

Sunday 13th December

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather for worship we join with all those who are worshipping this special day, your holy Day of rest to worship. Whether alone at home, or online, whether in a building or in an open space amongst others. Constrained by circumstances, we may lack opportunity to meet each other physically in the week but we can gather united for worship in Your Spirit. Come amongst us generous, hospitable God, and welcome us into Your loving presence as we worship you.
AMEN

Hymn: Sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

Let us pray together
All seeing God, all knowing, all powerful Sovereign and Almighty God,
You watch over every instant of our life, showing us the glory of Your creation if we should but pause to look;
showing us the generosity of Your Spirit if we should but hold out our hands to receive; showing us Your work that needs to be done if we should only use our eyes and ears.
Turn us away, from our insistent self and lead us to see more clearly what You give and what You ask of us this day
AMEN

Today's Gospel Reading: John 1; 6-8, 19-28

Read Rev. Ken's Sermon: Whats our testimony?

Time to Reflect



**GOD
IS WITH
US**

During this season the Methodist Church is proclaiming “God is with us”. God is with us is more than a statement. It’s a reminder that God is always with us. We are encouraged to share our story (and other people’s stories) of walking with God in this extraordinary year. How might you share how God has been with you this week? Find out more here <https://www.methodist.org.uk/christmas/>

A time of prayer

Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray in Jesus Name

We pray today for all those who have unanswered questions that we may be the ones who can lead them to look at Your answers to their questions and find faith ad renewed hope in You.

We pray for those worried about loss of work, money worries, collapse of plans, who are asking, “what happens now”?

May they seek Your answers to their troubles.

We pray for the lonely, the scared, and the vulnerable who ask “who can help me” - may they humble themselves and turn to You and seek Your face and the help of Your Holy Spirit, who is indeed Comforter and Counsellor in this world.

We pray for those on our own hearts at this time.....

Amended Original Materials by Pat Heynes

All

Father God, bring your love to these your people in need, may those who are crying out hear Your voice this day and help them to see You in their life.
AMEN

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

The Big Church Sing Christmas Special was broadcast live on the Methodist Church's YouTube channel on Sunday 29 November. Have you seen it yet? If you have access to the internet go to <https://www.youtube.com/methodistchurch>

Hymn: Listen to Singing the Faith 175
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBKzCpkXJR4>

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Light of the world,
you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that you're my God,
and you're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."^[a] ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"^[b] as the prophet Isaiah said.

King of all days
oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came
to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor.

So here I am to worship ...

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah,^[b] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.

So here I am to worship ...

Tim Hughes

A prayer of blessing

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us in this week
May the love of God steer us in our actions this week
and may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be beside us this week
AMEN