



The **Methodist Church**
Bury St Edmunds Circuit

WORSHIP SHEET FOR 2ND AUGUST 2020

As we prepare for worship you may want to light a candle and pause for a moment or two to settle your thoughts and calm your inner being.

Welcome to worship

This is your day
and we shall praise you!
This is your day
and we shall declare your name!
This is your day,
and we shall worship
a risen Saviour and our King!

Call to Worship

Some words from Psalm 145

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. Amen.

Hymn: StF 107 I sing the almighty power of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeSoE1Kmmv0>

1. I sing the mighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
2. I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.
3. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
4. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.
5. There's not a plant or flower below,
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne;
6. While all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there. Amen.

(Isaac Watts)

Prayer of Praise

Creator God,
from the moment your spirit
hovered over the waters of this earth,
we were part of a vision
held lovingly within your heart.
From the moment you spoke
and separated darkness from light,
you created space
where we might one day walk.
From the moment your joy
spilled out into green and living things,
your beauty was revealed
for us to taste and see.
Creator God,
for this world,
beauty and majesty,
passion and artistry,
a green and pleasant place,
we praise your mighty name. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Unclutter our lives, Lord
we have too much,
consume too much,
expect too much.

Grant us perspective;
to see this world
through others' eyes
than just our own.

Grant us compassion;
where there is need
to play our part
not turn aside.

Grant us gratitude
for what we have,
our daily bread
the gift of life.

Unclutter our lives, Lord,
give us space,
simplicity
thankful hearts. **Amen.**

God is compassionate and forgives all who ask in His Holy Name. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: StF 545 Be thou my vision

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSIRcs>

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my
power.
4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

(Words: Dallan Forgail (8th Century))

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-5 An Invitation to Abundant Life

55 Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not
bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

New Testament Reading: Matthew 14: 13-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their

sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Reflection

This week's New Testament reading on the feeding of the five thousand is always an exciting reading to preach on. We might feel that we know this story too well to be able to find something new in it. But, there is always something new.

Having just been told about the death of his cousin John, Jesus, understandably wants to be on his own. When we get so called 'bad' news we often want to retreat away from people to be able to sit, pray, reflect, shout, do whatever until we feel able to reconnect with people. Jesus had no such opportunity. He tried to get away from it all. Instead he was followed and folk gathered to be with him. Instead of Jesus getting angry by this, He, we are told, showed compassion for them and cured their sick. I wonder how we would have reacted. Can we say hand on heart that we would have been so compassionate? Then, not only did he cure the sick, but he even fed them. We are told that it was a deserted place, so no shops to go to and buy the food they would need. And, from such a little, five loaves and two fish he managed to feed the crowd with twelve baskets of leftovers.

A story we know well. So what can we find that is new. What struck me on reading this was that Jesus, looked to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, gave them to the disciples and said go and feed the people. I never really noticed this point before. It reminds us of the 'Last Supper'. The blessing of bread and feeding of the people. Jesus had faith enough with God his Father, to know that asking for a blessing he would be rewarded. And he received blessings in abundance. We know this because we are told that there were twelve baskets of blessings left over. And those who ate were 5,000 men not to mention the women and children who were also there.

The Old Testament reading from Isaiah also tells us that we can have something to eat and drink at no monetary cost. 'Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price'. (55:1) Isaiah was explaining to his people that sometimes we need feeding not just with food to ease our hunger but with spiritual food. This 'food' will have no financial cost but will sustain us for much longer.

Jesus too fed the people at no cost. Jesus continues to feed us today at no cost. He does this spiritually each time we come to the communion table. And, a bit like this story there is always bread left over no matter how many people have been fed. When Jesus offered the bread to heaven everything changed. The people sat down and were filled. Following this event Jesus finally got some time away from the crowd, he sends the disciples away and goes up the mountain to pray. And that, as they say is another story.

Have we explored something new this time? I hope so, and for you that like me, when we do come together in the future for Holy Communion, you will not only carry the Last Supper in your hearts but this feeding story as well. Remember on both occasions Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to those he was with. The twelve disciples and the five thousand! All were filled, no one went away hungry. We should never leave hungry.

Amen.

Hymn StF:465 Guide me O thou great Redeemer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofp6rdAgRrY>

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim though this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my Strength and Shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.

(William Williams)

Prayers

In faith let us pray to God our Father,
In the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
And in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God of love, we pray for the life of your church throughout the world. May every Christian community be a witness to your love and grace. Renew all who come to worship that they will be a living fellowship in your Spirit and serve wisely.

Your Kingdom Come.

Your will be done.

God of mercy, we pray for the life of the world. We pray for all those who exercise power here and around the world, especially during these difficult and uncertain times where guidance changes daily. Help us to live together in harmony and work together for justice and peace.

Your Kingdom Come.

Your will be done.

God of compassion, we pray for all those who are ill. Those with recent diagnosis of life changing conditions. We pray for the anxious and those who care for them. We pray for all those whose lives are filled with darkness and despair. Draw near we ask and bring to them your healing love and certain hope.

Your Kingdom Come.

Your will be done.

God of glory, we rejoice in the communion of saints; we remember all who have faithfully lived and all who have died in Christian hope. We think of all those people we have known over the years that have helped and guided us and shown us an example of Christian love.

Your Kingdom Come

Your will be done.

Merciful God you have prepared for those who love you such good things that pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love towards you that we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We say together the Lord's Prayer

Blessing of our Gifts

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing upon our gifts of money, time and skills. Through your continued blessing your church on earth continues to flourish. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF: 544 As the deer panteth for the water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rrXC5uKVb4>

1. As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after thee
Thou alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship thee

*Thou alone are my strength, my shield
To Thee alone may my spirit yield
Thou alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship thee*

2. Thou art my friend and you are my brother
Even though Thou are a king
I love Thee more than any other
So much more than anything
3. I love Thee more than gold or silver,
only Thou can satisfy.
Thou alone are the real joy giver
and the apple of my eye.

(Martin J. Nystrom 1956)

We come to share together in our Love Feast

Jesus said "People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God." The first shall be last and the last shall be first, but we are invited. Heavenly Father as we share in this feast we praise You for Your provision for us. You have been generous to us, you have heard our cry, you have provided food for all.

Father of earth and heaven,
your hungry children feed,
your grace be to our spirits given,
that true immortal bread.
Grant us and all our race
in Jesus Christ to prove
the sweetness of your pardoning grace,
the manna of your love. (Written by John and Charles Wesley
for a love feast)

Please take the cake/ bread or biscuit as we eat together.



Together we drink the water.



Bless us as we go our separate ways, that every meal we eat may be a sharing of Your love. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 476 One more step along the world I go

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSKbCQXuGH8>

1. One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.
2. Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.
3. As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.
4. Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.
5. You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

(Sydney Carter 1915-2004)

A prayer of dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. **Amen.**

Grace We say together

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all forever more. Amen.**

(Some Prayers taken from Faith and Worship.com and the Methodist Worship Book.)