



The Methodist Church

Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

Welcome to Worship at Home

Sunday 31st October 2021

StF 69

Ye holy angels bright,
Who wait at God's right hand,
Or through the realms of light
Fly at your Lord's command,
Assist our song,
Or else the theme
Too high doth seem
For mortal tongue.

Ye blessèd souls at rest,
Who ran this earthly race,
And now, from sin released,
Behold the Saviour's face,
His praises sound,
As in his light
With sweet delight
Ye do abound.

Ye saints who toil below,
Adore your heavenly King,
And onward as ye go
Some joyful anthem sing;
Take what he gives
And praise him still
Through good and ill,
Whoever lives!

My soul, bear thou thy part,
Triumph in God above:
And with a well-tuned heart
Sing thou the songs of love.
Let all thy days
Till life shall end,
Whate'er he send,
Be filled with praise.

Words Richard Baxter 1615 - 1691
Tune Darwalls

Let us pray

Loving and living God, to you belong all the honour and glory and praise. You alone are worthy of our adoration and so we offer you our praise alongside those worshipping at home and in other churches.

You created the earth by your power, you save us in your mercy, and you renew us in your grace. To you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be all honour, glory and praise.

We know we also need to confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We haven't loved our neighbours as we should, and we have let you down. We have not been good stewards of creation. We are truly sorry and ask your forgiveness.

We rejoice that once again we hear your word and know our sins are indeed forgiven.

So, we place this our act of worship into your hands.

Amen

Reading: Hebrews 11v32 -12v2

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.

Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Reflection

Trick and Treat may be on your mind with the feast of All Hallows' Eve. Children dress as ghosts and all things spooky! But that's not the whole story. Really we should inspire our young people and ourselves to look beyond and to commemorate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls with the coming of November 1st and 2nd respectively.

Here, in the North, we have the great stories of Aidan, Bede and Cuthbert, Northumbrian saints, who based themselves on Holy Island, yet travelled far on foot to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all whom they met. Closer to home, we have Ripon Cathedral with the shrine to Wilfrid along with the story of Hilda and the Synod of Whitby. Throughout North Yorkshire, we are privileged to have places, preserved by English Heritage and the National Trust such as Fountains Abbey,

Jervaulx, Rievaulx, Byland and Mount Grace. They still stand as witnesses to the great tradition of faith in God, to which we belong.

The baton of faith is passed on from generation to generation. As Methodists, we treasure the stories of John and Charles Wesley, especially their work among the poor and illiterate, forming class meetings where people learned to read and write, no doubt copying out passages of Scripture.

And so the story continues to the present day. We have received the baton of faith from people who have inspired us to join in worship, work and witness in our own day. Like those who have run the race before us, we are called to share the gospel, as we seek to serve the present age.

In the meantime, the feast of All Souls encourages us to remember all the people who wouldn't naturally be called saints. These are the people who have *inspired us on our way*, who have led ordinary lives and yet something of their nature has left an indelible mark upon us for good and for God. Numbered amongst these good people are many who just went about their lives, unaware that they were instilling in others gifts of honesty, integrity, justice and service. It is these good people we commemorate today!

Today the trick is not to allow the great heroes and heroines of the past to spook us. The treat is to remember them for what they were so that *they who have run the race of faith before us* encourage and call us onward and upward, inviting us all to weave the threads our lives and theirs into the great tapestry of history so that we live to the glory of God. Ultimately, we have the assurance that our souls will rest in peace and we will rise in glory to be numbered amongst his saints. Hallelujah!

Amen.

Let us pray

Collect for All Saints' Day

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the glorious pledge of our calling which you have given us in your saints; that, following their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory.

Amen

StF 338

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

Refrain

*Thank you, oh my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Oh for sinners slain

Refrain

When I stand in glory
I will see his face,
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that Holy Place

Refrain

Words and music
Melody Green b 1946
Keith Green 1953 -1982

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray

God of the past, present and future, we bring to you our prayers for your world, other people and ourselves.

God, you have called us to a journey through life as you called your people, a vast company, to travel with hope. We pray for all whom we meet, or hear of, on the way.

We pray for people in exile and people returning home, remnants of once proud nations or families, now newly acquainted with hope or despair.

We pray for all peoples and nations, affected by climate change. We pray for the meeting of the world leaders at COP26.

We pray for people with disabilities, learning to cope with the attitudes of others, finding skills for daily living.

We pray for people who weep bitter tears of disappointment, painful tears of grief.

We remember with sadness, but thankfulness, all those who are no longer sharing this journey of life, whose presence we miss as we travel on.

God, you have called us to a journey through life as you called your people, a vast company, to travel with hope. We pray for all whom we meet, or hear of, on the way.

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**

StF 707

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring
hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Sebastain Temple 1928 - 1997
Based on a traditional prayer

The Millenium Resolution

Let there be
respect for the earth
peace for its people
love in our lives
delight in the good
forgiveness for past wrongs
and from now on a new start.

A Blessing

And the Blessing of God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Grant you peace
Now and always.

Amen.

Thank you for joining with us for worship,

Keith and Lynda Phipps