

# The **Methodist** Church

## Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 21<sup>st</sup> June

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Mr John Harbron.

Someone's crying, Lord – **In pain, loss, or confusion.**

Someone's hurting, Lord – **In their solitude, their heart is breaking.**

Someone's fighting, Lord – **Angry and distressed, victim and aggressor.**

Someone's praying, Lord – **Offering the name of One who shared our humanity, who heals our deepest hurts.**

So let us lift high the name of Jesus,

**Jesus our King. Jesus our Lord, Jesus our Light.**

**No other name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life like He can.**

**Hymn: Lift high the name of Jesus**

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

**Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our King.**

**Make known the power of His grace, the beauty of His peace.**

**Remember how His mercy reached and we cried out to Him.**

**He lifted us to solid ground, to freedom of our sin.**

**Oh sing my soul, and tell all He's done,**

**Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory.**

**Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Lord.**

**His power in us is greater than, is greater than this world.**

**To share the reason for our hope, to serve with love and grace,**

**That all who see Him shine through us might bring the Father praise.**

**Oh sing my soul, and tell all He's done,**

**Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory.**

**Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Light.  
No other name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life.  
He opens up our eyes to see the harvest He has grown,  
We labour in the fields of grace as He leads sinners home.**

**Oh sing my soul, and tell all He's done,  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory.**

**Oh sing my soul, and tell all He's done,  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory**

Keith & Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash and Fionan de Barra

### **Prayers of Praise, Thanksgiving and Confession**

**Father, Lord, Jehovah.**

**We praise you that no matter the depth of our sins, our wrongs,  
your love will reach down and lift us up;  
no matter the hurt and the pain we feel,  
your love holds us and heals us;  
no matter how far we wander from you and your will for our lives,  
your love still reaches out to find us and brings us home.**

**We praise you that your love far exceeds our guilt;  
you continue to accept us as we are.**

**Yet you never allow us to become satisfied with the lives we live  
and the things we say and do,  
you are always seeking to lift us up and make us new and whole.**

**We praise you for your total determination that we should be free:  
free to choose, free to live, free to praise you and serve you.**

**We praise and thank you for the freedom that comes to us in your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Saviour, our Lord and our Light.**

**But Lord, in giving us this freedom, you give each of us the responsibility  
to use it in your service and serve and care for others and your  
creation.**

**But there are times Lord we allow ourselves to be controlled by other people's ideas and opinions.**

**We can allow decisions to be made for us which do not match your love for us.**

**Forgive us Lord.**

**We find the world being governed by impersonal forces and unfeeling, unthinking machines throwing out figures to control our lives.**

**Lord it's so much easier to do that when it gives us an easier life.**

**Forgive us Lord.**

**Father, give us the strength, the courage and determination to stand up for what we know is real, is true and is your Kingdom here on earth.**

**Enable us Lord to live boldly, daring to be vulnerable by loving and being loved, knowing that we are**

**by faith your sons and daughters, cleansed and renewed by your Son.**

**We ask this in the name we lift up high Jesus Christ our Lord, our Saviour and our Light.**

**AMEN**

**Luke 15:11-24**

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

**Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.**

**Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He**

longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

So they began to celebrate."

New International Version

## **Reflection**

The lockdown has given us the opportunity to reflect on God's place in this world as we've watched the many news related programmes on television.

They've left me with two concerns about the strategy and management of Covid-19 and the lockdown.

The first is the absence of God in the daily briefings we view. We are shown and have explained diagrams, charts and figures about the science behind any decisions but no reference to the creator of this science!

I hadn't noticed this until I was woken one morning by the noise of a lorry in the road outside. It struck me it could be for the "garden waste collection" and I'd forgotten to put the bin out the evening before. I

looked though the curtain and sure enough it was and it was outside our house.

I grabbed my dressing gown and rushed outside only to see the vehicle going further down the road. I called to a garden refuse operative if I was too late. "No" he said and told me he would come for it. He took it from the side of the house to the vehicle which he got to stop. He handed back the bin saying "God bless you". I was really grateful at what he'd done and I gushingly thanked him for putting himself out for me. He smiled "Look after yourself, God bless you" and left to catch up the vehicle. WOW!

I was left overwhelmed at what had just happened.

In worldly terms, a mere garden refuse collector was doing a mundane job, but God was obviously at the centre of his life and it showed by going the extra mile and caring for someone.

Watching the televised briefings etc, it could be fair for someone to say "Where is God in all this, what's he doing about it".

The garden refuse collector points the way.

Jesus needs hands, feet, eyes, ears and mouths to work his healing power and the Holy Spirit is enthusing people to use these skills to help all those in need. The need is great with many people having to go extra miles in their jobs.

Volunteering to help out in so many ways which we joyfully read about, hear about or see on our TV screens. People, in answering God's call, taking responsibility in some way to mitigate the disaster of Covid-19. Some of course taking on great responsibilities when dealing with life and death situations.

I've edited the Gospel passage, only to tell the story of the younger son.

Just reading it at face value, the younger son opts to take his inheritance early. With it, he is taking on the responsibility to manage it. He gets carried away with the life style he leads until he finds his wealth has all gone. He could blame all the hangers on, but too his credit he doesn't.

He is his own boss, but the money originally came from his father and he is accountable to him. With responsibility comes vulnerability. Do you accept you've made mistakes or do you brazen your way through it as "it wasn't my fault"? The son realises he would be better working for his father than staying in his present situation.

He returns, full of apologies, repentant at what he'd done and he wasn't asking for any favours.

Which leads to my second concern regarding Covid-19. It's really an extension of my first concern.

There have been 40,000 + deaths in the UK. The leading number in Europe. For each death there are family members caught up in it, as well as friends and maybe work colleagues. The number hurting swells.

Then there are those who are seriously ill but recover, and again its family and friends etc who will be distraught with anxiety.

To all these numbers are people who are really worried about those with underlying health problems.

Then there are those who've been ill but fortunately not too seriously.

We add to this, people with other illnesses or conditions who can't be seen.

There are millions who are affected in this country.

In the world – millions upon millions.

To apologise for allowing this to happen, particularly if there are alternative strategies available, can be seen as a sign of weakness.

In God's world however, the Kingdom of God,

- repentance and apologising are strengths.

With responsibility comes vulnerability, the choice between honesty or hiding it. God gives us the courage to speak the truth.

Repentance is so much deeper than platitudes and words of apology.

The young son in the Gospel passage is a good example.

If it wasn't for the lockdown, I wouldn't have met the garden refuse collector who has made my experience of lockdown so much richer.

**God, the three in One, is at the heart of this calamity.**

**People may not realise who is calling them to help, but they are answering God's call. He gives them the strength to go on, maybe against all odds.**

**Without their response, it's too frightening to contemplate what could happen.**

**God has done so much for us, and he continues to do so.**

**Maybe the love of God, the light of Jesus and the fire of the Holy Spirit will inspire the messengers of the "science" to allow the glory of God to shine through.**

**AMEN**

**Prayers when we think of the needs of others and ourselves**

**Father, Lord. We bring before you all your servants throughout the world who have a clear vision of your purpose during this period of a life-threatening virus sweeping the earth.**

**May we all have the courage, strength and determination to let the light of your Son, Jesus Christ shine through us to inspire others to help and speak up for your values.**

**The Lord hears our prayers, [grateful thanks to you Father.](#)**

**Father, Lord. We praise you for the Holy Spirit who touches the lives of so many who are inspired to help others at this time. People who are prepared to put the needs of others before themselves and are not seeking any glory for themselves.**

**May they know that nothing they do in your service is wasted and that its value is measured only by the love of your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**The Lord hears our prayers, [grateful thanks to you Father.](#)**

**Father, Lord. We bring before you those in positions of great responsibility and those who hold influence over the welfare of the lives of many.**

**For those who affect the thoughts and actions of millions. May they come to know they should be leading with the grace and compassion shown by your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**The Lord hears our prayers, [grateful thanks to you Father](#).**

**Father, Lord. We bring before you all who are suffering from Covid 19. We bring before you the families and friends who have been caught up in their suffering. Those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Those who have watched anxiously as loved ones recover, though it may not be to the same level as they were.**

**We bring you all who live in fear of loved ones or themselves catching the virus and how that impacts on their lives.**

**We also bring you those who are not well at this time. Those who find diagnosis or treatment has been delayed. All those affected by racial discrimination and discrimination of any kind.**

**May they experience the healing touch of your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**The Lord hears our prayers, [grateful thanks to you Father](#).**

**Father, Lord. We bring before you all those known to each of us who are in special need. We bring to you . . . .**

**Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, we offer these prayers to the Father through you.**

**The Lord hears our prayers, [grateful thanks to you Father](#).**

**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: Give thanks with a grateful heart**

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

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'  
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'  
because of what the Lord has done for us;  
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'  
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'  
because of what the Lord has done for us;**

**Give thanks.**

**We go now in peace to love and serve the Lord**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.  
Now the weak can say “I am strong”, the poor say “I am rich,”  
because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**Let us sing and shout and tell all what the Lord has done.  
The reason to share our hope to serve with love and grace,  
that all who see Christ shine through us will bring the Father praise**

**HALLELUIAH! AMEN**

