

Sunday 4th July 2021

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 we meet for worship in different places we ask for God's presence with us and with those who can't join us.

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

<https://youtu.be/0k1WhFtVp0o>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my
Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions,
they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy
faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath
provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses
above,
join with all nature in manifold witness

to thy great faithfulness, mercy and
love:

Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;
strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Let us pray together

Loving God, we praise, worship and
adore you; we thank you for your
provision to the whole world in the past,
in the present and in the future; we give
our small gifts of money to be used for
Your work here on earth; we confess that
we sometimes get things wrong; thank
You that we can rely on Your forgiveness.
Amen

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 6 1 to 13

"He sent them out in pairs, and these
were His instructions: "Take nothing for
the journey except a staff—no bread, no

money in your belts; wear sandals but not an extra shirt.”

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary^[a] and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense^[b] at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

The Mission of the Twelve

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them,

“Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Time to Reflect

The bible is full of ‘pairs’ ... Moses and Aaron, David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha; soul-mates who supported each other as they grew, so Jesus sends His disciples out two by two so that they might support each other. With His instructions, Jesus is telling them that ‘as God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you’. When I go on a trip I always take far too many clothes with me, most of which come back un-worn. No chance of the apostles doing that, but, as in the middle east the temperature can drop substantially when the sun goes down, I’ve always been surprised that they didn’t have an extra shirt, just a staff and sandals ... that reminded me of another journey, when the Israelites were getting ready to leave Egypt at the first Passover and they are told (from The Message bible Exodus 11:11) “Be fully dressed with your sandals on and your stick in your hand”. As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. Being told not to take any food suggests that God will also fulfil that

basic need. This is unsurprising; the Israelites spent years as desert nomads and so developed the custom of hospitality, and here is another parallel to the Exodus, with God providing enough manna each day for everyone. As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. However, what about money? The Israelites were told to “ask your neighbour and any guests in her house for objects of silver and gold, for jewellery and extra clothes” (Exodus 3:22) so that they didn’t go into the desert with nothing. Some commentaries cross-reference this reading to Matthew 10 v 10 which says (MEV) “the workman is worthy of his keep” suggesting that for work, the disciples will be fed. As God has provided for His people in the past, so He will provide for you. Aren’t we blessed... this loving God who was and is and will be forever has provided in the past, does so today and will continue to do so until the end of time. Thanks be to God Amen.

Time of silence

Prayers for the world

Loving God who was and is and will be forever, we pray for the world and its people, for all who have struggled during the pandemic.

For Your church, for people of faith, for those struggling with faith, for those with other faiths and for those with no faith.

For all leaders that they may be fair and just and for victims of natural disasters or who are suffering because someone has ill-treated them.

For the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and for carers, health workers and emergency services

For those who taught us the truths and duties of the Christian faith. In a time of silence we bring our personal concerns.

Loving God who was and is and will be forever we ask these prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to

<https://youtu.be/F2YXNFVegxU>

There is a higher throne
than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue
will one day come.

Before our God we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace:
salvation comes.

Hear heaven's voices sing,
their thunderous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire
skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power,

strength, thanks and honour are
to God, our King who reigns on high
for evermore.

And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honour him in perfect song
where we belong.

He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:
we'll reign with him.

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Kristyn Lennox

A prayer of blessing

As we end our time of worship may the
love of God be above us to shield us,
beneath us to uphold us and before us
to lead us. Amen

Original Materials by Ann Seaton

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We aim to continue to provide these
resources until the end of August 2021.