



The Methodist Church

Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit:

Worship at Home – 13 September 2021

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Wherever you are sharing in this act of worship, you are welcome.

A Call to Worship: the beginning of Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Hymn:

Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made. Jesus is Lord! The
universe declares it -
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: `Jesus is Lord!'
Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord! Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree. Jesus is Lord! From him all life
proceeding -
yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror;
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name. Jesus is Lord! God sends his
Holy Spirit
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

Loving God,
we thank You for Your constant guidance in our lives
and for all the ways You encourage, challenge, strengthen and renew us.
We thank You that we still hear Your quiet words whispering to us in the silence of our
own hearts.
We thank You that through song, prayer, preaching, worship mission and service,
we are still able to hear Your voice.
Through fellowship and community, we can feel Your presence in what we do and say.

We thank You that when we see the fields of corn and hear the birds singing,
we are hearing You and when the wind blows,
we feel You.

We thank You that through Christ's life, work, teaching, death and resurrection
You speak to us and that Your Holy Spirit inspires, comforts and empowers us each day.

We thank You for the times we have felt lost and have felt Your hand take hold of us and lead us forward – through difficulties, life problems and illnesses.
We thank You for Your healing touch. Be with us now, directing our ways so that we may glorify You in all that we do and say.

Amen

Reading: Mark 8: 27 – 30
Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Hymn:

In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear:
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here:
the storm may roar around me,
my heart may low be laid;
my Father's arms surround me,
how can I be afraid?

Wherever he may guide me
no want shall turn me back;
my shepherd is beside me
and nothing can I lack:
his wisdom is for ever,
his sight is never dim;
his love deserts me never
and I will walk with him.

Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will shine with glory
where threatening clouds have been:
my hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free;
my saviour has my treasure,
and he will walk with me.

Reflection

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

-- as our passage today opens, we see Jesus and His disciples travelling and ministering through the regions of Galilee and Judea -- Jesus had been attracting a lot of people who came to hear Him preach and see Him do miracles -- so Jesus asks the question of His disciples, "Why? -- Why are these people following Me? -- Who do they say I am?"

-- His disciples tell Him that some said He was John the Baptist -- others said He was Elijah -- some that He was Jeremiah or another prophet

-- do you know what this tells me? -- the people in Jesus' day answered the question of who Jesus was based on how they saw Him

-- Some of them answered the question based on their personal observations -- their experiences with Him -- some saw Him change the water to wine, and called Him magician -- others watched as He healed the sick, and called Him physician -- some remembered Him working in His father's shop, and called Him carpenter -- others heard His teaching, and called Him Rabbi -- while the very few called Him Master

-- other people refused to look to Jesus for their answer, and chose to answer the question simply through their own biases and preconceived notions -- Jesus' brothers saw Him as a lunatic -- the priests saw Him as a threat -- the Pharisees called Him unrighteous, because He didn't follow their religious rules -- the Sadducees saw Him as a heretic, because of His teachings on the resurrection

-- this question that Jesus asked, "Who do people say I am?" continues to be answered today -- if you search internet this week, you'll see lots of articles telling us who they believe Jesus really is

-- but the question, "Who do people say I am?" really isn't the important question -- the important question is in the next verse

- **"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"**

-- "BUT what about you? Who do you say I am?"

-- It really doesn't matter what others say or what others think about Jesus -- it doesn't matter what some TV show or article you read this week tells you about Jesus -- it doesn't even matter what some church or preacher tells you about Him

-- what matters is your answer to this question

-- "But, what about you? Who do you say I am?" -- You know what the others say, but what about you? Who am I to you?"

-- this is a question that everyone of us here is going to have to answer at some point in our lives -- if not on earth, then in eternity -- and our answer will have eternal implications. Who is Jesus?

Prayers of Intercession

Almighty and everlasting God, You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve. Let the prayers of your children who are in trouble rise to you.
Hear our prayer.

We claim your promises of wholeness as we pray for those who are ill or are suffering loss and long for your healing touch.
Hear our prayer.

Make the weak strong, the sick healthy, the broken whole, and confirm those who serve them as agents of your love.
Hear our prayer.

To everyone in distress, grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment.
Hear our prayer.

We commend our neighbourhoods to your care. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create a community where your will may be done.
Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you watch our ways, and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace.
Hear our prayer.

Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted;
Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you. Amen

Hymn:

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne,
while heaven's eternal anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died to be
your saviour and your matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life
triumphant from the grave,
who rose victorious from the strife
for those he came to save:
his glories now we sing
who died and reigns on high;
he died eternal life to bring
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love,
who shows his hands and side

those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace
his kingdom is at hand;
from pole to pole let warfare cease
and Christ rule every land!
A city stands on high,
his glory it displays,
and there the nations 'Holy' cry
in joyful hymns of praise.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres
in majesty sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail,
for you have died for me;
your praise shall never, never fail
through all eternity!

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge of Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.