

Worship Sheet 19/04/26

Call to worship

I thank thee, Lord, that thou hast made joy to abound, so many gentle thoughts and deeds circling us round, that in the darkest spot of earth some love is found.

Adelaide Anne Proctor (1825-64)

StF109

In the darkness of the still night,
in the dawning of the daylight,
in the mystery of creation,
Creator God, you are there.
In the breath of every being,
in the birth and in the growing,
in the earth and all its fullness,
Creator God you are there.

In the homeless and the hungry,
in the broken and the lonely,
in the grieving of your people,
Creator God, you are there.
In the tears and in the heartache,
in the love through which we serve you,
in the anguish of the dying,
Creator God, you are there.

In our hearts and in our thinking,
in the longing and the dreaming,
in the yearning of our heartbeat,
Creator God, you are there.
In the love for one another,
in the sharing of our being,
in receiving and forgiving,
Creator God, you are there.

In our joys, our hopes, our healing,
in awakening to revealing,
in your call and our responding,
Creator God, you are there.
in our prayer and in our service,
in our praise and in our worship,
in your love that is eternal,
Creator God, you are there.

Margaret Rizza (b. 1929)

Prayers

Lord, we confess that we live our lives
distracted by so many things.
So often this is when things

aren't going the way we think they should,
like the pair who trod the Emmaus road.
Our feet carry us forward,
but our thoughts go round in circles;
and at such times, when you come to us, Lord,
we often fail to recognise you.
We are sorry and ask you to
reveal yourself to us afresh.
Amen.

All-seeing, all-knowing, and ever-present God,
you understand how easily we are caught up
by life's cares, spiralling into despair and distance.
Yet in your grace, O Lord, you forgive us
and walk the way with us,
welcoming us back into your presence.
You feed our souls with comfort and hope,
teaching us to see life in a new light.
Amen.

from Roots

The road to Emmaus Luke 24 v13-35

When was the last time you went for a walk or a drive with someone? Was it someone you knew well or a relative stranger? What did you talk about? Those of you who are parents or are involved with teenagers will know that it is easier to get them talking if you are side by side – in the car or on a walk, or working on something like washing up or baking.

These two disciples were trying to get their heads round what had happened in the last week. They had spent Easter Saturday unable to do anything as it was the Sabbath – they couldn't work or travel. Maybe they had sat with the other disciples in silence, maybe they had argued as to what it meant, but now the Sabbath was over and they could move. They had no idea what they would do next but there seemed no point in staying in Jerusalem so they set off for home. Emmaus was a fair distance away so they had plenty of time to talk but I'm sure by this time they had got a right mess of thoughts in their heads and the more they talked, the less clear it all got. Then along comes this stranger who asks a simple question – What are you talking about? Now they need to explain what has happened, day by day – they've been given a structure. Jesus

listens and then takes what he has heard and relates it to the scriptures – texts which they would be familiar with but which had been buried under the fear and stress of the last few days. He doesn't tell them anything new, he just puts the links in place which they were unable to see at the time. When we sit or walk with Jesus, he asks us a similar question – What is going on for you? What is taking up space in your head? Like those disciples, he gives us a structure. We might answer out loud, in our heads or on paper but now, rather than a tangle of yarn we have a ball of wool. The action of describing what is going on has hopefully calmed us so that we can see the links that he is pointing out and the next steps become clearer.

Intercessions

In this year's Prayer Handbook (Our Story, Our Song) we are asked to pray on 19th for the Methodist Church in Malaysia and in Singapore, and also the Ministry in our communities.

Lord we bring to you the people who are part of the Methodist Church in Malaysia and in Singapore. May they experience you in such a way that they are able to love you by loving their neighbours.

We think of Rev David Coppard and others who work as hospital chaplains locally. Lord be with them as they speak to patients, relatives and staff so that they may hear the words you give them to say.

We also bring the chaos of our world – Iran, Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza, America, Israel. Lord, we pray for peace, not a peace where the stronger overrides the weaker, but a just peace where people and countries are valued and respected for who they are.

Joy Wadsworth

We pray for those in the active work – presbyters, deacons, lay workers – all who bear the burden of others' troubles, or are weighed down with a multitude of tasks, and seek to bring the good news of Jesus to an unreceptive world. Give them the joy of a new song to the Lord. A song of his goodness, mercy and love, of peace and hope. A song of the rich complexity of life, past and

present, of birth, friendship, love and loss, A song to sing through everything, that God is faithful and just, God is love and that love endures for ever. Amen

Rachel Larkinson (Prayer Handbook)

This hymn was written after Singing the Faith was published and so is not in the hymnbook but can be sung to the tune Woodlands which is the tune to Tell out my soul. It seems very appropriate for the times we are living in.

Hymn

The world we thought we knew is changing fast, and longingly we cling to what is past – that settled life which made no great demand Our foretaste of the hoped for promised land.

But as for you, dynamic, Pilgrim God, you do not linger on the path well trod, but ever lead your pilgrim people on to risk an unknown future with your Son.

The challenge of diversity and change will take us well beyond our former range. Exposing us to things we do not know, demanding all the love that we can show.

You take the stuff of chaos, fear and dread, and make a path where we can safely tread; and if we fear the wildness of the wave, we know your outstretched hand is there to save.

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Blessing

Bless to us, O God, the doors we open, the thresholds we cross, and the roads that lie before us. Go with us as we go, and welcome us home.