

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**LONDON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**  
**WORSHIP AT HOME RESOURCE – SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2020**

**Call to Worship**

Jesus, our shepherd,  
holy and anointed one –  
as we gather here today,  
open our eyes to see you,  
and hearts that we may grow in faith.  
Amen.

**Prayer**

Loving God,  
We thank you for our mothers, who gave life to us,  
and who care for us.  
We are blessed by their self-sacrifice and love.

**Bless them today and every day.**

We pray today for new mothers,  
asking you to imbue them with  
patience, wisdom and love.

**Bless them today and every day.**

We thank you for the way our mums love us,  
even when we disappoint or upset them.

**Bless them today and every day.**

We remember before you  
those who are mums who parent  
children with physical or  
mental-health challenges,  
asking for strength and courage for them.  
In the exhaustion and frustrations,  
in the joys and celebrations,  
may they know you are alongside them.

**Bless them today and every day.**

We pray for mothers who are struggling;  
for those who do not have enough money,  
to put food on the table, or to heat their  
homes. For mums whose hearts cry out to  
you in pain, because they rely on the care  
of their children.

**Bless them today and every day.**

We ask for you to send your peace  
on those who have lost their longed-for  
child in death,  
and those who have children adopted  
or living away from home.

**Bless them today and every day.**

We pray too for those who don't  
know the love of a mother or father,  
and those who have experienced a  
difficult relationship with a parent.  
For those who have experienced loss  
or neglect.

**Bless them today and every day.**

God of love, hear these prayers and  
answer them,  
for the sake of your children.

We pray in the name of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

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.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,  
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

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.

Irish 8<sup>th</sup>C translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne(1880-1931)  
versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull(1860-1935) alt.

**Scriptures:** Psalm 23 & John 9:1-41

**Reflection**

In this story, full of comings and goings, many  
choose either not to believe what they see, or not  
to own up to it. The Pharisees just will not believe  
that the man has received his sight by God's  
miracle; either he was cheating before or he is  
cheating now, or dubious powers are involved.  
What do you think?

Are we ever obstinate? Puzzled? Fearful? What sort of person today might be treated in a similar way to the man in the story? That is, whose story might not be believed, simply because of what or who they are? How do we respond if we are told something that disturbs us, takes us 'out of our comfort zone'? Are we less likely to listen to, or accept into our fellowship, someone who is disruptive? How do we respond to something that is unexplained, or that we cannot understand?

If we can accept that we are all, to a greater or lesser extent, a bit like that, how might we recognise the work of God's Spirit – particularly as Scripture tells us that the work of the Spirit is to disturb us? How can we avoid hiding from the possibility that there is more to life than we know or have yet encountered?

### Praying for Others

As you come to this time of prayer, we ask you to remember especially ... Praying for the People of Go

Light of the world,  
we pray for those who suffer prejudice because of any kind of disability  
– physical, emotional, social or mental:  
help us to recognise our prejudices  
and to treat all people equally.  
Open our eyes that we might see.

We pray for all who work for a fairer and more just society,  
where all can be free to live,  
no matter what their circumstances.  
Open our eyes that we might see.

We pray for all who walk in darkness,  
with no light and little hope:  
may they know the joy that only you can bring.  
Open our eyes that we might see.

Heal those who mourn, suffering loss and sadness;  
those who are alone, rejected by family and friends;  
those who are outcasts in our society.  
Lord, show us how to be instruments of your healing.

Open our eyes that we might see.  
Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:** Our Father, who art...

### Hymn

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only for my king.  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold  
not a might would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every power as you choose.

Take my will and make it Thine  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord I pour  
at your feet its treasure store  
Take myself and I will be ever,  
only all for thee,

Frances Ridley Havergal(1836-1879)

### Benediction

Take the light of Christ out from this place today,  
and share it,  
that all may have the opportunity to see.

**Amen.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
The love of God our Father;  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all, now and forevermore.

**Amen.**