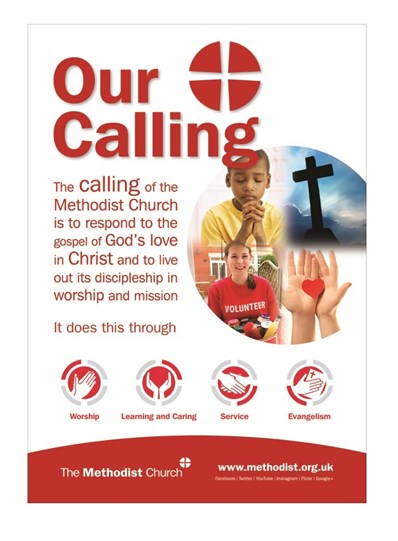
**Our Calling: a series for Local Worship**

**[](https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/ab026-ct-18/our-calling-poster-a1-)**

**SCALLOP SERVICES – An outline for Local Worship services**

**Produced by a group of willing volunteers from the North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit 2018**

These services are drafted for adaptation by each local church.

**Our Calling: Worship**

**Material for use in all four services**

**Call to worship**

Loving God, you call us to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ by living out our discipleship in worship and mission, in church and community.

**A prayer**

Circuit Prayer

**A Hymn**

StF456; MHOAN34; H&P707; MHB709 And are we yet alive

**Themes of ALL Services:**

Service 1: Worship

Service 2: Learning & caring

Service 3: Service

Service 4: Evangelism

**Developing the Theme Visually over 4 sessions**

(in “Seasons”: Dress the ‘tree’ appropriately – **buds**, flowers, autumn leaves, bare branches)

**Useful places to look for Resources**

Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com>

Singing the Faith Plus <http://www.singingthefaithplus.org.uk/>

Further Inspirational thoughts:

In the context of…

Our church

Our Community

Our circuit, district & connexion

Our world

THIS service…..

Theme in a tweet: **Celebrating God’s Love**

**Readings – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Old Testament: 1 Chronicles 16: 1 – 16a Ark of the Covenant – blessings of God

Psalm: Psalm 150 – Praise God with symbols

Gospel: Matthew 6: 5-21 – Prayer & fasting

Epistle: Acts 2: 37b-47 – All believers met together

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for Discussion:**

* Craig Gaffney – poem in reverse??
* Jeanette Letch – Video of women going to same church with criticism
* Matthew 6: <http://church-skits.com/zPrayNotInThisWay.html> A drama contrasting different ways of approaching worship

**Prayers**

**Adoration**

O God, our Creator and Redeemer

May your presence be so real among us

That we may bow in reverence

Worship and true praise;

Pray with sincere thanksgiving

And receive from you

And your truth

So that we may truly know you

And by your truth

We may be made free.

(Drescher, J M *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary*)

**Thanksgiving**

Today, O God, we are grateful

For the faith that sustains us

For the hope that inspires us

For the love that comforts us

For the forgiveness that frees us.

Above all, O God,

We are grateful for your only Son

Who by his life, death and resurrection

Made faith, hope, light, love and forgiveness

A reality today.

(Drescher, J M *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary*)

**Confession**

See “Casting Off” – an all age prayer activity below

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Intercession**

Gracious God,

We thank you for the simplicity of the gospel,

the message of your living, dying, and rising among us in Christ.

We thank you that it is not about clever words of subtle concepts,

but about a concrete expression of your love.

Open our eyes again to the heart of what it all means,

and, through letting go of so much that is ultimately trivial,

help us to communicate what really matters-

the GOOD NEWS of forgiveness

and NEW LIFE in Jesus.

We ask it for his sake, AMEN

You may like to include some topical issues

**The LORD’S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**Blessing, Grace or sending out prayer**

**Hymns – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Praise and Gathering:

StF54 – I will worship

StF59; MHOAN486 – Lord, the light of your love is shining

Theme:

StF21: MHOAN97 – Born in song

StF503; H&P267; MHOAN494; MWB431 Love, Divine

Scriptural Links:

StF34; H&P505; MHB9; MHOAN620 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

MHOAN628 – Praise him on the trumpet, the psaltry and harp

Application:

StF242; MHOAN40 – A new commandment, I give unto you

Into the world:

StF487; MHOAN833 You shall go out with joy

**All Age activities**

**Our Calling: Worship**

* Labyrinth – printed and/or physical with items to link to… church, community, circuit etc.
* Person outline on paper, hands raised, life size or smaller. Put around it symbols representing worship within church, community etc.
* Create audible “worship” using percussion instruments, voices, clapping etc. Lowering and raising volume, tempo (variety of styles)
* Casting off (Benton-Evans, C. *All Sorts Prayer p38)* prayer of confession and assurance using lots of little oranges.
* Our Father (Benton-Evans, C. *All Sorts Prayer p38)* prayer stations based on the Lord’s Prayer

**Material for use in all four services**

**Our Calling: Learning & Caring**

**Call to worship**

Loving God, you call us to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ by living out our discipleship in worship and mission, in church and community.

**A prayer**

Circuit Prayer

**A Hymn**

StF456; MHOAN34; H&P707; MHB709 And are we yet alive

**Themes of ALL Services:**

Service 1: Worship

Service 2: Learning & caring

Service 3: Service

Service 4: Evangelism

**Developing the Theme Visually over 4 sessions**

(in “Seasons”: Dress the ‘tree’ appropriately – **buds**, flowers, autumn leaves, bare branches)

**Useful places to look for Resources**

Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com>

Singing the Faith Plus <http://www.singingthefaithplus.org.uk/>

Further Inspirational thoughts:

In the context of…

Our church

Our Community

Our circuit, district & connexion

Our world

THIS service…..

Theme in a tweet: **Helping each other grow as Christians**

**Readings – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Old Testament:

1 Sam 3: 1-11 – The call of Samuel; Jeremiah 31: 31-34 – Old vs New Covenant

Psalm: Psalm 61 – Care of God

Gospel: Luke 2: 39-52 – The boy Jesus in the Temple

Epistle: Acts 6: 1-7 – Institutions of deacons

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for Discussion:**

Luke 2: <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2018/98-november-december-2018-bc/christmas-1/open-the-word/present-the-gospel> (subscription needed)

Check out: Methodist Open Learning (using username and password “development” ) Module 8.2 from the Worship: Leading and Preaching Course on Disability Theology first posted in the Guardian with Tanni Grey-Thompson, a Paralympic athlete <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2012/aug/26/tanni-grey-thompson-paralympic-star>

**Prayers**

**Adoration**

We come today out of our aloneness

With a longing to know you, o God

Though present already

According to your promise

Give us such a sensitivity to your Spirit

That, as we meet,

And as we leave again

Each of us may say

‘Surely, God was in this place’,

And we need never be alone

For Christ goes with us.

(Drescher, J M *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary*)

**Thanksgiving**

**Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Intercession**

We pray for those whom we love, the special people you have given to us, where’re they may be.

We pray for our friends, the close ones and those we sometimes forget, those with different abilities and those who need you.

We thank you for each of them and what they give us.

Keep us faithful to them as you are to us.

*Pause*

Give grace to us, our families and friends and to all our neighbours,

that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whom today seem long and hard,

For those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression,

Those waiting for a job, or important newsm or a friend to call.

We pray particularly for those whom this day will be their last.

We name on our hearts any people we know in special need.

*Pause*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind and spirit,

give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We remember with deep gratitude those who have left their mark on our lives

by giving us love and laughter but have now gone before us to be with Chris.

We hold them in our hearts, honouring that you, Lord, hold them in yours.

*Pause*

(Pritchard, J *Intercessions Handbook p42)*

*Silent prayer time….*

Give out hearts to hold as in the All Age activities below.

You may like to include some topical issues

**The LORD’S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**Blessing, Grace or sending out prayer**

**Hymns – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Praise and Gathering:

StF136; H&P635; MHOAN510 Morning has broken

StF385 Holy Spirit, we welcome you

H&P304; MHB286, MHOAN319 Holy Spirit, hear us

Theme:

StF398; H&P326; MHOAN728 vs 1-4 There’s a spirit in the air

Scriptural Links:

StF495; H&P673; MHB669; MHOAN166 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Application:

StF495; MHOAN189 Father, I place into your hands

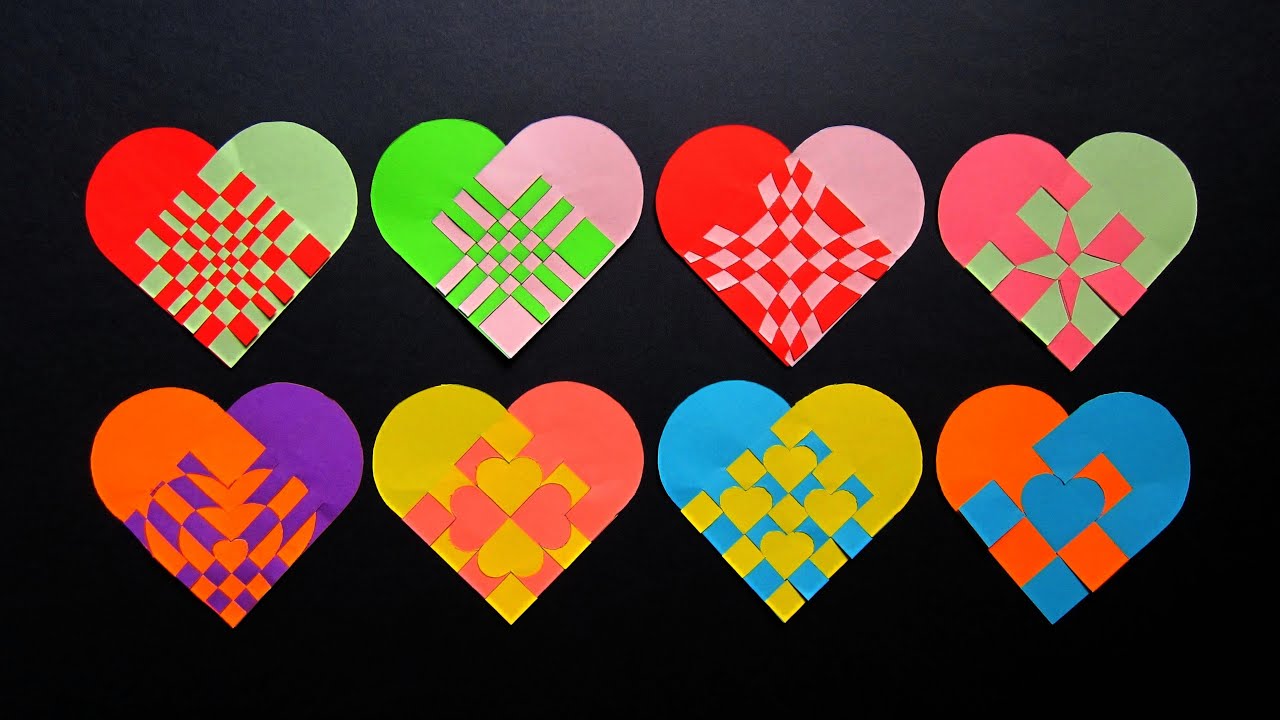
Into the world:

StF531; H&P559; MHB538; MHOAN785 What a friend we have in Jesus

StF319; MHOAN123 Christ, triumphant, ever-reigning

**All Age activities**

* **Casting off** (Benton-Evans, C. *All Sorts Prayer p38)* prayer of confession and assurance using fruit peeling
* **Woven hearts:** Use one colour for yourself and one for others

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj70cW94eHiAhURx4UKHQsnCJIQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v%3DOni3nX9sYkw&psig=AOvVaw3p0kmz4fHjksbwFOUJPJ_g&ust=1560353913659935)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oni3nX9sYkw>

* **Elastic Heart:** (Benton-Evans, C. *All Sorts Prayer p81)*
* **Growing a plant:** What do we need to grow as disciples? Be inspired by our Methodist Membership card – prayer, learning, fellowship, communion…

**Material for use in all four services**

**Our Calling: Serving**

**Call to worship**

Loving God, you call us to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ by living out our discipleship in worship and mission, in church and community.

**A prayer**

Circuit Prayer

**A Hymn**

StF456; MHOAN34; H&P707; MHB709 And are we yet alive

**Themes of ALL Services:**

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(in “Seasons”: Dress the ‘tree’ appropriately – **buds**, flowers, autumn leaves, bare branches)

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Further Inspirational thoughts:

In the context of…

Our church

Our Community

Our circuit, district & connexion

Our world

THIS service…..

Theme in a tweet: **Being a good neighbour**

**and challenging injustice**

**Readings – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Old Testament: Ruth 1: 1-22

Psalm: Psalm 119: 1-16

Gospel: John 13: 1-20

Epistle: Acts 4: 32-37

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for Discussion:**

**Prayers**

**Adoration**

**Thanksgiving**

Dear Lord,

We have much to praise you for – our homes, and families where we feel safe, loved and wanted.

For our parents who love or who have loved us, cared for us and gave us life.

For those who comfort us when we are afraid and hold us when we are sad.

For those who are patient when we do wrong and care for us when we are ill.

For those we can trust and for those who teach us to put our trust in you.

Thank you for our neighbours and friends, without whom we have no-one to serve and you would want us to.

AMEN

**Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Intercession**

Almighty God

As ages ago you spoke

And brought order out of chaos

Speak again in our troubled times

And let ‘our ordered lives confess

The beauty of your peace’

As you brought light into darkness

Shed your light upon our lives

So that we may see clwearly

To follow Christ

Who is the light of the world.

(Drescher, J M *Invocations and Benedictions for the Revised Common Lectionary*)

Silent prayer with lit candle as we envision where we need to shed light in the world

Eg Venezuela; female genital mutilation…

You may like to include some topical issues

**The LORD’S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**Blessing, Grace or sending out prayer**

**Hymns – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Praise and Gathering:

StF175 Light of the world you stepped down into darkness

StF264; MHOAN501 Make way, make way

Theme:

StF256; MHOAN798 When I needed a neighbour were you there

Scriptural Links:

StF707; MHOAN500 Make me a channel f your peace (Matthew 5)

StF663; MHOAN362 I the Lord of sea and sky

Application:

StF495; H&P673; MHB669; MHOAN166 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Into the world:

StF611; MHOAN104 Brother, sister, let me serve you

StF547 Longing for light

StF547 Beyond these walls of worship

StF696,: MHOAN214 For the healing of the nations

**All Age activities**

* **Baked Goods:** Bake, make and/ or decorate a baked good to take out and share with or or serve to other people. How do we serve… church, community, connexion, district, circuit and world?
* **Clay Imprints:** We all come to serve God, just as we are

(Benton-Evans, C. *All Sorts Prayer p14)*

* **Foot-washing:** (Benton-Evans, C. *All Sorts Prayer p38)*
* **Party planning:** Who do we invite to God’s table?

Do we invite the rich and the fun, our friends and colleagues?

Or do we invite the homeless and the refugee, the ill and the depressed?

We are all equal in God’s eyes, all have sinned, all are loved, all are forgiven and all are welcome.

* **Study John Wesley’s life** and his work against injustice

**Material for use in all four services**

**Our Calling: Evangelism**

**Call to worship**

Loving God, you call us to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ by living out our discipleship in worship and mission, in church and community.

**A prayer**

Circuit Prayer

**A Hymn**

StF456; MHOAN34; H&P707; MHB709 And are we yet alive

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Further Inspirational thoughts:

In the context of…

Our church

Our Community

Our circuit, district & connexion

Our world

THIS service…..

Theme in a tweet: **Making more followers of Jesus Christ**

**Readings – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Old Testament: Jonah 3 – Message to Nineveh

Psalm: Psalm 145 – All people will know your name

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20 – The Great Commission;

Matthew 4: 18-22 Calling of disciples; Luke 5: 1-11 Fishing

Epistle: Acts 8: 26-40 – Philip & the Ethiopian

**Suggestions for presenting readings & Questions for Discussion:**

Read v30-31 of the Acts passage backwards – guess the reading…

Present the Gospel: From Roots material

**Matthew 28.16-20**

For a dramatised presentation, use two speakers to represent the two voices in the passage. A narrator reads verses 16-18a, then a second person, representing Jesus, completes the reading from verses 18b-20. Ideally, Jesus should learn these concluding verses, so that they can be spoken as a direct address to the congregation as Jesus walks slowly among them. Jesus should reach the font or baptismal bowl (see [*Prepare the space*](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2017/89-may-june-2017-a/trinity-sunday/gather/prepare-the-space-aaa)), resting a hand on it, in time to say verse 19b. At the end of the reading, the narrator says, ‘The Lord is here’, and the congregation members, having been primed in advance, respond, **‘His Spirit is with us.**’

**Today was not a good day:** For details, please contact Tricia Mapletoft

**Craig Gaffney’s** Back to front poem… if available

**Prayers**

**Hand Prayers:** (an aid to focus whilst praying) [www.engageworship.org](http://www.engageworship.org)

Invite people, if they wish to…

**Praying hands** (place palms and fingers flat together)

We come to be still before God,

Our hands together stop us undertaking physical work.

We take up in prayer our earthly concerns, before our heavenly Father.

**Fists** (Clench your hands together to form fists)

We pray for those parts of the world afflicted by violence.

We remember those in violent relationships where talking has been replaced by fighting,

where peace has been replaced by aggression and unrest.

**Wounded hands** (open fists, hold left hand palm facing up; push index finger of right hand down into palm.)

Jesus’ hands were pierced.

He was wounded to restore our relationship with God.

He suffered to bring reconciliation and justice to the world.

We focus on situations and places where that reconciliation is needed,

both in our lives, our community and the wider world.

**Open hands** (palms upwards)

We recognise that all of humanity needs to receive good things.

God provides for each of us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We ask God for the things we need, and needed by others.

**Holding hands** (Turn over your left hand, hold it with your right hand as if holding another’s hand)

Jesus embodied God’s compassion.

He met with the sick and dying.

He promised comfort to those who mourn.

We pray for those who are sick, suffering or mourning.

We pray that all will know God’s healing and compassion.

**Praying hands** (as above)

We remember God’s promise to hear our prayer.

We ask all these prayers, in and through the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, **AMEN**

**Adoration**

**Thanksgiving**

**Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Intercession**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

You promised through your Son, Jesus Christ, to hear us when we pray in faith.

We pray for the witness of the Church this week, particularly in places where the Christian faith is ignored and forgotten.

We pray for those who carry major responsibilities as bishops and church leaders and are always expected to know what to say and do, whatever the situation.

Give them compassion, wisdom and the mind of Christ.

*Pause*

Strengthen all the leaders of your church in the service of Christ;

That those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians working in places of power and influence who make decision which may affect many people.

We pray for Christians in politics, the media, advertising and the financial markets, that they may know how to act and what to say in order to be true to Christ.

We pray, too, that we may examine our own power over others, at home or work, and use it responsibly, by offering to the One who laid aside his power and took the form of a servant.

*Pause*

(Pritchard, J *Intercessions Handbook p41)*

You may like to include some topical issues

**The LORD’S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**Blessing, Grace or sending out prayer**

**Hymns – recommended options in bold,** supporting texts in standard script

Praise and Gathering:

StF409: Let us build a house where love can dwell

Theme:

StF615; MHOAN418 Let love be real

Scriptural Links:

StF673; MHOAN815 Will you come and follow me

StF250; H&P141; MWB157; MHOAN378 Jesus call us, o’er the tumult

Application:

Jesus bids us shine…

StF462 Come with me, come wander

MHOAN129 Come and join the great uprising

Into the world:

StF398; H&P326; MHOAN728 There’s a spirit in the air

H&P779; MHOAN269 Go forth, and tell

StF167; MHOAN127 Colours of day

StF662 Have you heard God’s voice, has your heart been stirred

StF251; H&P769; MHB812; MHOAN251 God is working his purpose out

**All Age activities**

* **Fishing** Rod and line magnet fishing, nets, paper shapes of fish and people…
* **Pass it on** quietly pass a spoken message from one to another. Without proper explanation or under miscomprehension, some things do not mean that they were meant to mean….
* **Bringing people to the cross** (Pritchard, J *Intercessions Handbook p42)*
* **Word treasure hunt**  Finding words hidden throughout a passage to be able to understand it properly – several available! Ask Angela Brydon for an example
* **Matthew 28** – Design a “Why our church is great” advert AND design a “Why God is great” advert