



Call to worship – Psalm 34: 1-3, 22

Hymn – 340 – Ye servants of God

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall
sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

'Salvation to God who sits on the throne!'
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the
Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right;
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

A prayer for God to break through in the life of our churches:

**God of love, God for all,
your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly imagine.**

Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Help us let go of all that holds us back.

Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility and faith, of change and growth.

Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show us the way. Amen

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Almighty God, we meet together in this place to worship you. Continuing a tradition which has been celebrated here by generations before us. We come as your people, united with those all over the world, and across all time.

We come to praise you for your unending love, for the way that you have made yourself known to a whole variety of people in every generation, for your guidance, and for your faithfulness to us. Today, we thank you for those who have gone before us, and especially those who have shared their faith with us, who have inspired us by their example of Christian love, and who have encouraged us on our journey of faith.

We thank you for your promise of eternal life for all those who believe in your name, and even though we are not entirely sure what that means, we know that we can trust in your word, and that your promises are true.

A prayer of confession and forgiveness

Lord, we hear your word, but we are not always ready to trust. We rely upon our own strengths and abilities, and forget to look to you in times of trouble. In our sorrow at the death of our loved ones, our friends and family, we concentrate on our own sadness, and forget to give thanks that they now rest in the perfect peace of your presence which you offer to us all for all eternity.

Forgive us when we forget the great tradition of Christian discipleship in which we now take our place, and give us the courage and vision to share our faith with new generations who are yet to know you.

By your grace, you understand our failings, and forgive us. You give us strength in our weakness, courage to face our fears and inspiration to seek a better understanding of you.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Reading – John 11: 20-27

Reflection – All Saints Day

- What is All Saints Day
- Who are the Saints?
- What happens when we die?
- What about those who do not believe?

Intercessions

Loving God, we turn now to our prayers for others, both friends, family, and strangers alike.

We pray for those who have departed this life, and who now rest with you, and I ask for your prayers for Freda from Paulton, and for her husband, Eric and family as they come to terms with her death.

We pray for the migrants who lost their lives in the English Channel this week, we reflect on the desperate plight that they found themselves in which made their actions seem the only way out.

We pray for our Government as they try to deal with the epidemic, and for those whose lives have been changed, both by the virus, and by the measures put in place to try to control it.

In silence we bring our own prayers.

And finally we pray for ourselves, that you will help us to continue in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, keeping faith in you, and offering our experiences of your love to future generations.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven....

Blessing of the offering

Song – Here is bread – YouTube clip - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emztEMWxoGI>

Here is bread that speaks of love
Your body broken for a guilty world
For a guilty world
Hungry, we come to feed on You
Manna from heaven, giving strength anew
Giving strength anew

Lord, by Your cross and resurrection
You have freed us
And now we know that
You're the Saviour of the world
Open our eyes to see You here with us and
burn within our hearts
Risen Lord, risen Lord

Here is wine that tells of grace
Your blood outpoured to cover all our shame
To cover all our shame
Thirsty, we come to drink from You
Fountain of life, our souls You will renew
Our souls You will renew

Lord, by Your cross and resurrection
You have freed us
And now we know that
You're the Saviour of the world

Open our eyes to see You here with us and
burn within our hearts
Risen Lord, risen Lord

Grace, such grace
Here, we find grace
Grace, such grace
Here, we find grace

Lord, by Your cross and resurrection
You have freed us
And now we know that
You're the Saviour of the world
Open our eyes to see You here with us and
burn within our hearts
Risen Lord, risen Lord

Here we are, Your body, Lord
Given that all the world might be restored
The world might be restored
Offering now the lives we live
Freely You gave and freely we will give
Freely we will give

Mark Bradford

Holy Communion

Hymn – 596 – Now let us from this table rise

Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and live again,
his selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the Word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then grant us courage, Father-God,
to choose again the pilgrim way
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **Amen.**

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## A Reflection on All Saints Day

From [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) Worship from Home service sheet for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November

*Based on Matthew 5: 1-12*

Methodists tend not to do Saints Days. But remember that in the New Testament all the faithful are saints. Saints are real people not those figures portrayed in stained glass windows. We have all known many saints - those who brought us to faith, those who encouraged us on our way, those who provided the care and concern we all need from time to time. Saints are also those who challenge and question, who invite us to rethink our cherished attitudes and favourite ways of doing things and ask us to test them against the call of God in this age. All of them are the saints we commemorate at All Saints' tide. All of them are our partners in prayer and in service.

Later you might find time to read Luke's more challenging version of the Beatitudes (Luke 6,20-31). In either version, how do these words speak to us, the saints of this generation? By world standards even the poorest in Britain are incredibly rich - that is one reason why so many migrants want to come here. Yet I, like many who have experienced hospitality in the world's poorer places, can attest to the fact that the hospitality offered by many of the world's poorest people is way in excess of what they can expect to receive in the rich world.

Frequently, the saints, famous or unsung, have not really known where God was leading them, why God wanted something done, or how to go about doing it. Often they doubted whether they would have much impact - for humility is frequently the mark of a true saint. But they got on with it. And we are called to follow their example, to follow the great heritage of all God's faithful people down the ages. Let us pray that we may live up to whatever he is calling us to do in this age.