4 Service Outlines provided by a group of

North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit Friends

**A Methodist Year**



**Material for use in all services**

**Call to Worship:** Generous God, we celebrate today the gift of your love for us and the Methodist Church that nurtures us as your disciples. We offer ourselves to you through our service in thanks and praise. AMEN

**A Prayer:**

**A Hymn:** All over the world, your Spirit is moving (MP18, MHOAN23)

**Themes of ALL Services**

**Developing the Theme Visually over 4 sessions**

Flame to represent the Holy Spirit (possibly firework flame)

Flame Tree

**Useful places to look for Resources**

Roots on the Web

Methodist Worship Book

David Clowes: 500 More Prayers for all occasions

Claire Daniel: 80 Creative Prayer Ideas

Nick Fawcett: Prayers for All Seasons

Ray Simpson: Celtic Prayers

The Iona Community: Iona Abbey Worship Book

: Open with God

THIS service ...... Service 1: **For the start of the Connexional Year**

Looks at the start of the Methodist New Year (September) as we give thanks for service last year in the Connexion, Circuit and Church. Looking forwards to the officers appointed for the coming year and the life of the church in the year to come. To review what we will commit to doing in the coming year, prune back to allow new growth

**Theme in a tweet:** Recommitting, Reviewing, Renewing

**Readings - recommended options in bold print**, supporting texts in standard print

Old Testament: **2 Kings 22 : 8 - 11; 23 : 1-3** **Finding the law**

Isaiah 58 Balancing worship and deeds

Deuteronomy 15: 9,10 " [need 'cost' in text eg ESV]

Gospel: Luke 4:14 - 22 Beginning of Jesus ministry

Luke 14: 25 - 34 the cost of being a disciple

**John 15:1 -17 pruning the vine**

Epistle:

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for discussion**

* dramatic sketch on pruning / cutting out dead wood (should be available on internet)

**Prayers**

**Adoration** Open with God page 6

**Thanksgiving** Nick Fawcett Prayers for All Seasons p199 no 93

**Confession** Nick FawcettPrayers for All Seasons p459 no.208

**Assurance and Forgiveness**

**Intercessions**

Wisdom, permeating creation and informing all peoples, come bring us the mind of God.

Shaper of Peoples, who through Moses gave guidance that would make a people great, guide us into the ways of true greatness.

Bedrock, sign of community, come to places of instability and root them in realities that nothing can destroy.

Key to Destiny, unlock our potential and our capacity to befriend and serve others, that we may be mentors and soul friends amid a needy people.

Light-Bringer, illumine the places of darkness, despair and disease.

True Fulfiller of Desire, harness our deepest longings to your infinite purpose of love.

God with Us - the Presence that cannot be taken from us - may we live with you and may you live in us forever.

*(Celtic prayers no 85)*

Ask for God's blessing on the new officers of Conference by name

Ask God's blessing for the new theme for the year (2020/1 likely to be The Earth is the Lord's)

Prayers for the people of this church who have recommitted themselves to serve the church as stewards, organists church council members etc.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

to include the blessings of our gifts and talents to work for your Kingdom

**Leaving Prayer**

Leader: For the roots of this community, and all our communities:

ALL: WE THANK YOU LIVING GOD

Leader: For what we share together here, and for the life we share with others:

ALL: WE THANK YOU LIVING GOD

Leader: For the path that lies before us now, and our future in your hands:

ALL: WE THANK YOU LIVING GOD

ALL: LIVING GOD MAY WE NOT FAIL YOU.

*[adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book p 26 -27]*

**Leaving Blessing**

MWB page 554 above 5\*

**Hymns - recommended options in bold** - supporting texts in standard script

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| StF | Title | H & P | MHB | MHO&N Green | Mission Praise |
|  | Praise and Gathering |  |  |  |  |
| **544** | **As the deer pants for water** | **-** | **-** | **53** | **37** |
|  | Theme |  |  |  |  |
| **545** | **Be thou my vision** | **378** | **632** | **89** | **51** |
| 566 | Take my life and let it be | 705 | 400 | 693 | 624 |
| Speak O lord as we come to you Stuart Townsend Thank You Music *Licenced?* | | | | | |
| 662 | Have you heard God's voice | - | - | - | - |
| 562 | O God what offering shall I give | - | - | 560 | - |
| 547 | Beyond these walls of worship | - | - | - | - |
|  | Application |  |  |  |  |
| 699 | God of justice, Saviour to all | - | - | - | - |
| **563** | **O Jesus I have promised** | **704** | **526** | **566** | **501** |
| 404 | God's Spirit is in my heart | - | - | 264 | - |
|  | Scriptural Links |  |  |  |  |
| **242** | **A new commandment I give unto you** |  |  | **40** |  |
|  | Into the World |  |  |  |  |
| **549** | **Come let us use the grace divine** | **649** | **749** | **145** |  |

**All Age Activities**

Discussion: Remembering the promises that you make and keeping them.

New Beginnings

80 creative Prayer ideas pages 74 and 76

**Useful Places to look for Resources** Methodist Worship Book - Covenant service

THIS service… Service 2: **A Wesley Celebration**

As we celebrate our roots in Wesley, so we look at new routes: Going out into the world to spread the Good News and telling of salvation being open to all. We are challenged to meet people where they are as the Wesley brothers did, and to tell of God’s love as Susannah Wesley did.

**Theme in a tweet:** Roots, Routes, Wesley

**Readings - recommended options in bold print**, supporting texts in standard print

Old Testament:

Psalm 66: 1-9, 16-20 (or StF812 for a responsive version)

Gospel:

Matthew 10: 5-20

Epistle:

Galatians 1: 11-21

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for discussion**

Were the criticisms of Susannah Wesley’s way of bringing up her family justified?

Can we learn from the work of John and Charles Wesley?

What do we admire in the lives of the Wesleys?

**Prayers**

**Adoration**

David Clowes: 500 More Prayers for all occasions p12

**Thanksgiving**

David Clowes: 500 More Prayers for all occasions p54, no98

**Confession**

Nick Fawcett: Prayers for All Occasions Book 2 p307, no122

**Assurance and Forgiveness**

**Intercessions**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**Leaving Prayer**

**Leaving Blessing**

Roots sept-Oct 2019 p23

**Hymns - recommended options in bold** - supporting texts in standard script

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| StF | Title | H & P | MHB | MHO&N Green | Mission Praise |
|  | Praise and Gathering |  |  |  |  |
| **21** | **Born in song** | **486** | **-** | **97** | **-** |
| **107** | **I sing the almighty power of God** | **334** | **46** | **360** | **-** |
| **507** | **O for a heart to praise my God** | **536** | **550** | **550** | **495** |
|  | Theme |  |  |  |  |
| **687** | **One human family God has made** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **477** | **Teach me to dance** | **-** | **-** | **696** | **-** |
|  | Application |  |  |  |  |
| **364** | **O for a thousand tongues to sing** | **744** | **1** | **551** | **496** |
|  | Scriptural Links |  |  |  |  |
| **-** | **For I’m building a people of power** | **-** | **-** | **211** | **151** |
|  | Into the World |  |  |  |  |
| **476** | **One more step along the world I go** | **746** | **-** | **590** | **-** |

**All Age Activities**

Paper crosses which open up in water – “Be open to God”:

Make paper crosses for each person, invite everyone to write concerns, prayers and/or joys on them, Fold the arms of the cross into the centre. Take them to the front of the worship area and place them in a shallow tray of water. The crosses should open up illustrating that our hearts, minds and ears must be open to the message of God to enable us to move forward.

Make a Celebration Banner

Make a family tree:

Either: have a tree ready with yellow and green leaves, and ask everyone to put a fingerprint, using an ink pad onto one of the leaves as a mark of recognition – we are all part of God’s family tree.

Or: set up a children’s/ interactive corner to create the tree

**Useful Places to look for Resources** THIS service… Service 3: **Aldersgate Sunday/ Wesley Day**

This service focusses on Wesley’s Aldersgate experience, reflecting on having our hearts changed by the Spirit to the glory of God.

**Theme in a tweet:** Is your heart strangely warmed?

**Readings - recommended options in bold print**, supporting texts in standard print

Old Testament:

Psalm 96 – use StF819 as responsive reading

Isaiah 6: 1-8 God calls Isaiah

Gospel:

Epistle:

Romans 5:1-11 Right with God

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for discussion**

Have you ever felt your “heart strangely warmed”?

Would you recognise it as a sign from God?

Is it relevant to today’s world?

**Prayers**

**Adoration**

Source unknown: p12, no5 WE COME AS YOUR FAMILY

Lord, we do not come as guests but as members of your family;

We do not come in fear but with joy and thanksgiving;

We do not come alone but with all your people of every age and in every place.

Lord, we come as your family, for you are our heavenly Father,

And Christ is our Brother, our Saviour, and Lord. Amen.

Nick Fawcett: Prayers for all seasons Bk 2 no 186; no 454

**Thanksgiving**

David Clowes: 500 More Prayers for all occasions p40, no79

**Confession**

David Clowes: 500 More Prayers for all occasions p101, no137

Source unknown: BOW THE KNEE

There are moments on our journey following the Lord

Where God illumines every step we take.

There are times when circumstances make perfect sense to us,

As we try to understand each move He makes.

When the path grows dim and our questions have no answers,

Turn to him.

Bow the knee:

Trust the heart of your Father when the answer goes beyond what you can see. Bow the knee;

Lift your eyes toward heaven and believe the One who holds eternity.

And when you don’t understand the purpose of His plan,

In the presence of the King, bow the knee.

There are days when clouds surround us, and the rain begins to fall,

The cold and lonely winds won’t cease to blow.

And there seems to be no reason for the suffering we feel;

We are tempted to believe God does not know.

When the storms arise, don’t forget we live by faith and not by sight.

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Intercessions**

Nick Fawcett: Prayers for all seasons Bk 2 p80, np193

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**Leaving Prayer**

**Leaving Blessing/ Sending Out Prayer**

Roots May 2019 p15

**Hymns - recommended options in bold** - supporting texts in standard script

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| StF | Title | H & P | MHB | MHO&N Green | Mission Praise |
|  | Praise and Gathering |  |  |  |  |
| **456** | **And are we yet alive** | **707** | **709** | **34** |  |
| 293 | All heaven declares | - | - | 19 | 14 |
| 21 | Born in song | 486 | - | 97 | - |
|  | Theme |  |  |  |  |
| **440** | **Amazing Grace** | **215** | - | **33** | **31** |
| **345** | **And Can it Be** | **216** | **371** | **35** | **33** |
| **564** | **O Thou who Camest** | **745** | **386** | **607** | **525** |
| 408 | How small a spark has lit a living flame | - | - | - | - |
|  | Application |  |  |  |  |
| 391 | O breath of life | 777 | - | 541 | 448 |
| 433 | Out of the depths I cry to thee | 429 | 359 | 614 | - |
| 397 | The Spirit lives to set us free | - | - | 735 | 664 |
|  | Scriptural Links |  |  |  |  |
| 454 | Where shall my wondering soul begin | 706 | 361 | 808 | - |
| 766 | Holy, holy, holy | - | - | - | - |
|  | Into the World |  |  |  |  |
| **663** | **I the Lord of Sea and Sky** | **-** | **-** | **362** | **-** |
| **610** | **Best of all is God is with us** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |

**All Age Activities**

Make flames out of coloured paper, one for each person. Join them up in bunting style to illustrate how far a flame can spread…

Make a flame tree – add fabric flames to a “tree” using permanent markers to write one names of those present and names of others who have share God’s love with us. Don’t forget the Wesleys!!

**Useful Places to look for Resources**

Wesley’s Sermon:; An Almost Christian might give some interesting thoughts whilst preparing this service.

Aldersgate Day: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/special-sundays/aldersgate-sunday/>

THIS service ...... Service 4: **Methodist Emphases**

The principles of : priesthood of all believers; annual Covenant; equality in God's eyes; justice.

Church -> circuit ( looks after us & we feed into it) -> Connexion ( World church)

Application: eg in context of food- enjoy, share, be aware, today\*

**Theme in a tweet:** Priesthood, Covenant and Outreach of being a Methodist

**Readings - recommended options in bold print**, supporting texts in standard print

Old Testament:

Gospel: Luke 10:25 - 37 Good Samaritan - who is my neighbour?

Matthew 25 Justice; separating sheep & goats

John 2: 1-11; wedding feast \*

John 6:1-15 feeding of 5000\*

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12 - 31 unity and diversity in the body

Ephesians 2: 10 made in God's image

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for discussion**

*from The Methodist Church web-site*

The Connexion - The promise of mutual support is a strength of Methodism. If you become a member of the Methodist Church , a pastoral visitor is responsible for visiting you and offering spiritual support , encouragement and challenge.

Methodist Quadrilateral - Scripture; Tradition; Reason; Experience

follow up with discussion on 7 ways in which Methodist view the bible in Methodist document 'A lamp to our feet and a light to our path'

*From the Connexion magazine - winter 2020 - pages 20 & 22*

*Choosing a Methodist way of living Rev. Dr. Roger L Walton*

The ' Methodist way of life' is not a detailed list of beliefs, but rather how we seek to live our lives in response to God's love in Jesus.

The Methodist way of life holds a deep resonance and reconnection with our tradition. Methodism began as a holiness movement, and the societies John Wesley formed had rules to help people and grow their faith. The core was that Methodists would do no harm; that they would seek to do good wherever they could, and that they would develop a pattern of prayer and worship to draw near to God.

When John Wesley was asked about the people called Methodists, he described how Methodists lived out their faith in daily life, inspired and empowered by the love of God.

\*Awareness: part of Wesley exhibition at New Rooms Bristol of contrasting fortunes

\*Discussion on uptake of use of Foodbanks in today's affluent society

**Prayers**

**Adoration**

**Thanksgiving**

**Confession**

Responsibility towards our environment

*(use with care as the environment does not appear elsewhere in this service plan)*

Creator God,

You have given us the privilege of participating in the care and nurture of this world.

You call us to work in partnership with you and one another,

not simply serving ourselves, nor looking only to short-term interests

but conscious of our responsibility to our children and those who will follow them

***Teach us to be faithful stewards of creation***

Forgive us for mistakenly imagining we can work independently of you,

living and acting as we please with no thought of the consequences

***Teach us to be faithful stewards of creation***

Forgive us for exploiting the treasures of this earth as though they are ours by right

wantonly destroying the environment in our thirst for gain

***Teach us to be faithful stewards of creation***

Forgive us for losing our sense of wonder before the magnificence of your creation

abusing all you have given instead of handling it with respect

***Teach us to be faithful stewards of creation***

Forgive us for living today as if there will be no tomorrow squandering finite resources

heedless of our responsibilities to others and to you

***Teach us to be faithful stewards of creation***

Forgive us for always seeking more while others have nothing,

satisfying our needs while a multitude go hungry

***Teach us to be faithful stewards of creation***

Creator God, teach us to work not just for ourselves but for all,

to recognise we are indeed stewards of creation rather than it's masters

answerable finally to you for what we do with it.

Teach us to give thanks for all you have given us

and to play our part in ensuring that those who come after us may share it too.

***Teach us to be faithful stewards of creation***

***In the name of Christ we pray***

*Nick Fawcett Prayers for All Seasons p 1259 no. 120*

**Assurance and Forgiveness**

**Intercessions**

Seeing only the outside

Loving Father

we ask your forgiveness

for so often being more concerned with the outside than the inside -

for taking pride in external appearances whilst neglecting our inner selves,

for putting on a good show with nothing behind it,

for seeming virtuous on the surface whilst being full of ugliness underneath

***Father God, hear our prayer***

Help us to realise that beauty is more than skin-deep,

that faith is more than simply appearance

that serving you is more than looking the part

***Father God, hear our prayer***

Help us to understand that you see us as we really are rather than as we like to imagine

that you see behind the masks that we wear for the world into our innermost selves

that nothing can be hidden from your gaze.

***Father God, hear our prayer***

Loving father,

cleanse our hearts, transform our minds, renew our spirits and help us walk with Christ.

***Father God, hear our prayer***

Clothe us in joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control and above all love.

So lead us, through your Holy Spirit, into the way of salvation.

***Father God, hear our prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.***

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**Leaving Prayer**

**Leaving Blessing**

**Hymns - recommended options in bold** - supporting texts in standard script

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| StF | Title | H & P | MHB | MHO&N Green | Mission Praise |
|  | Praise and Gathering |  |  |  |  |
| 439 | Abba father let me be | - | - | 1 |  |
| 407 | Hear the call of the kingdom | - | - | - | - |
| 446 | I will offer up my life | - | - | 371 |  |
| 334 | Praise to the holiest in the heights | 231 | 74 | 634 |  |
| **21** | **Born in Song** |  |  | **97** |  |
|  | Theme |  |  |  |  |
| **404** | **God's spirit is in my heart** | **315** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **447** | **Jesus be the centre** | **-** | **-** | **-** |  |
| **418** | **We have a gospel to proclaim** | **465** | **-** | **774** |  |
|  | Application |  |  |  |  |
| **398** | **There's a spirit in the air** | **326** | **-** | **728** |  |
| 406 | Have you heard the Good News? | - | - | - | - |
| 249 | Jesu, Jesu , fill us with your love |  |  | 374 |  |
| 338 | There is a redeemer | - | - | 725 |  |
| **671** | **What shall we offer our good Lord? [Wesley]** | **807** |  | **793** | **784** |
| 251 | Jesus Christ is waiting | - | - | 381 |  |
|  | Scriptural Links |  |  |  |  |
| 689 | Summoned by God who made us | - | - | - |  |
|  | Into the World |  |  |  |  |
| 693 | Beauty for brokeness | - | - | 71 |  |
| **658** | **A charge to keep have I** | **785** | **578** | **4** |  |

**All Age Activities**

Draw a feast that you would like to eat. Then draw the minimum you think you would need to eat to survive.

Lay a table of two halves - like the one in the museum below



Discuss: do you know that some schools provide breakfast for children who would otherwise have none? How would that feel?

Caring:

Provide a picture of “Family” or “Hospital” or similar. Cut into as many pieces as there are participants PLUS ONE. Reserve one pieve, then distribute the remainedr to the group and ask them to complete the picture. They will end up looking for the missing piece. Message: Each part is neede to make up the whole. Produce the missing piece and complete the picture.

String Prayer:

Pass ball of wool around to one another, wrapping the wool around a finger as it is passed. When all are connected pray:

Lord, we offer ourselves to you. We give thanks for each person here and ask you to hold them in your care. Amen

**Useful Places to look for Resources** Methodist Church Web-site

What is distinctive about Methodism:

<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjxq9_TnrvpAhXhQhUIHRUeDZsQFjABegQICRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.methodist.org.uk%2Fabout-us%2Fthe-methodist-church%2Fwhat-is-distinctive-about-methodism%2Fliving-a-holy-life%2F&usg=AOvVaw1ieYXHzLFr7IOGZG74FlHE&cshid=1589730259530228>

A Methodist Way of Life:

<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjxq9_TnrvpAhXhQhUIHRUeDZsQFjAAegQIARAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.methodist.org.uk%2Four-faith%2Flife-and-faith%2Fa-methodist-way-of-life%2F&usg=AOvVaw31RFBJXeTVDTN1zf2u5q3a&cshid=1589730259530228>