

## Bangor & Holyhead Methodist Circuit

### Sunday Worship Sheet – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Our Worship for this week was written by Keith Alexander, a URC 'visiting' Local Preachers and a member at Amlwch. You may wish to have your Bible to hand.

#### Call to worship

Blessed is the Lord: he carries us day by day. Psalm 68:19

**Hymn: StF.743.** *Come let us join our cheerful songs* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHjaGvulXHY>

Come, let us join our cheerful songs  
with angels round the throne;  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
but all their joys are one.

'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,  
'to be exalted thus!'  
'Worthy the Lamb!' our lips reply,  
'for he was slain for us.'

Jesus is worthy to receive  
honour and power divine;  
and blessings, more than we can give,  
be, Lord, for ever thine.

Let all creation join in one  
to bless the sacred name  
of him that sits upon the throne,  
and to adore the Lamb.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

*Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 743.*

#### Prayers of Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving:

We shall praise you, Lord, with all of our heart, this and every day.

You are the one who loves us, rescues and restores us.

You are the one who heals us, blesses and forgives us.

You are the one who leads us, teaches and empowers us.

We shall praise you, Lord, with all of our heart, this and every day. **Amen.**

When our faith is weak and we are tempted to seek an easier way,  
forgive us, gracious Lord.

You did not turn away from confrontation but, for our sake,  
walked to the cross and beyond,

that we might know the power of love and live it day by day.

May we know your strength, so that in our weakness we might be prepared to stand up for  
the faith that we profess, and that your name might be lifted high. **Amen.**

For your faithfulness to generations who have followed you, we thank you.

For your patience with those of us who fail you, we thank you.

For your grace, freely given to all who come to you, we thank you.

For your love which compels us to worship you, we thank you. **Amen.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Hymn: StF.107.** *I sing the almighty power of God.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6IFXCK6V5E>

I sing the almighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at his command,  
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
that filled the earth with food;  
he formed the creatures with his word,  
and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how your wonders are displayed  
where'er I turn mine eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!

God's hand is my perpetual guard,  
he guides me with his eye;  
why should I then forget the Lord,  
whose love is ever nigh?

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)  
*Reproduced from Singing the Faith  
Electronic Words Edition, number 107.*

**Old Testament Reading:**  **Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

**Epistle Reading:**  **1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

**Hymn: StF.712.** *Put peace into each other's hands* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpWAg5XhB3w>

Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it,  
protect it like a candle-flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.

As at Communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance,  
and share it like a treasure.

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)  
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London N3 1DZ <[www.stainer.co.uk](http://www.stainer.co.uk)>

**Gospel Reading:**  **Matthew 22:34-46**

### **Reflection on Matthew 22:34-46**

“Why do you answer a question with a question?” is something I have been asked. This came back to me quite recently when I asked a hospital consultant “So what is this condition called?” His reply was “Why do you want you know?” I explained that when I got home I would be asked how I got on at the hospital and that this question of mine would be asked of me.

In the reading from Matthew's gospel Jesus gave an answer *and* followed it with his own question to the Pharisees. The Jews have 613 commandments and they asked Jesus which was the greatest of all these. There was no doubt in Jesus' mind what the answer was. The

two commandments that he quoted are intrinsic parts of all the commandments. Each commandment holds a reflection of these two commandments.

All that we do and say should be governed by these two commandments. It is obvious that “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.” Is what we should be all about. The words tell us that our love for God should be complete. As for the second commandment I had for many years felt that there was a certain amount of selfishness implied in “Love your neighbour as yourself.” I always felt that a Christian should self to one side in his/her life. I was once told “Self-aggrandisement is no recommendation.” It was a word I had never heard before, so it stuck in my mind.

Yet, here we are being told that we should love our neighbour just as we love ourselves. As it was Jesus who said we should love others as much as ourselves there has to be much value in this. There are some people who have a high opinion of themselves, but this is not what Jesus meant. I think it is very important to realise that, within us, we have a lot of good. It is that goodness that we have to dig out in the way we treat others.

After his answer, Jesus puts the Pharisees on the spot. He asks them “Whose son is the Messiah?” The Pharisees declared “The son of David.” Then quickly comes Jesus’ response: “So why does David call him Lord?” They were quite unable to answer this. The fact is that the answer was standing before them. Jesus is called Son of David on occasion, but he remains Messiah too.

Over the years I have often wondered if Moses suffered from headaches as the one who had to interpret the Law for enquiring Israelites. He had 613 commandments to fall back on but his brain would be in overdrive, trying to pick out the right one and then give an interpretation. He constantly had to answer question after question. Jesus, however, answered every question asked of him with apparent ease. As God incarnate this would be easy for him. In his case the questions were put in order to get him to say something that would condemn him. Fielding all these questions was easier than it was for Moses!

It seems to me that this passage from Matthew’s gospel was written to say “Here are the two major commandments and, what is more, I am he who first uttered them. In other words they came “straight from the horse’s mouth.” We are therefore able to go out to preach the gospel of Jesus with the ultimate message of what God expects and the credentials of Jesus behind all that we say and do. May God bless us as we carry this out. **Amen**

#### **Prayer of Intercession:**

Lord, we have heard what you said to the Jews and the early Christians.  
Now we must talk with you about our hopes and fears  
for the Church and the world in our own time.

We think of the Church as your people, Christ’s body,  
at least a foretaste of your new creation.

Some part of your purpose must have been realised in it.

Sometimes the lives of Christians do put the world to shame.

But the Church does not preach the Gospel so clearly  
that people are left without excuse.

We cannot be surprised when they do not find Christ easily through the Church.

How can this be put right?

How can your life be released in the Church and transform its worship and its service?

We believe in your purpose for the Church; help us not to be imprisoned in unbelief.

Few of us are people of great influence and responsibility,  
and we wonder how our prayers can affect the course of the world's life.

We cannot believe that war or tyranny or famine or sickness  
are the conditions under which you intend men to live.

And yet many have prayed for peace but war has not been averted.

The tyrant falls only after he has caused much misery.

Famine is still normal for millions of people. Sickness still takes its toll.

We believe that these are evils to be fought,  
and yet that humankind itself is not equipped to fight them.

We need the love only you can give,  
love which is prepared for great sacrifice, creative thought and untiring patience.

Meanwhile we ask you to give strength to those who suffer from these evils and to make us  
alert to ways of making easier for them.

Lord, you so often astonish us by granting requests which were only half-formed,  
by enriching our experience in unexpected ways,

by reminding us of factors we had overlooked.

However you answer these prayers, may the outcome be that we love you more,  
understand your purpose better, and believe in you with greater confidence. **Amen**

**Hymn: StF.439. *Abba, Father*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FGRbUrfvZ8>

Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.  
May my will forever be  
ever more your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
never let me go,  
Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.

Dave Bilborough (b. 1965)  
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### **The Aaronic Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS ON THIS SERVICE SHEET VIA EMAIL, OR PERHAPS PRINT OFF A  
COPY AND PASS IT TO A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR WHO MAY APPRECIATE IT. THANK YOU.**