



# The Methodist Church

Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit

Worship at Home

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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

## Psalm 42 v.1 – 2

As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

## STF 136

Morning has broken  
like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken  
like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dew fall  
on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness  
where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation,  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation  
of the new day!

Tune Bunessan Music: Gaelic folk melody  
Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965

Let us pray:

## A Prayer of Adoration

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, we  
worship and adore your holy name.

Holy Father, you have created all things and  
made us in your own image. We rejoice in the  
beauty of your creation and thank you for its  
richness and diversity.

Christ in glory, risen and ascended, you have  
redeemed us by your love and given us the  
promise of life eternal.

Holy Spirit, breathing life into all, we give you  
thanks for our many talents and abilities, for  
the powers of renewal and refreshment. We  
thank you for your church and our place  
within it.

## A Prayer of Confession

Living God, we confess that our souls do not  
always thirst for you and our actions fall short  
of the example of Jesus Christ.

We forsake others in their hour of need  
through our ignorance and wound them by  
our selfish and deliberate acts.

We acknowledge our shortcomings and  
imperfections and ask for your grace and  
mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Saviour.

## A Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you that you give strength to the  
faint and power to the weak.

On this Father's Day, we thank you that we  
are all called to be your children.

As we wait upon you, we thank you that you  
renew our strength to go out into the world as  
your gracious, forgiven people.

Father God, enable us to be creative.  
Jesus, Son of God, enable us to redeem and  
restore that which is lost.  
Holy Spirit, enable us to be your loving  
servants.

**Amen.**

## 1 Kings 19 v 1 – 15a

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that

said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.'

### Reflection

We have just heard part of Elijah's story. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves what went before. On God's command, Elijah renewed the covenant between God and his people, Israel. He put to death the prophets of Baal in what today we would consider an act of ethnic cleansing. These prophets had been introduced to Israel by Queen Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab. Not surprisingly, Queen Jezebel was not happy and threatened to kill Elijah.

So, we find Elijah, prophet of God, on the run, in search of safety and sanctuary. As he flees, he rests under a tree and is miraculously fed. He then travels to Mount Horeb (sometimes known as Sinai) where, of course, God had given Moses the law and commandments and also made covenant with Israel. Finding refuge in a cave on Horeb, Elijah sees and hears the pyrotechnics of earthquake, wind and fire, followed by the still, small voice or murmuring sound of God, asking 'What are you doing here Elijah?'

So, what has this all got to say to us today? Presumably most of us will not find ourselves in Elijah's predicament! I imagine, however, that we all have had times when we have wanted to run away because we have caused the problem. On other occasions, we simply don't want to face what life is throwing at us. I am sure that this all sound familiar.

Where, then, are our metaphorical 'caves' of refuge and sanctuary? For me, during the pandemic, it was my garden and walks by the Ure and Skell here in Ripon. I also love walking by the sea, whether or not there is a cave! In places such as these, it is possible for me to hear 'God's still, small voice'.

Perhaps you would like to give thanks for your places of refuge during Lockdown. Now that we can travel further, where do you seek to find safe and sacred space? On the other hand, sacred spaces may be more to do with people, rather than places. In times of trouble, we often find solace with family and friends.

I often think of the church as a cave. For many, it is a sacred space of refuge and sanctuary. I have a friend who often tells me that the church is her family. That might be true for you. Like Elijah, who was fed during his flight in the wilderness, we too find that God nourishes us by word and sacrament.

In our sacred and holy spaces, wherever the still, small voice is heard, God calls us by name, as he did Elijah. Like Elijah, the past has made us who are. God takes all that we are and calls us onward and forward. Thus, we can thank God for his providential care, which has led and guided us through '*all the changing scenes of life*'.

Amen

## StF 638

Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.

Of his deliverance I will boast,  
till all that are distressed  
from my example comfort take,  
and charm their griefs to rest.

O magnify the Lord with me,  
with me exalt his name;  
when in distress to him I called,  
he to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around  
the dwellings of the just;  
deliverance he affords to all  
who on his succour trust.

O make but trial of his love;  
experience will decide  
how blessed are they, and only they  
who in his truth confide.

Fear him, you saints, and you will then  
have nothing else to fear;  
make you his service your delight,  
your wants shall be his care.

Tune: George Thomas Smart (1776 – 1867)  
Words based on Psalm 34  
Nahum Tate (1652 – 1715)  
Nicholas Brady (1659 – 1726)

## Prayers of intercession

We pray for the church throughout the world,  
for the Christian presence in our towns and  
villages, for the churches and chapels of our  
circuit and for the churches we represent.  
May the whole church know your power and  
be a sign to all that Christ is alive.

Lord of life, **hear us in your love.**

We pray for the world, for those who seek for  
a fair and proper use of the world's resources  
and for those who strive for justice and  
peace.

May the whole earth be transformed by  
mercy and rejoice in hope

Lord of life, **hear us in your love.**

We remember in your love those who suffer,  
those who are the victims of violence, war,  
injustice and abuse. We pray for those whose  
plight we hear of via the media.

We also pray for those known to us in any  
sort of need today and name them before you  
in the quiet of our hearts.

May all in need find comfort, strength and  
peace in Christ.

Lord of life, **hear us in your love.**

Finally, we pray for ourselves, for our joys  
and our sorrows and in silence we come  
before you just as we are.

Lord of life, **hear us in your love.**

We gather all our prayers together in the  
words 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**

## StF 524

Listening God, you hear us when we cannot  
speak,  
when despair and turmoil leave us faint and  
weak.  
In love you call us back to you again  
and your grace reminds us how you feel our  
pain.

Searching God, you find us when we go  
astray,  
as self-centred living takes us from your way.  
In love you seek us, what we've lost,  
and your tears remind us what forgiveness  
cost.

Suffering God, you lift us from our deepest  
grief,  
when emotion blinds us to our own belief.  
In love you touch us with your nail torn hand  
and your wounds remind us why you  
understand.

Risen God, you show us love too strong for  
death,  
evil deeds defeated by your living breath.  
In love you teach us never to despair,  
your new life reminds us, hope is always  
there.

Words - Marjorie Dobson b. 1940

Music Noel Nouvelt Arr Geoffrey Laycock b.1927

## Collect for Father's Day

Loving God, as a father feeds, nurtures and  
sustains his children, so you feed us with the  
rich food of your heavenly banquet.  
Help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## A Blessing

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love  
of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be  
with you and with those whom you love, both  
on earth and in heaven

**Amen.**

Thank you for joining with us for worship,

Keith and Lynda Phipps