

Sunday 27th June 2021 - (Conference Sunday) – Revd Phil Warrey

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

As the psalmist reminds us, let us cry out to the Lord this day in hope. Help me Lord to remember this day, that there is forgiveness in you, that you offer us steadfast love and have the power to redeem. Lord, I give you thanks this day that you redeem us from all our iniquities. **Amen** (Based on Psalm 130)

**Hymn: And are we yet alive
(Singing the Faith 456)**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOEY-75qtnM>

And are we yet alive,
and see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give
for his redeeming grace!

Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesu's praise we join,
and in his sight appear.

What troubles have we seen,
what conflicts have we passed,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!

But out of all the Lord
has brought us by his love;
and still he does his help afford,

and hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross,
till we the crown obtain;
and gladly reckon all things loss,
so we may Jesus gain.

Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!
Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
praise ye the Lord!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together:

Good and gracious God, I give you thanks for your steadfast love, enduring patience, and grace that I witness day by day.

Heal and restore me from all that harms me, and all that I do to harm myself and others.

Help and guide me to follow your way, so that I may be a forgiven, forgiving, grace filled and gracious, redeemed beautiful human person.

Amen.

**Today's Reading from the Old Testament:
Psalm 130 - Waiting for Divine Redemption**

A Song of Ascents.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

Today's Gospel Reading:

Mark 5: 21-43 - A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came

up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Time to Reflect:

Today on conference Sunday, as our church leaders gather to confer, we reflect on Mark's narrative of restoration and healing. Pause for a moment and ponder on what the world has been through in this last year. Consider how much we and the whole world needs the healing and restoration that Jesus models in this story.

We need healing and restoration from the Pandemic, healing and restoration from injustices, healing and restoration from the appalling ways humans treat other humans who are not like them.

The story within a story of the haemorrhaging woman, sees Jesus unpicking a long injustice that this child of God had endured for much of her adult life. Let alone the discomfort, pain, and weakness the condition brought to her, she would have been ostracised, kept apart from society and held at a distance because due to her condition she was considered to be "unclean", "untouchable". You did not want to be seen as "unclean" in 1st Century Palestine.

Dramatically, Jesus makes a big fuss that he has been touched. The embarrassed disciples try to play down the issue. The woman, now embarrassed herself, owns up, expecting the wrath of the Rabbi she has now made unclean, through her touch. The crowd who knew the woman would have been offended on his behalf! Of course, there is no wrath from Jesus. Just as we would expect, there is the opposite - LOVE. There is acceptance, there is healing. Her supposed uncleanness is not a reality to Jesus, and he makes it known in his gracious reaction and words of healing.

Not only does Jesus heal her medical condition, He shows society that she was not unclean and as he has graciously welcomed and healed; so should they, and so should we.

Ponder this week: Who in our lives and our churches needs acceptance, inclusion, healing and restoration, or a seat around our communion table? And what can we each personally do, to model Jesus' healing and restoration for church, society, and world?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Lord, today, I pray for the Methodist Church as conference opens. I pray for all who are gathered to confer, that you will help them in their deliberations and decision making, so that our church can be seen to shine out your Love to all in our land and be a place of welcome and inclusion. Lord in your mercy, hear my prayer.

Lord I give thanks for the outgoing President Revd Richard Teal, and Vice President Carolyn Lawrence and ask for your blessing upon them as they return to their daily lives. Lord in your mercy, hear my prayer.

Lord, I pray for your blessing upon our President and Vice President designates Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, and all those who will be ordained, bless them in their ministries. Lord in your mercy, hear my prayer.

Lord I give thanks for the narrative of healing and restoration in our Gospel reading today and bring to you.....(*name those you know who need healing and restoration today*).. bring them to healing and restoration too.
Lord in your mercy, hear my prayer.

Thank you Lord, that you hear my prayers, and that you know my every need. Grant me sufficient love, forgiveness, grace, hope, healing and joy for this day, that I may follow you and shine your love out to the world. Lord in your mercy, hear my prayer. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

**Hymn: Listen to "All are Welcome
(Singing the Faith 409)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhPnjA7wslY>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

As I rise from this time of worship and prayer,
may I go out with joy, to seek and serve you,
with your blessing and the knowledge of your
Love. **Amen.**

Original Materials by Revd Phil Warrey
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Preachers from around the Connexion who
have contributed to Worship at Home. This
resource is administrated by Ministries:
Vocations and Worship in the Connexional
Team. We aim to continue to provide these
resources until the end of August 2021.