



Resources for Prayer and Worship



The **Methodist** Church





The Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Canon Gareth J Powell, in conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, about Thy Kingdom Come. You can watch a video of the conversation on the Thy Kingdom Come and Methodist Church websites, www.thykingdomcome.global and www.methodist.org.uk

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

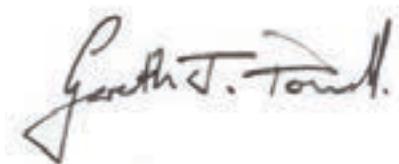
From the very first gatherings of Methodists in Oxford, Methodism has always been suffused with prayer. Prayer is the foundation on which the Methodist Church is built and from which it seeks to fulfil its calling to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

Through prayer, through paying attention to God, God's love is revealed. Through prayer, we receive the strength and the inspiration to respond.

I am delighted to introduce these resources and that the Methodist Church is now a formal partner in Thy Kingdom Come, a global and ecumenical call to prayer. This is an expression of the Methodist Church's commitment to personal and social holiness and to paying attention to God.

I believe that as the people called Methodists, we have significant gifts to offer to the wider Church from our heritage, our liturgy, and our practices of prayer (as well as much to receive).

These resources offer up some of those gifts, to enrich the experience of all those who pray 'Thy Kingdom Come.'



The Revd Canon Gareth J Powell
Secretary of the Methodist Conference



The Methodist Church ...

... ever remembers that in the providence of God Methodism was raised up to spread scriptural holiness through the land by the proclamation of the evangelical faith and **declares its unfaltering resolve to be true to its divinely appointed mission.**

From the Deed of Union

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the transformational love of Jesus Christ. Our hope is that, as they pray, people will be empowered by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Thy Kingdom Come offers something for everyone through a fantastic range of resources and ideas - sign up to #Pledge2Pray at **www.thykingdomcome.global**

The resources in this booklet draw on the history and emphases of the Methodist Church in Britain.

2018 marks the 280th anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience, known in Methodism as his conversion, when, on 24th May 1739, as he wrote in his journal:

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He has taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Aldersgate is not just about the past, or just about John Wesley. His experience, so memorably and vividly expressed in his journal, demonstrates both that **our faith does not rest on our feelings but on the promises of a faithful God and the difference it makes knowing God for ourselves.** When one least expects it, even when things haven't turned out the way we hoped or when we feel we've heard it all before, there can be change. **Change happens when we share the story.** Wesley experienced this when someone else read to him Martin Luther's Preface to Romans. We too are called to share the story, to refresh our faith and to inspire others.



JOHN WESLEY

Thy Kingdom Come

The Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come

**Almighty God,
your ascended Son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of your kingdom:
inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts
with the fire of your love,
that all who hear your word may be drawn to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

How do I get involved?

Thy Kingdom Come is a call to prayer.

During this time we may:

- Remember Our Calling as Methodists – to worship, to learning and caring, to service, and to evangelism;
- Reflect on the disciples waiting in faithful expectation between the ascension of Jesus and Pentecost for the outpouring of God's Spirit;
- Respond in prayer.

You may wish to organise a one-off prayer meeting or a dedicated Thy Kingdom Come service, or to commit individually or as a small group to daily prayer. Creative prayer ideas, along with all-age and family prayer activities are available via the website

www.thykingdomcome.global

A nine day cycle of prayer, reflections, and readings is available in the booklet *Waiting in Wonder* by the President-Designate of the 2018 Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson.

- A suggested outline for daily prayer that can be used by individuals, in small groups, or as the opening devotions for a Bible study, fellowship, business, or other meeting taking place between Ascension Day and Pentecost;
- A model order of service, which could take place in individual churches or across circuits;
- Further prayer resources drawn from the Methodist Prayer Handbook, *The Methodist Worship Book* and *Singing the Faith*.



Prayers

All need to be saved.

All may be saved.

All may know themselves saved.

All may be saved to the uttermost.

Traditional summary of Methodist teaching

Whatever the future holds,
it is vital that a vision for the Church –
and for each local church –
should be inspired and maintained
by Scripture and tradition,
by contemporary experience and need,
and, not least, by the Holy Spirit
firing imagination, mind and heart.

From Called to Love and Praise, Methodist Conference Statement 1999

All-gracious God,
By your creative word
you brought the world to birth;
In your generous love
you made the human family,
that we might see your glory
and live forever in your presence.

This gift is so great and so wonderful.
Help us to ever remember
that this gift is not just for us,
but for all people;
not for us to give,
but for all to receive.

May your generous love be known in us,
that we may share the richness we already know,
in Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen.

***Parts of this prayer are drawn from The Methodist Worship Book, p169:
Praying Together, ©1988 by the English Language Liturgical Consultation***

God of the Covenant,
you set your bow in the sky
as a reminder that your desire
is not destruction,
but salvation for all people.
We long for that time when
your salvation is known

in hearts and lives
to the ends of the earth.

Teach us to speak
with words full of grace;

Equip us to show
your glory in our lives;

Enable us to share
the fullness of your love;

And grant us, we pray,
a glimpse of your kingdom,
as we long for its coming among us.
Amen.

The Revd Catherine Dixon

Sing, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God come down!

Charles Wesley, Singing the Faith no. 177

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

Charles Wesley, Singing the Faith no. 357

O for a trumpet voice
on all the world to call,
to bid their hearts rejoice
in him who died for all!
For all my Lord was crucified,
for all, for all my Saviour died.

Charles Wesley, Singing the Faith no. 358

To serve the present age,
my calling to fulfil;
O may it all my powers engage
to do my Master's will!

Charles Wesley, Singing the Faith no. 658

An outline for daily prayer

This order may be adapted to fit with local circumstances

Opening (this or some other prayer):

Uplifted in praise, O God,
are the hands of Mary, Mother of the Lord,
raised to magnify your glory,
exulting in the justice of your reign,
rejoicing in the gift of your salvation.

Uplifted in sacrifice, O God,
are the hands of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
raised in resurrection light,
imprinted with the wounds of love,
interceding for the captive ones.

Uplifted in hope, O God,
are these hands of mine,
raised in prayer to you,
longing for the light of your presence,
awaiting the gifts of your grace,
seeking the freedom
of your boundless love. Amen.

The Revd Prebendary Norman Wallwork, Methodist presbyter

We pause to be aware of God's presence

Give us, O God, a vision of your glory,
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth,
and offer the praise of glad and thankful hearts;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Methodist Worship Book, p.211

A time of Scripture

If you already follow a daily Bible reading guide, you may like to use those readings here instead. The Methodist Prayer Handbook and the Methodist Diary contains a lectionary with readings for every day of the church year. Reflections on those readings can be found at: www.methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time

A reading from the Old Testament:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:11-14, NRSV

A reading from the New Testament:

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

John 14:15-21, NRSV

A time of prayer

You may like to keep a time of silence to reflect on the readings, or to share in a short time of discussion about how the passages speak to you, to Our Calling, and to the theme Thy Kingdom Come

Some pointers for prayer:

- Pray for the Church throughout the world – that the Spirit will revive and refresh the Church in every part;
- Pray for your local church and the churches in your area – that you may be waiting attentively for the ways God is speaking through the Spirit;
- Pray for those who come to your church, and for those on the fringes - that they may have an assurance of God's love and know that they are saved through Christ;
- Pray for those who are in leadership in the Church - that they may be strengthened and upheld in their ministries;
- Pray for those who you know who do not know of God's love – for friends or family, for neighbours or colleagues, that God's Spirit may fill their hearts;
- Pray for the Kingdom of God - that it may break through in us and among us, that the earth may be filled with the glory of God;
- Pray for yourself - that God's Spirit will speak in your heart, that you may be bold to proclaim the gospel in your words and actions.

You may wish to use some of the prayers from the section: Some prayers of the people called Methodists

Suitable forms of intercession may be found in The Methodist Worship Book, pages 121-122 and pages 176-177

The collect for John and Charles Wesley

Almighty God,
you raised up your servants, John and Charles Wesley,
to proclaim anew the gift of redemption
and the life of holiness.
Pour out your Spirit,

and revive your work among us;
that inspired by the same faith,
and upheld by the same grace in word and sacrament,
we and all your children may be made one
in the unity of your Church on earth,
even as in heaven we are made one in you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Alternative Service Book 1980,
©1980 The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England**

The Lord's Prayer

This, or some other, hymn may be sung or read

O Thou who camest from above (Singing the Faith 564)

A final blessing

**May the Lord bless us and keep us,
May the Lord make his face to shine on us and be gracious to us,
May the Lord look on us with kindness and give us peace. Amen.**

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me.

Charles Wesley, Singing the Faith no. 564

Some prayers of the people called Methodists

These prayers are taken from the Methodist Prayer Handbooks 2012-2018. For details about the latest Prayer Handbook, visit www.methodist.org.uk/prayerhandbook

Jesus, we praise you for this ordinary day with so much on offer to us.
Help us to use this day with joy
and reach out to those who feel outside of your care,
showing them that your love is available to all. Amen.

Aileen Fox

Lord Jesus, we marvel that you laid aside
the glory of heaven to come to us.

We revel in your love and sacrifice.

Help us to respond by giving ourselves to you,
so that others may know you and revel in your love for them.

May our sacrifices reflect your sacrifice; our love reflect your love and
our lives be employed or laid aside for your glory. Amen.

The Revd Graham Thompson

God, loving guide, graciously, and at such cost,
you offer an invitation to all to follow you.

Stir, we pray, in every heart a longing for you:
grant us discernment that we may recognise your direction;
grant us courage that we may step out and follow;
grant us deep trust in you, loving God,
the one who holds and promises never to abandon us.

As we follow you, Lord God, we pray
that in the power of your Spirit,
you will illumine your people with your light,
that you will form the lives of those who commit to you,
that every aspect of our lives together will point to Jesus
and that your people will be a blessing to many. Amen.

The Revd Heather Morris, President of the Irish Methodist Conference 2013/2014

Loving God, we respond to your amazing love
by serving you in all that we do.
But sometimes we feel tired and when we do,
 we ask that you will refresh us.
Sometimes we feel we have let you down and when we do,
 we ask that you will pick us up.
Sometimes we feel we have disowned you and when we do,
 we ask that you will put your gentle arms of love around us.
Then, when we are refreshed, picked up and
helped by you, Lord, send us out into the community
to continue to serve you in response to your amazing love. Amen.

The Revd Richard Teal

Gracious God, you call us on a journey
to grow in grace and holiness.
As we travel on that journey
give us an assurance of your loving presence,
that, filled with your Spirit,
we may work with you, and our fellow pilgrims,
in the transformation
of our churches and our communities
so that they become signs
of your kingdom of justice and joy. Amen.

The Revd Ian Howarth

Lord our God,
your word teaches us that, in showing hospitality to strangers,
we may be welcoming angels into our midst;
help us to make our churches and homes
such places of welcome and sharing
that we may discover anew
the life of your kingdom. Amen.

The Revd Stephen Wigley

God who is found in beauty and brokenness,
holy and gracious one,
whose heart is torn by the suffering of your children,
you long for a world of justice and plenty for all.
Liberate us to share in that freedom offered by your kingdom.
Open our eyes to sense your presence
in places of despair and fear,
open our ears to hear your call to be salt and light in the world,
melt our hearts, convert us to the needs of the other,
and move us to be your people, a people of justice and care,
for our world, for friend and stranger. Amen.

The Revd Andrew Wood

Holy God,
you are the beginning and the end,
the source of all that is and the hope for all that is to come.
You hold all things together and everything that is
exists under your shadow.
Shape our world, our communities and our lives
by this conviction.
By your grace and mercy made known in Jesus and
emboldened by your Spirit,
help us to bear witness
to all that we know and experience of you. Amen.

The Revd John Hellyer

Remember, dear Lord, in your love, all worn-out preachers of your gospel,
those heralds of your kingdom who feel obliged, through infirmity, to lay the work aside,
though still conscious in their bones of the burning fire of your word.
Help them to find in this woeful and unwelcome ending the promise of a new beginning –
for you are Lord of both –
and to rejoice in the unfailing power and unerring guidance of your Spirit.
So shall the cause of your kingdom continue to be furthered in them.
For Jesus Christ's sake we ask it. Amen.

The Revd Colin V Smith, inspired by Jeremiah 20:9 and 1 Corinthians 9:16

A note about the Order of Service

For a service of Holy Communion, please see the Order for the Day of Pentecost in *The Methodist Worship Book*. The Easter service is also available.

Hymns may be chosen to suit the local context. The following hymns of Charles Wesley are particularly suitable for inclusion. *StF* means *Singing the Faith*; *H&P* means *Hymns and Psalms*, both of which are authorised hymn books of the Methodist Church.

A charge to keep I have – *StF 658, H&P 785*

And can it be? - *StF 345, H&P 216*

Come sinners to the gospel feast – *StF 401, H&P 460*

Give me the faith – *StF 661, H&P 767*

Jesus the name high over all – *StF 357, H&P 264*

Let earth and heaven agree – *StF 358, H&P 226*

O for a thousand tongues to sing – *StF 364, H&P 744*

O Thou who camest from above – *StF 564, H&P 745*

Rejoice the Lord is King – *StF 335, H&P 243*

See how great a flame aspires - *StF 412, H&P 781*

Ye servants of God – *StF 340, H&P 278*

Outline Order of Service

Introduction to the service:

Today's act of worship forms part of the global initiative Thy Kingdom Come, in which Christians are invited to pray for God's Spirit to move within the Church, equipping us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

For Methodists this movement of prayer coincides with the 280th anniversary of the Aldersgate experience, when John Wesley felt his heart "strangely warmed", and an assurance of God's love and of personal salvation. John Wesley's experience at the Aldersgate meeting transformed his belief and preaching, ultimately leading to the formation of the Methodist Church. Without Aldersgate, Methodism as we know it today may not have happened.

Early Methodism focused on spreading the gospel to all, especially those 'neglected' by the Church of the day. Salvation by faith was preached to individuals and groups, in houses and churches, and in the open air. We stand in that tradition of the proclamation of the faith; that is the work of God in us. So today we pray thy kingdom come.

The gathering of the people of God

Leader: God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Hymn or song/s

Leader: Let us pray:

Gracious God, you raised up John and Charles Wesley
to lead the people named Methodist within the Body of Christ;
their followers to be bridges of angels;
and countless others, who have burned with love.
Add us now to their number, so that in faith and holiness,
we may rejoice in your grace, repent of our wrong-turnings and
together find hope in your kingdom.
Stir up the gift of your Spirit in us and all your people:
may our inward ear be opened and a flame of sacred love burn
in our prayer and praise, our proclamation and our service, till all
receive the good news of your salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Revd Kenneth Howcroft,
President of the Methodist Conference, 2014/15*

Leader: As we reflect on the generous and gracious love of God to all
people, we pause to reflect on when we have failed to share this
gift with others:

**Dear God, I am sorry that I have not taken the opportunities to
share my faith with others. Despite the freedom we have in this
country to make known the love of the Lord Jesus, I have not
been able or willing to speak out. I ask that you give us all the
strength and courage to be more robust and sure of the faith
that is in us, that others may know from our witness to God's
unending love that true freedom comes from letting Jesus be
our friend and guide in everything we say, think or do. In the
name of the one whose service is perfect freedom. Amen.**

Beryl Fudge

Hymn or song/s

A responsive reading of Psalm 130 – *StF 832, H&P 881*

Listening for the Word of God in Scripture

A reading from the Old Testament –
Isaiah 12:1-6

A reading from the New Testament –
Romans 5:1-11

Hymn or song/s

A reading from the Gospel
Mark 12:28-37 or Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Reflection

You may wish to read aloud the statement by the Secretary of the Conference on the inside front cover of this booklet.

There may be a time of sharing personal stories of faith, of an assurance of God's love, or of the guiding of the Spirit.

Hymn or song/s

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

There may be a time of open prayer, or the following order may be used.

You may wish to use a number of voices to lead these prayers.

Liberating God, we give thanks for that amazing assurance of your love that came to John Wesley, and comes to each one of us. May we always rejoice in your mercy and grace; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Redeeming God, your mercy is immense and free. May we know in our hearts the freedom from sin that comes to us in the saving work of Christ, who died for all; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Gracious God, as you have redeemed us, so, by the power of your Spirit at work in us, may we proclaim your glorious name in all places, that the world might both taste and see the riches of your grace; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Saving God, in your Son you call us into a new Covenant with you. May we, by your divine grace, put ourselves aside and seek to glorify you in all we say and do; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Incarnate God, in Jesus we see your Word made flesh. Stamp your image on our faces and hearts, that in all things we may show your love and that our actions may be proof that we belong to you; your kingdom come

Your will be done.

Calling God, you raised up the people called Methodists to proclaim the evangelical faith. Pour out the Spirit of your love on your Church to revive us in our calling as your servants in this age; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Welcoming God, you call all humankind to the feast of your gospel. We pray for those who have not heard, who do not know, or who resist the power of your love; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Almighty God, may your love fire the nations, that all might catch the flame, that your kingdom may be known throughout the world; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Loving God, in all things may we be attentive to your word, relying on your grace and the power of your Spirit at work in us; your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

The above prayer was inspired by the hymnody of Charles Wesley

Other petitions may be added here to reflect local circumstances.

Leader:

We make our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, as we join in the words that he himself has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

We commit ourselves to pray and work for the kingdom of God as we join together in saying:

**Loving Jesus, let us step out with you in faith;
grant us understanding to know what we need to do,
grant us courage to go where we are needed,
grant us strength to face our difficulties,
grant us determination to overcome our disappointments,
grant us wisdom to serve you well.
Lord Jesus, let us step out with you in faith,
so that your light shines far beyond our way,
bringing your truth to many.
Amen.**

Andrea Davis

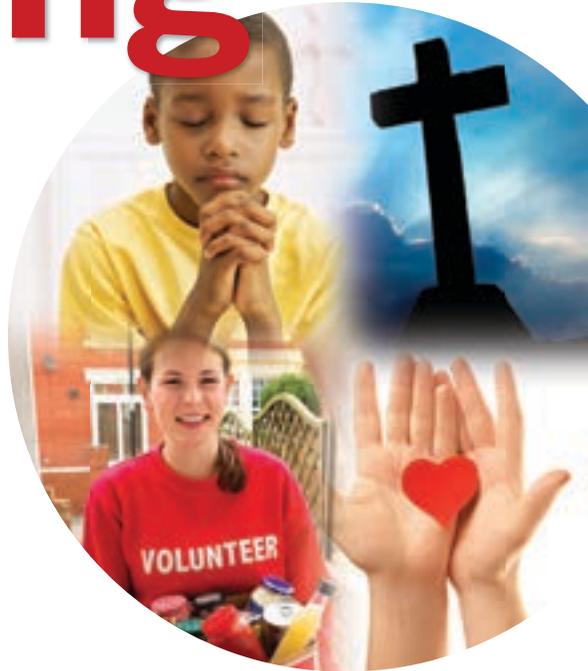
Hymn or song/s

Leader:

The Spirit of truth lead you/us into all truth,
give you/us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God,
Spirit, Son and Father,
remain with you/us always.
Amen.

Our Calling

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



It does this through



Worship



Learning and Caring



Service



Evangelism

The **Methodist Church** 

www.methodist.org.uk

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The Methodist Church

Written and compiled by the Revd Catherine Dixon, a Methodist presbyter in the West Norfolk Circuit of the Methodist Church's East Anglia District.

Some of the prayers were taken from the Methodist Prayer Handbooks 2012-2018. For details about the latest Prayer Handbook, visit www.methodist.org.uk/prayerhandbook

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Page 23: www.methodist.org.uk/ourcalling

For details about *The Methodist Worship Book* and *Singing the Faith*, please visit the Methodist Publishing website, www.mph.org.uk

www.methodist.org.uk

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www.thykingdomecome.global