

Sunday February 28th 2021: The Second Sunday in Lent

For use at 10.30 am or at another time.

This is our 50th Worship at Home sheet!



Hymn StF 323 H&P 223

I will sing the wondrous story / of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory / for the cross on Calvary:
*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story / of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory / gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost; but Jesus found me / found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up, and gently led me / back into the narrow way.

He will keep me till the river / rolls its waters at my feet;
then he'll bear me safely over / where the loved ones I shall meet:

Francis Harold Rowley (1854 – 1952)

Prayer

As always, thank God for his goodness and say sorry for your own weakness in response.

Gospel Reading set for today: Mark 8 v 31 – 38

To think about

If a non-Christian friend asked you to explain this reading, what would you say?

Hymn StF 662

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred? Are you still prepared to follow?
Have you made a choice to remain and serve / though the way be rough and narrow?
*Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace the pain and sorrow?
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow?*

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down / when the multitudes are silent?
Will you make a choice to stand your ground / when the crowds are turning violent?
*We will walk the path that will cost us much and embrace the pain and sorrow.
We will trust in One who entrusts to us the disciples of tomorrow.*

Jacqueline G Jones CCL nos. 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013.

Message from a Circuit friend

In early February one of our heroes died, Sir Captain Tom Moore. He made something simple of walking 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday into a national fixation, raising over 33 million for the NHS. What an achievement! But it got me thinking as we enter Lent and begin the journey towards Easter, when the greatest of all heroes this world has ever seen gave the ultimate sacrifice, his life for our salvation and everlasting life.

Like many heroes Jesus had a humble beginning born in a stable surrounded by animals. However, his destiny was realised by the visitation of the shepherds and wise men, and the gifts bestowed upon him. His destiny which was signalled throughout his life, gave him gifts fit for a King and also for a burial. But what do you have to do to be a hero? Save someone's life? Be an inspiration for others? Be there for others when they are hurting and forgotten? Jesus, I am sure you will agree fits all these criteria and more, he is invincible, our saviour in times of trouble and strife, our Lord. He is our path to our Father, as he said 'no one comes to the father, except through me' (John 14:6). He suffered for us, no greater suffering has ever been experienced. He was cast out alone to die with unimaginable pain, cut off from his father. We know this through his immortal words 'why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46). Can you imagine how that felt, yet he knew his destiny and still fulfilled the prophecies. Such bravery, such love for us, such forgiveness for our mortal sin. It is this hero that takes away my pain, he gives me hope when all hope is

gone, he eases suffering and grief, he listens when no one else will, he answers prayer, he forgives and lets us grow to become children of God. Just as Sir Captain Tom Moore had a number one record with Michael Ball, 'you'll never walk alone' and with the sacrifice of our ultimate hero Jesus, we never will walk alone!
Anna Hall (Local Preacher in training and member of Gressenhall Methodist Church)

For Prayer

We pray for our world, our country, the Methodist Church, our Circuit, our local church and fellowship, our community, our family and friends, ourselves. *Pray for other needs...*

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...

Hymn StF 557 H&P 698

Let him to whom we now belong / his sovereign right assert,
and take up every thankful song / and every loving heart.

He justly claims us for his own / who bought us with a price;
the Christian lives to Christ alone / to Christ alone he dies.

Jesus, thine own at least receive / fulfil our hearts' desire,
and let us to thy glory live / and in thy cause expire.

Our souls and bodies we resign / we joy we render thee
our all, no longer ours, but thine / to all eternity.

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.

What follows is taken from the leaflet about the District Day of Prayer and Reflection: Sat March 6th

For those not able to join in online:

This day is still for you! Begin the day at 9.30 am knowing that others are starting the day together on the internet. Use Morning Prayer from the Methodist Worship Book or simply pray in your own way. Then, choose one or more of the prayer suggestions (or your own) to use during the day before a prayer time at 4.30 pm, knowing that others are sharing feedback from the day and saying Evening Prayer. If you would like to pray with 2 or 3 others on the telephone, then contact Deacon Jen on 01760 720858. If you would like to listen to a prayer or information on the phone use one of the Methodist Church's free phone lines:

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Listen to the President and Vice-President: 0808 281 2695

Suggestions to use through the day

Take a **Mindful Walk**

Pray on the hour e.g.

11 am	with the 23 rd Psalm
12 noon	with the Lord's Prayer
1 pm	with a favourite classic prayer
2 pm	with your own words
3 pm	with a favourite Hymn

Use the **five fingers of your hand** to pray for:

Thumb: The effects of the pandemic in the world especially in the poorer countries

Index Finger: The ongoing situation in the UK including praying for our government and PM

Middle Finger: All medical staff dealing with the virus as well as administrators & managers

Ring Finger: Those who are ill or in hospital with the virus & those whose treatment has been delayed

Little Finger: The bereaved and all those suffering in any way today

Reflect on the **World Day of Prayer's theme** this year 'Build on a strong foundation'
(Matthew 7 v 24 – 29)