

The Methodist Church

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Worship at Home

Week beginning Sunday 26th July 2020

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Welcome to worship with the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit.

Wherever you may be, may you know the love of God enfold you and the Spirit of God lead you in this time of Worship.

StF N°11

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning
our song shall rise to thee:
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around
the glassy sea
cherubim and seraphim falling down before
thee, who wert and art,
and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee.
though the sinful human eye
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name
in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Reginald Heber (1783-1826) *(alt.)*

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An Opening Prayer

Let us pray:
A Prayer of Adoration

Listening and loving Lord God, we gather to worship and adore you.
You are the creator of all that is. Your handiwork is seen in the beauty of the star-studded skies and in the wonder of the earth in which we live, move and have our being. You, Lord God, reveal your love in making human beings in your image and likeness. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour and to show us your way of truth and love, care and compassion.

A Prayer of Confession

As we come today to worship you, Lord God, we also acknowledge our short-comings, namely that we fail to listen and fail to love one another as you have taught us.

A Prayer of Assurance

Listening and loving Lord God, come with your gracious Holy Spirit to infuse our hearts and lives with your tender mercy. Gift us your pardon and forgiveness whereby we may know in our lives your love, joy and peace to transform us; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. 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 thus day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
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.

Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Message

In this week's lectionary reading we encounter words which might disturb us. Predestined and elect. I don't feel led to focus on these words at this time and simply want to address that All need to be saved, All may be saved, All may know themselves saved, All may be saved to the uttermost.

No one is beyond or excluded from God's love. Salvation through Jesus is for everyone who turns to God.

So, let us turn to God, Holy Spirit. You may be a wordsmith or someone who gets lost for words. In the same way with prayer, sometimes we have lots of words and other times just cannot seem to find the right ones.

But here I believe we are taught something important about prayer. That when we pray, God is with us. That the Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Words express and convey, but God goes past the external mask, to meet and help us in our weakness. Our weakness is not an intermittent state of being, but a constant dependence upon God.

Prayer is more than a conversation with God, it is God with us, teaching us from our hearts. Prayer is a relationship with God who meets us at the heart of our matter and speaks His love into our lives.

We have been going through a tough time recently and know that this is not over yet. For some this is because of the pandemic, for others its something else. In life and in the world, we encounter challenges and issues that concern us.

In the final verse of 1Corinthians chapter 13 it reads, 'And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.' Love is the greatest because it never ends.

In chapter 8 of the letter of Paul to the Romans he is speaking about life in the Spirit; that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Let us pause, take that in, wow, I mean, this is both awesome and life itself.

Christ Jesus gives new life and intercedes for us. Salvation is there for everyone who turns to God because of Jesus. God has broken the power of all that is evil in the world and in our lives when we accept forgiveness through Jesus' death on the cross, and his resurrection.

What will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?

Nothing.

Amen.

StF N°467

1. I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford:

*I need thee, O I need thee,
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Saviour;
I come to thee.*

2. I need thee every hour;
stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh:

chorus

3. I need thee every hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide,
or life is vain:

chorus

4. I need thee every hour;
teach me thy will,
and thy rich promises
in me fulfil:

chorus

Annie Sherwood Hawks (1835-1918)
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Prayers of intercession

*Gracious God,
whose Spirit helps us in our weakness
and guides us in our prayers,
we pray for the Church and for the world
in the name of Jesus Christ.

We pray for those struggling to navigate the
world in this time great uncertainty.
May all find refuge and hope in You.

We pray for those whose words are lost and
those who are lost for words.
May all find peace and strength in You.

We pray for those who carry heavy burdens
of anxiety and fear.
May all find comfort and courage in You.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.
Amen.

StF N°503

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,

joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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A Blessing

*God be gracious to us and bless us;
and make his face to shine upon us.

*Go in peace to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect his glory.

Thanks be to God. Amen.