Her quick-witted wisdom brought God's healing grace to her daughter. I was quite young when I first became a mother, but that fighting instinct was there from the beginning. I would do anything for my children to protect them or get them the care they needed when they were ill. I can relate to this story of a woman desperate for healing for her child. So desperate that she was willing to go head-to-head with Jesus.

This is another example that sees Jesus interacting with those on the margins of society. Here we see Jesus is deeply moved by the woman's faith. The woman is certain that God doesn't have favourites and there is always enough of God's provision for all. This reading shows that faith changes the way we live. **Amen**

**HYMN: StF 251 Jesus Christ is waiting**  
[Jesus Christ is Waiting \(5v\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,  
 Waiting in the streets;  
 No one is his neighbour,  
 All alone he eats.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus,

I am lonely too.  
 Make me, friend or stranger,  
 Fit to wait on you

2. Jesus Christ is raging,  
 Raging in the streets,  
 Where injustice spirals  
 And real hope retreats.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus,  
 I am angry too.  
 In the Kingdom's causes
3. Jesus Christ is healing,  
 Healing in the streets;  
 Curing those who suffer,  
 Touching those he greets.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus,  
 I have pity too.  
 Let my care be active,  
 Healing just like you.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing,  
 Dancing in the streets,  
 Where each sign of hatred  
 He, with love, defeats.  
 Listen, Lord Jesus,  
 I should triumph too.  
 On suspicion's graveyard  
 Let me dance with you.
5. Jesus Christ is calling,  
 Calling in the streets,  
 "Who will join my journey?  
 I will guide their feet."  
 Listen, Lord Jesus,  
 Let my fears be few.  
 Walk one step before me;  
 I will follow you.  
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### Prayers of Intercession

#### Let us Pray

God of love, we pray for the life of your Church throughout the world. May every congregation gathered in a church building or in a home be a community of love. Renew all who worship that we may be a living fellowship in your Spirit and serve the community in which we live.

Your kingdom come  
**Your will be done**

God of mercy, we pray for the life of the world.  
Encourage us to live as members of your family. Help us  
to bear each others burdens and work together for  
justice and peace.

Your kingdom come  
**Your will be done**

God compassion, we pray for those who are ill. We pray  
for those at home and in hospital or those receiving  
treatment for life changing conditions. We pray for  
those who feel anxious and whose lives are filled with  
fear and despair. We ask that you draw near with your  
saving love and bring healing and hope.

Your kingdom come  
**Your will be done**

God of glory, we rejoice in the communion of saints.  
We remember before you all those who have died.  
Those known to us and those known only to you Lord.  
Help us to live our lives faithfully and follow the  
example of those we have known.

Your kingdom come  
**Your will be done**

God of hope, we ask these and all our prayers in the  
name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **As our saviour taught his disciples we pray**

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.**

### **Blessing of our Gifts**

We bring you only what is yours, Creator God, that  
you might use this offering and the giver for the  
building up of your kingdom and the glory of your  
name. Amen.

### **HYMN: StF 370 Breathe on me breath of God**

[CARLISLE-BREATH ON E, BREATH OF GOD - YouTube](#)

1 Breathe on me, breath of God:  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love as you have loved  
and do as you would do.

2 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with yours  
to do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, breath of God;  
fulfil my heart's desire,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with your heavenly fire.

4 Breathe on me, breath of God;  
so shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life  
of your eternity.  
(Edwin Hatch)

### **A prayer of dismissal**

God of salvation,  
you open the way to life  
by offering us unconditional love.  
We rejoice in our freedom,  
our healing and our hope.  
Teach us to be open to others,  
to offer welcome, and practise inclusion.  
In Jesus' name. **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 taken from:**

[www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

[www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) CCL: 7749



(Picture from: [psephizo.com](http://psephizo.com))