



Heaton Moor United Church

The United Reformed Church and The Methodist Church
working together in partnership



Church Services

Sunday 12th September 10:45 at Heaton Moor United Church

Sunday Service led by Paul Brewerton

Sunday 19th September 10:45 at Heaton Moor United Church

Communion Service with Baptism led by Rev Dr Raj Patta

As restrictions have eased there is no need to pre-book for services

Zoom Services and Meetings

Weekly Zoom services have stopped. Circuit Services will now be on the First Sunday of every month and live streamed for home viewers. The link for upcoming services can be found on the homepage of the United Stockport website or on the notice sheet.

Wednesday Coffee and Chat 10:30am to 11:30am

Wednesday 15th September 10am

More Than A Good Book

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our living Word, Jesus Christ.

Hope you all had a good week. I had a long week attending lots of meetings during the week. The start of September generally had always been a busy time with lots of meetings and organising.

It was good to have our Church stall at St. Paul's Church as Young Christians Climate Network friends have come down to Heaton Moor on their pilgrimage from Cornwall to Glasgow for the UN Conference on Climate Change in November 2021. The 'Fearsome Foursome' young people who are on their pilgrimage have been very inspiring for they have been calling on Christian communities to be responsible stewards of the creation. Thanks to JoAnne for coordinating ecumenically with our colleagues and to our church friends for offering our solidarity and support at this event at St. Pauls.

Thanks to Paul Brewerton who will be leading our service this Sunday at our church. This Sunday on the 12th of September, it is observed as Education Sunday and we are called to remember in prayer all those in education, students, teachers, school staff and parents, and support the mission engagements of the schools.

Herewith I am sending you the reflection for this Sunday along with the worship resources for your kind perusal.

May God's peace be with you all.

With warm regards,

Raj

9th September 2021.

The Present

18th – 25th September is the Week of Prayer for Palestine and Israel and we invite you to prayer for Peace in the Middle East during this week.

On the 19th September at 4pm we will be showing a screening of a short film called The Present which is about Palestine. This will be followed by prayer, conversation and falafel.

More information will be in next week's notices.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

What a week! Our playgroups have returned and it was wonderful to have the church hall filled with the sounds of children playing - although we only had 13 little ones it seemed very loud.

It took some doing to get all the hours in but I completed my mental health first aid training this week. One of the issues we talked about was that of suicide which is the single biggest killer of men under the age of 45 across the country. Stockport has a fantastic support group for those who are having suicidal thoughts or have survived a suicide, details can be found at www.manaboutadog.org



I attended the event at St Paul's where we welcomed the YCCN on their relay from Glasgow to Cornwall. Thank you to all who came to help, or attended the event, it was a great event despite the weather. The relay will now continue onto Manchester, and you can follow their progress at www.yccn.uk

I'm busy preparing now for our wonderful world activity afternoon on Saturday!

As always please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

JoAnne

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

07340 269 354

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

 Heaton Moor United Church



YouTube^{GB}

Heaton Moor United Church



heaton_moor_united_church

Office Opening The office opening times for next week will be:

Monday 10 - 2

Tuesday 10 - 2

Wednesday 10 - 2

Thursday Closed

Friday 10-1

*Wednesday
Coffee and a
Chat*

FROM 1ST
SEPTEMBER WILL
NOW BE AT 10.30 AM



Covid Restrictions Update

Some of you who attended church on Sunday, may have noticed that the Worship area seating has been changed. All the notices had been removed from the seats. This is to reflect the easing of some of the covid restrictions in the church.

These Key points still remain:

Mask wearing is still being advised , when appropriate.

The use of hand gel on entry and frequent hand washing/gel application.

The availability of track and trace QR code.

Regular cleaning of the church. (Spray bacterial spray has been purchased to spray chairs after use)

These activities can return:

- Coffee after the service. With guidelines that people sit a table in a group and 1 individual collects the drinks for the table. Pending the people to run the activity
- Toddler Groups
- Dementia Friends. A trial session has been done in August and it was successful whilst following the existing guidelines.
- Wednesday Coffee Morning
- Saturday Coffee Morning , again pending the relevant people to run the activity.

If you have any questions please contact Sharon

Can you crochet/knit/cross stitch/felt etc. a Forget Me Not Flower?

If you are able to produce a handcrafted Forget Me Not please pass



onto JoAnne by the 20th September for her to share with the community on World Alzheimer's Day.

There will be a memorial service for Ruth Morgan on 14th September at 2.00pm

The family have requested that black is not worn .



URC Missional Partnership Monthly Zoom Service

A reminder of our upcoming Monthly Evening Zoom Service on Sunday 12 September at 6.30pm

Topic: GM South & Cheshire MP Sunday Evening Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82181508988?pwd=b2N0S2lRkzRzSUpsemZnNThScnhhUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 8150 8988

Passcode: 716978

Black History Month Circuit Service

Sunday October 3rd 4pm with **Rev'd Sonia Hicks** (President of the Methodist Conference)

A Service of Celebration

Hazel Grove Methodist Church

Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, SK7 4JQ

OICE in Stockport

My name is Abbi McKenzie and I work for a Christian charity called Voice. We seek to help young people grow in their Christian faith and be a voice in the world for God through the use of contemporary Christian worship music. This includes a variety of projects, such as a collective youth choir and orchestra (school years 7-13) with groups across the North West, junior choir groups (school years 3-6), a songwriting course called Creative Artists and residencies. We have released several albums that can be found on Spotify/iTunes/Soundcloud through our website. You can find out more in this video

- <https://youtu.be/Bv3OGa2Amx0>.

We are starting junior and youth Voice groups in partnership with Coach House Church, Stockport, and would like to share this information with all children and young people who may be interested. The groups will be fortnightly from 6:15-7:30pm for juniors and 7:30-9:00pm on Tuesdays, starting on 21st September. Please contact me at abbi@voicemusic.org.uk if you would like any more information, as I am happy to answer any questions that you might have. Alternatively, you can visit our website, www.voicemusic.org.uk. I look forward to hearing from you. Kind regards, Abbi McKenzie



YCCN RELAY TO COP MANCHESTER RESIDENCY

9TH September

3.30pm Reception at St Paul's, Heaton Moor. Eco activities for all ages and refreshments available. Open-air service at 5pm. **All welcome**

10th September

YCCN will be visiting Trinity CE High school and Bury CE High school

11th September

10.30am Prayer walk around Salford Quays. **All welcome**

1pm Reception at Friends Meeting House, Mount St – **limited places**

1.45pm Pilgrimage to Ascension Hulme. **All welcome**

2.30pm approx. – Reception at Ascension Hulme. **All welcome**

12th September

10.30am YCCN joining the service at Manchester Cathedral. **All welcome**

2pm YCCN joining event at Speakers Corner, Alexandra Park. **All welcome**

Evening service with Methodist Circuit on Zoom. **All welcome**

On **Monday 13th September**, the residency in Manchester concludes and YCCN begin their walk to Leeds. They will be walking through Manchester Diocese on 13th and 14th and churches en route are planning hospitality stops.

A Prayer from the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church

This week we invite you to pray for:

- Churches who are considering their future as lockdown restrictions ease.
- For the congregations of churches which have decided to close, and for all those who are facing difficult decisions about the future of their fellowships and buildings
- Pray for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace,

We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.

Be living bread to those who are hungry each day

Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic

Be their true home to all who have been displaced

Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views

Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.

Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace, open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care

Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and hold us all in your unfailing love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness.

Amen (prayer taken from Christian Aid resources)



Annual membership ticket

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The annual membership ticket helps to serve as a reminder of the commitments we each undertake as members of the Methodist Church.

The cover image for the new ticket is inspired by the Presidential theme for 2021/2022, 'God's Table' and the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022, 'A Place for All'.

The Bible verse printed in this year's membership ticket is Psalm 107:9, "...For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things...". Purchase here

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/connexional-year-20212022-resources>

MESSAGES FROM OUR MEMBERS

Alan and Carole would like to thank all their friends at Church for their kindness, thoughts and prayers during Alan's time before and during his spell in hospital. Although now he is out, he is not about, as he still has a need to isolate in convalescence.

He will be thinking of you all though.

Please will you support Lily in the same way as she continues with her cancer treatment.

With Love

Carole and Alan



Thank everyone for
sponsoring us in our
silence . A whopping
£1066 was raised,
whilst enjoying our
silence !!!

Sharon and Betty

On Saturday 25th we will be taking part in the Macmillan, biggest coffee morning.

We are looking for volunteers to help :

- Make the brews
- Help on the Cake and Tombola stalls
- Put the tables out and pack away

If you can help with any of these things please let JoAnne or Sharon know.

Items Required :

Items for the tombola :
boxes of chocolates,
smellies , sweets etc

Cakes for the cake stall



WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

Fundraising for

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Email :

office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk



World Council
of Churches

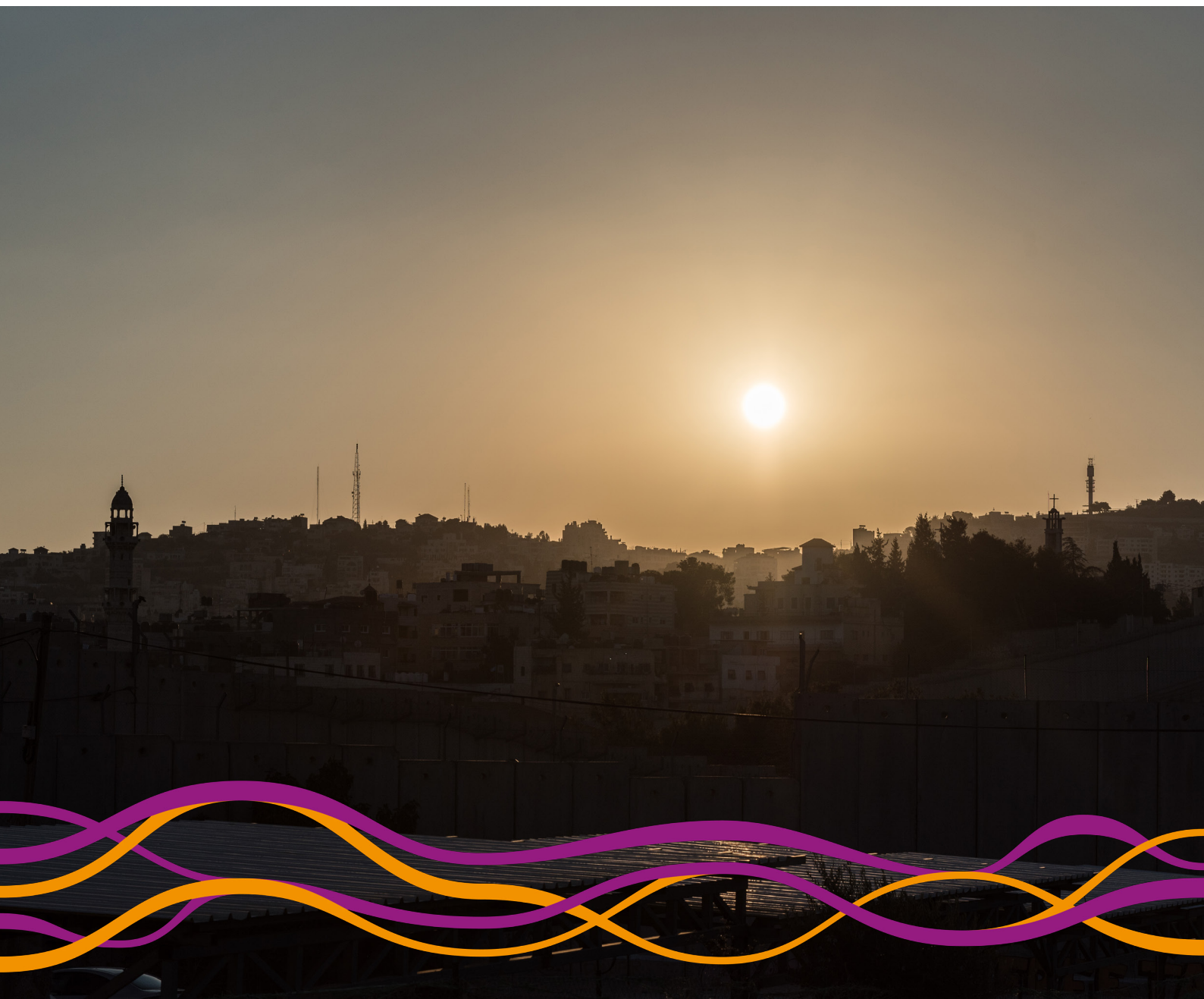
World Week of Peace for Palestine and Israel – Arts for Justice and Peace

*I will also praise You with a harp,
Even Your truth, O my God*

Date: 18 – 25 September 2021

Theme: Psalm 71:22

*I will also praise You with a harp,
Even Your truth, O my God*



Background

From a Christian faith-based moral perspective, a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel requires equal freedom, human rights and self-determination for the Palestinian people as well as for Israelis.

All forms of violence should come to an end. Religious affiliations should not justify the application of different moral standards for different communities. International law as an expression of justice for all peoples must be respected as a moral norm that should be implemented politically and socially. This has been expressed in several WCC policy statements and programmes over the years. As the occupation continues, resulting in human rights violations and conflicts, the WCC continues to promote the World Week of Peace for Palestine and Israel, inviting member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations around the world to join together for a week of prayer for just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Congregations and individuals around the globe who share the hope of justice are invited to unite during the week to take peaceful actions, together, to create a common international public witness.

2021 Arts for Justice and Peace initiative

There are multiple ways to promote justice and peace in situations of conflict. However, what can art do? Can there be a vital role for art and aesthetics in contributing towards justice, peace and reconciliation? By addressing key questions around the relationship between art and reconciliation, between culture and conflict, and between art, conflict, culture and community, we realize that artistic expressions of communities help us understand the multiple facets of a conflict going beyond socio-political factors.

This leads us to explore the deep potential of arts-based and creative approaches to reconciliation. Arts-based approaches have attracted increasing attention in recent years, seen as welcome alternatives to more mechanistic and institutional approaches to peacebuilding and transitional justice.

We therefore invite our constituency and friends all over the world to promote artistic expressions of



both the current situation and hopes for the future in Israel and Palestine, and through art to pave the way for creative peacebuilding initiatives.

Truth is one divine value that we all seek. Some of us choose to come and see, others read about it, but many of us witness it through paintings, lyrics, music and different artistic creative expressions.

Through cultural dances and storytelling, poems and songs, we can witness how life was before the occupation. Visit the separation wall today, read the stories and see how famous international artists (Banksy as one) portrayed truth through graffiti on the separation wall. Visit Ayda Refugee Camp and through the paintings of the refugees on the wall remember the destroyed villages of 1948 and the lives lost during the Intifadas. From the beautiful voices of young artists we can hear the cries and hope of the peoples. Go to Haifa or Bethlehem, and Gaza and you will see truth on the walls. Truth makes ugly walls crack. And voices praise the Lord and portray the truth, that God is faithful to all of us.

Prayer

Our Heavenly Father,

We thank you for all the blessings and gifts you have given us, and for all the talents you give to your people.

O Lord, despite the pain of the occupation and despite the challenges of the reality we live in,

We are looking for peace in the midst of war, killing, destruction and walls, expressing our love for the Holy Land with our brush that draws the features of peace that every Palestinian and Israeli dream of.

Plant peace in our hearts, O Lord, and make us ambassadors of your peace in a land that has not seen peace.

Accept, O Lord, our prayers in the name of our Redeemer and Saviour Jesus Christ –

Amen



Fear the Lord and Pursue Wisdom

Reflecting on Proverbs 1: 20-33

When was the last time you have heard a sermon or a reflection from the book of Proverbs? As I put forward this question, I am being reminded of at least five instances in my life about the engagement with the book of Proverbs. Firstly, in my childhood, I remember our parents and Sunday school teachers emphasising to us to read one chapter every day from the book of Proverbs as it contains 31 chapters, for on the one hand one can complete reading this book in a month and on the other hand it teaches some ethical and practical values of life. I remember reading the book of Proverbs with great admiration as it contained so many proverbs, in a sense so much profound wisdom is found in this book that is helpful for the actions in life. Secondly, I have engaged with the book of Proverbs by reading without fail, this particular verse from Proverbs 9:10 on the day of every school examination that I have written, for it offered me so much hope and confidence in doing my exams well. I want to read that verse aloud for you, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of the wisdom,” for this verse was an assurance for me in facing the tests and examinations with all courage and positivity. The third instance I remember was when my aunt suggested that I read Proverbs chapter 3 for every birthday I celebrate, for it speaks about long life and the length of days in life, so Proverbs 3 serves me to be a birthday text which I read and I suggest for others too to read on their birthdays. The fourth instance I remember about the book of Proverbs is when our local preachers in my town in India were prescribing the text of Proverbs chapter 31 to women, for that chapter speaks about the qualities of the virtuous woman. Fifthly, I did remember preaching on a text from Proverbs at one of my churches in India, about the Wisdom.

How do we define Wisdom? Most definitions of wisdom inform us that it is the appropriate application of the knowledge we have learned and experienced from. We all know that wisdom is a good thing. Solomon was its champion. Proverbs sings its praises. Most wisdom literature presents wisdom as a mode of living defined by practical knowledge, ethical integrity, and intergenerational learning. Some of its key traits are moderation, even-headedness, and a concern for justice.

Wisdom in the book of Proverbs is not based on a community’s faith or merit rather is ascribed in human terms given to all people. Ethan Schwartz observes, “On a more abstract level, a crucial feature of wisdom is its universality or cosmopolitanism. Wisdom is accessible to all human beings *as* human beings, through their own intellectual and moral faculties—not through membership in a particular group that is privy to a particular divine revelation or historical experience. Wisdom literature tends to eschew communal particularities and to speak instead in human generalities. The book of Proverbs, for instance, mentions Israel only in the superscription and doesn’t present God as the covenantal deity of a specific national story. It’s therefore no surprise that wisdom literature from across the ancient world—including the Bible, Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia—often sounds and feels substantially similar. Wisdom was a broad, international discourse.”¹

¹ <https://politicaltheology.com/wise-religion/>

Now turning to Proverbs 1:20-33, the prescribed lectionary text for this Sunday, it speaks about the Woman Wisdom, for the writer of this text informs the audience that Wisdom is crying out asking people to live out their lives in Wisdom. In this text, we notice four things which are relevant for our times today.

1. The Publicness of Wisdom:

In verses 20 and 21, we see that wisdom is crying out in the street and in the squares, she raises her voice. This is to say wisdom is out in the public square and is not a matter of private affair or is limited to any particular religious grouping. Wisdom is crying out in the busiest corners and at the entrance of the city gates, so that wisdom is heard by all people in the public square.

2. The Proclamation of Wisdom:

From verse 22-28, we see the Woman Wisdom's proclamation of the impending reality, explaining that the public sphere has not taken into account her counsel. Let us read out these verses:

*22. How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
23 Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
24 Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
25 and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
26 I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
27 when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.*

3. The Pathway of Wisdom:

In verse 29, wisdom further proclaims that the people in the public sphere hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. In other words, the pathway for wisdom is the fear of the Lord. We see this in several other verses in the book of Proverbs. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of the wisdom. Our fear of the Lord is demonstrated in our prudent judgements in life, which is all about wisdom.

4. The Promise of Wisdom:

In verse 33, the Woman Wisdom offers a promise that those who listen to her will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster. The Woman Wisdom begins by crying in the public sphere and ends in promising that those who listen to her will be saved and secured.

Today in the 21st century, the wisdom that is being spoken in our public sphere is about being prudent in the context of the growing climate crisis. As the world leaders will gather at the UN Climate Change Conference CoP26 at Glasgow in November 2021, it will be an opportunity for us a follower of Jesus Christ to listen to the cries of the Woman Wisdom who is crying out loud in our streets about the impending climate crisis and is challenging each of us to step up, to join in striving for a green world, for wisdom which is the fear of the Lord is inviting us to care for our planet as our faith commitment. The given text from Proverbs is challenging us to respond to the fear the Lord, listen to the wisdom, strive for the renewal of our creation or reject the fear of the Lord and pursue wealth and self-interests. It is time that we turn to the fear of the Lord, so that the seeds of wisdom will sprout in our lives and we can act on Christ's ways in our world today.

Raj Bharat Patta,
9th September 2021

Worship at Home – Sunday 12 September 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Wherever we are, you are with us, Lord. Make us aware of your loving presence with us now. Grant us your peace, and fill us with wonder and joy. AMEN

Hymn: StF 357 Jesus – the name high over all
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://youtu.be/vTYRFT34dAc>

Jesus -- the name high over all,
in hell, or earth, or sky!
Angels revere, and nations fall,
and devils fear and fly.

Jesus -- the name to sinners dear,
the name to sinners given!
It scatters all their guilty fear,
it turns their hell to heaven.

Jesus -- the prisoner's fetters breaks,
and bruises Satan's head;
power into strengthless souls it speaks,
and life into the dead.

O that the world might taste and see
the riches of his grace!
The arms of love that compass me
would all the earth embrace.

His only righteousness I show,
his saving grace proclaim;
'tis all my business here below
to cry: 'Behold the Lamb!'

Happy if with my latest breath
I might but gasp his name;
preach him to all, and cry in death:
'Behold, behold the Lamb!'

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, with all your people on earth, with all the company of heaven and with all creation, we praise and adore you.

You are the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and yet you come to us and invite us to approach you as our loving Father.

We acknowledge our failure to love you as we should, the weakness of our faith and the half-heartedness of our service, but we recognise that, through Christ, we are forgiven and made welcome.

So we come in his name to worship you, and pray your Holy Spirit will guide us and empower us to become the people you created us to be. AMEN

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 8: 27-38

Time to Reflect

According to the Gospel writers, Jesus asked many questions; many more, in fact, than he answered! This was one of the things that made him an effective teacher. Rather than giving people simple answers that required no further thought, he asked questions that made them think for themselves. Not only did this help them find the answers to their own questions, it made them reflect more deeply about their relationship with God.

In our reading today, Jesus asked his disciples two questions. The first one was easy to answer: "Who do people say that I am?" The

disciples must have had many conversations with folk they met who had their own ideas about Jesus. They were able to report that people thought perhaps he was John the Baptist reincarnated, or Elijah, or one of the prophets.

The second question was much more challenging: "But who do you say that I am?" The answer to this question required faith and commitment. Peter was the first to answer: "You are the Messiah", that is, the anointed one sent by God to save his people. Peter had perceived the truth about Jesus, but still had much to learn about its implications, as we see in the following verses.

"Who do you say that I am?" is a question all of us need to consider. The answer we give will have an impact on everything else in our lives.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Think of people and situations, near or far, that particularly need our prayers today, as we use this intercession from the Methodist Worship Book Covenant Service:

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church: make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world: establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble: deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory: bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord our God, you have helped us by your grace to make these prayers, and you have promised through Christ our Lord that when two or three agree in his name you will grant what they ask.

Answer now your servants' prayers according to their needs; in this world grant that we may truly know you, and in the world to come graciously give us eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to StF 348 *He is Lord*
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind
[He is Lord, he is Lord \(StF 348\)](http://He%20is%20Lord,%20he%20is%20Lord%20(StF%20348).htm)
methodist.org.uk

He is Lord, he is Lord;
he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord;
every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is King, he is King;
he will draw all nations to him, he is King;
and the time shall be when the world shall
sing
that Jesus Christ is King.

He is love, he is love;
he has shown us by his life that he is love;
all his people sing with one voice of joy
that Jesus Christ is love.

He is life, he is life;
he has died to set us free and he is life;
and he calls us all to live evermore,
for Jesus Christ is life.

Anonymous

A prayer of blessing

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself; may the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service; may the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our souls; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be with you and abide with you always. AMEN

(Words by William Temple, 1881 – 1944)

Original Materials by [John Barnett](#)

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team.

For more worship resources see

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Mark 9: 27 – 38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist, and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any want to be my disciples, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”