



The **Methodist** Church

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 14th June

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Canon Julia Francis.

This is the day the Lord has made; **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Opening prayer

O come Holy Spirit;
Come as holy fire and burn in us.
Come as holy wind and cleanse us
Come as holy light and lead us.
Come as holy truth and teach us.
Come as holy forgiveness and free us.
Come as holy love and enfold us.
Come as holy life and dwell in us.
Amen

Our first hymn is a pray for all across the world who have been affected by Covid 19.

Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations

To listen to this hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the hymn.

- 1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

- 2 Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,

all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 696

Amos 8:4-7

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway, in a new tab press **Shift** and **Ctrl** together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying,

‘When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?’– skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: ‘I will never forget anything they have done.

A prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ; for all the benefits thou hast given us.

For all the pains and insults thou hast borne for us.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

Matthew 25:31-46

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway, in a new tab press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

‘Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?”

‘The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

‘Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me.”

‘They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?”

‘He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”

‘Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’

New International Version

A Prayer in Thanksgiving for the Scriptures

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet

A light to our paths and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve all people.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the name of you son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Reflection

You will have noticed how trees which line a road way are shaped by the lorries and passing traffic. Their branches and leaves being nipped, they form a curve over the road. In some places you get a full arch across a lane.

Well I noticed watching the birds flying in and out of the hedgerow by our bird feeders that there are distinctive patches where the leaves are slow to grow, due to the high number of journeys taken whilst they pop in and out for snacks.

The term 'beaten track' is the phrase describing the route we take most obvious across a landscape. The grass beneath your feet gets flattened: dies off and fails to grow hence literally beaten earth. Animals moving in their terrain leave the same evidence of occupation

Across the UK the main travelled coach tracks became rutted. Then adopted and metalled to become our winding country lanes. Created by the pattern of agriculture and settlement that skirted fields or joined up hamlets to places of worship and commerce.

Today we shape our main highways artificially to avoid town centres and to speed the movement of vehicles. We clear the hedgerows away from the highways so the lorries don't leave beautiful green arches above our heads.

Lately we have come to realise how barren looking grass verges alongside the roads we build could be a source of greater joy if we plant them up with spring flowers. Unfortunately, carbon fumes don't give much hope for repeated years of bright colour. Insects and birds are needed for pollination as well as faint breezes. Rough back drafts from speeding vehicles don't aid any of these methods. Hence the majority of our motorways have rather dusty pale grass and the stronger wild flora we tend not to nurture in our gardens. These are after all the beaten tracks of modern life and they affect what will or cannot grow. I'm reminded of the pictures from Delhi and Venice once the traffic stopped very early in lockdown.

It's out of this changing social pattern the planners of our cities and towns gave us parks. Our Victorian antecedents saved and granted national parks and protected spaces. Horticultural societies developed beautiful public gardens from the tiny squares between high rise and terraced living areas to the larger walking spaces for exercise and leisure.

For those who live without the lane to walk or the bird feeder to espy from a bedroom window they are the haven humans crave to breathe in the fresh air and fill some deep unknown part within.

An old Chinese proverb reads; “If you have a shilling (sic) spend sixpence on bread to feed the body. Spend sixpence on flowers to feed the soul.” I do love that saying. It reminds us of our need for Spiritual healing as well as that of the body. Beyond lockdown and as the pandemic begins to recede, both here and across our cities and the rest of the world, the healing of the body will require much corresponding healing of the mind and spirit in the months to come.

Octavia Hill who was a founder member of the National Trust wrote, “... the need of quiet, the need of air, and I believe the sight of sky and of things growing, seem human needs common to all.”

The lockdown measures gave us permission to walk outdoors: though we are aware not all of us had each of these benefits set out by Octavia Hill. The National Trust longs to open its gates to enable the wider sharing of this experience and satisfy this need. Canal tow paths those former byways provide something beautiful for walks too. Even an old country churchyard or town cemetery have their floral, fauna and peaceful attractions.

As you begin again to feed your soul revelling in the outdoors, pray for a world population needing the healing of spirit as well as mind and body. Pray for a world in which the stewardship of all creation and peoples will rise up the agenda of political planning and harmony between nations.

Let us pray

Our Father, whose son came to bring wholeness to our lives. we give thanks and pray for the healing ministry of all in surgical, medical and caring professions, volunteers and auxiliary services. We especially pray for all whose work at this time brings them into places of anxiety and possible infection.

We pray for all who are working for the further knowledge of the mental wellbeing of others, that we may find compassion and ways to help where the mind has been affected as much as the body.

We pray for all across the world in whatever sphere of research which can enable further steps forward in our understanding and care for the human condition in all its illness and injuries.

Especially at this time of Pandemic we pray for those in identifying treatments and presence of Covid 19.

Hear our prayers on behalf of all in hospital or awaiting surgery and treatment, tests and pain management. Those who bear a burden of lifelong pain and chronic illness.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the days of your earthly ministry, the sick were brought to you for healing; Hear us as we now bring to you in our prayers all those who are at this time affected by illness and debility. Comfort those who watch and wait. Give us the words of compassion when we are called upon to share the sadness of grief and loss with our neighbours, friends or loved ones.

We pray for the work of all those who prepare to bring aid to the broken hearted; peace to those torn apart by crisis, homelessness and war; uplift to those with financial burdens. We remember those in prison and those are responsible for their safety and mental wellbeing. That as the time for their release draws closer they will be enabled to take up a challenge of reformed life and a wholeness of being they did not recognise in former times.

We pray for young people who have had their education halted, those whose jobs have been put in jeopardy whatever age.

Father we pray for our schools; the staff who have also been under anxiety to make safe the classrooms; to encourage and take away the fears of young children in their care

Home is a place of safety; a place to retire to for rest, share good news, meet with encouragement.

We pray for all who have found home a place of insecurity and fear in these few weeks.

We pray for the homeless and those who have found solace and shelter during this pandemic; we pray their needs will not be forgotten in the months to come.

We pray for our families; whom we long to hug. We pray for the lonely who most need our smiles.

And we pray for a world which has changed and must embrace changes for a future in which we must learn to take greater care of one another and this wonderful world which has been vouchsafed to us for our joy and stewardship.

Christ the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep, draw us together, that we may do justly love mercy and walk humbly our God.

Amen

Hymn: Beauty for brokenness

To listen to this hymn in a new tab: press **Shift** and **Ctrl** together and click [here](#). (From a lockdown, streamed, service of St James Road Methodist Church, Southampton). Close the tab after the hymn.

**1 Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!**

**2 Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.**

**God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.**

**3 Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, the cross for the pain.**

**4 Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned — our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.**

**God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.**

**5 Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise**

**God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.**

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

As the hymn comes to its close we pray together in the word of 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***

We go now in peace to love and serve the Lord

**May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all evermore.
Amen.**