



The Methodist Church

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet - Sunday 22nd March 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. (Based on a service produced by the Methodist Church)

Opening Prayer

As I come before you Jesus, open my eyes that I might truly see you as my shepherd, comforter, and redeemer.

I want to be with others worshipping you but this is not possible, yet I know that I am being prayed for as part of the community of faith.

Thank you for this time where I remember you are with me.

Amen.

Hymn: Christ, whose glory fills the skies (Singing the Faith 134)

To listen to this hymn right click [here](#) and open in a new tab. Go to the new tab and then close it after the hymn.

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

**3 Visit then this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 134

Let us pray together,

Lord, I worship you today. Help me to see your calling in my life.

Open my eyes to what is possible when I see things through the eyes of your Son.

Forgive what is passed, protect me from all that is to come.

Amen

Today's Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' -

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.'

Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'

They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?'

Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.

Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

Time to Reflect – Written by Rev Bob Thomas

On "Looking with The Eyes Closed". John 9: 1 – 41.

Some years ago I was visiting an elderly spinster in hospital when the consultant arrived, 'Hello Mrs. Smith' the conversation about going home and about the necessary arrangements for her continuing care gave rise to the question 'Are you the son?' 'No, I'm her minister.' This is Miss Smith.'

It's all too easy to judge by appearances, to make assumptions, too often when we assume a thing to be the case it makes an ass out of 'u' and an ass out of 'me'. The need for us to learn to see is stronger than ever today, as is the need for us to learn to see the other person's point of view.

All of us see things differently to take an extreme example let's consider poverty and homelessness. For the poor and homeless it is a personal problem that leads in turn to other problems. For Her Majesty's opposition it is a political problem which we will resolve when we are in government. For the government – what problem? Everyone is better off than they were. For faith communities it is – I hope – a philanthropic problem – how can we help so many with so little?

So with blindness in the story we heard from John – to the blind it is a personal problem, to the disciples it is a theological problem – who sinned? To the Pharisees – no problem, healing is a problem, healing on the Sabbath is a more serious problem, who is this disturber of the status quo, this ruffle of feathers? To Jesus it is philanthropic problem – what can I do to make a difference?

How we see the situation directs our response and action. The blind is made a beggar, helpless and useless. A blind man told me years ago that his biggest handicap was what other people thought of him. The disciples seek to initiate a discussion, the Pharisees launch an inquiry, Jesus makes a mud pie and slaps it across the man's face.

What do you see of life? Trouble, violence, vandalism, mugging – what about the helpfulness, respect, and care that seldom make it into the news? How do you respond? Withdraw into protection – build higher walls and install burglar alarms? Become a helper, respectful of others, careful for them?

What do you see of God's people? Differing opinions, division and argument, lack of respect, of love for one another? Threat of opposition, lack of interest in organised religion? How do you respond? Go into mourning for the passing of the church – or look for ways to help and heal

A time of prayer

All seeing, all knowing God I call on you today. May your Spirit give your world a sense of calm and peace in these difficult times.

On this Mothering Sunday, we pray for all Mums. The good ones and the not so good. We remember all those who would have liked to have children but for whatever reason could not.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty:

For those people who are worried about leaving their home and those who cannot.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other.

We pray for carers, doctors and nurses.

We continue to pray for those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend and act of worship today.

I especially want to pray for

Holy God, present with us now, guide me in all I do and say – that it might reflect your love for the world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

Hymn: When we walk with the Lord (Hymns and Psalms 687)

To listen to this hymn right click [here](#) and open in a new tab. Go to the new tab and then close it after the hymn.

1 **When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.**

**Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.**

- 2 Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear,
Not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.**
- 3 Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss,
Not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.**
- 4 But we never can prove
The delights of His love,
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favour He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.**
- 5 Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do;
Where He sends, we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.**

John Henry Sammis (1846-1919)

A prayer of blessing

Lord, I commit myself to you today. At the end of this day, may I see you more clearly and love you more dearly, and follow you closer.

Amen.