

Sunday 20th December 2020

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 (adapted from material provided by Christian Aid for Advent)

Even if we cannot physically gather:
God is with us
Even if Christmas celebrations are different:
God is with us
Even if we might not be able to hug family and friends: God is with us
Even if Christmas cheer is harder this year:
God is with us
Emmanuel, God with us, we come before You in worship and praise. We remember that You are ever faithful, eternally loving, and mysteriously present always. Amen

Hymn: Tell out my soul (Singing the Faith 186)

Sing/Read/pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqwoqRo9N6E>

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name -- the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!
Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Let us pray together:

Emmanuel, God with us,
we rejoice in Your faithful and eternally loving nature, as we remember the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, Your eternal begotten Son.

Like Mary, we want to rejoice and sing of Your love for all creation. From mountain tops and ocean depths, we want all creation to hear the amazing story of Your unfathomable generosity and grace.

We give thanks that You cannot be contained, boxed in, or trapped by us for our selfish purposes. You are among Your people in every situation we face.

To accept Your call on our lives foursome can be dangerous, risky or even unpopular to follow Your ways in an ever increasing secular society. This morning we rejoice in the knowledge of Your love and that You do not change, for You are the one true constant.

Forgive us for the times we have obstructed Your message, deliberately or unknowingly.

Pause to confess your sins.....

We hear Christ's gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven. Amen. Thanks be to God.

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Read Rev. Ken's Sunday Sermon: Is Christmas just for children?

Take a time to sit quietly.



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

God of light and love,
You entered this world bringing hope and to the nations. The world today needs to hear Your message of transforming hope, life and reconciliation.

We remember the nations of the world where there is enmity, distrust of one another, and bloodshed.
May Your message of peace be made real.

We remember those who have no home to call their own, those living on the streets or in refugee camps.
May Your message of justice for all be heeded.

We remember those whose lives have been affected by long-term health difficulties, loss of income.
May Your message of hope be heard.

We remember those who live in poverty, those who live in fear, those who are anxious, those for whom Christmas means isolation and loneliness.
Encourage and equip us to be Your messengers, offering words and deeds that bring comfort and relief in the name of Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

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

A prayer of blessing

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'.

(Romans 15: 13)

Amended Original Materials by [Revd Deborah Cornish](#)

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCCLi No here

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>

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.