

Sunday 5th July 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Jesus, I come to you to celebrate your love and to receive your word.

You taught that we must worship God in spirit. I long to worship with your people, but I know you are with me, in these difficult times. Amen.

Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together:

Lord God, I am in wonder at the world you have created and the life you have given. I thank you for that gift of life and the joy of sharing life with others.

I have not always lived my life as you would wish. Yet, even as I confess this to you, I know your forgiveness by the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 11: 11-30

Read Rev. Ken's Sunday Sermon - Has anyone noticed our churches are closed?

Time to Reflect

A time of prayer

I thank you Lord for the gift of your Son: for His life, His sufferings and death and for His Resurrection and Ascension, for the witness, salvation and hope He gives.

I thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit to those who have come to you, and especially for the gift of that Spirit in your Church.

I rejoice in the work and witness of your Church and pray that it may continue to strive to fulfil your work and proclaim your message of saving grace, through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus.

I pray for the needs of the world, thinking especially at this time of those affected by the Coronavirus, but remembering too all who suffer including those whose plight seemingly goes unnoticed. Be with all those suffering in any way. Especially be with.....
(people known to me)

Be with those whose lives impact others: leaders in government, or the workplace, health care workers, teachers, emergency workers and all those on whom people depend. Grant them the wisdom and the strength to know and to follow your way.

Lord, I commend all men, women and children to your unfailing love through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Listen to “Lord of the Dance”

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun;
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem
I had my birth.

‘I Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance.’ said he,
‘and I’ll lead you all wherever you may
be,
and I’ll lead you all in the Dance,’ said he.

I danced for the scribe
and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn’t follow me;
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John;
they came with me
and the Dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame:
the holy people
said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high,
and they left me there
on a Cross to die.

I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it’s hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I’d gone;
but I am the Dance
and I still go on.

They cut me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the life
that’ll never, never die;
I’ll live in you
if you’ll live in me;
I am the Lord
of the Dance, said he.

Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

A prayer of blessing

May the blessing of God the Father, Son
and Holy Spirit rest and remain with each
of us sharing His worship today and
always.

amended worship sheet, Original Materials by Ralph Frankland

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

‘But to what will I compare this
generation? It is like children sitting in
the market-places and calling to one
another,

“We played the flute for you, and you
did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor
drinking, and they say, “He has a
demon”; the Son of Man came eating and
drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton
and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors
and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by
her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you,
Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things
from the wise and the intelligent and
have revealed them to infants; yes,
Father, for such was your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me
by my Father; and no one knows the Son
except the Father, and no one knows the
Father except the Son and anyone to
whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and
are carrying heavy burdens, and I will
give you rest. Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me; for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find rest
for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and
my burden is light.’