

Hymn

- 1 One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
keep me travelling along with you.
- 2 Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see,
you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new...
- 3 As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go,
you'll be telling me the way, I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new...
- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough.
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
- 5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new...



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Blessing

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.
We are your people God, giving and loving,
wherever we are, whatever it costs
For as long as it takes, wherever you call us.
Amen, may it be so, we go in the name of Christ.

*adapted from © Barbara Glasson
President of the British Methodist Conference*

St Stephens and Wesley, WBOP Circuit
Sunday 16 August 2020



Welcome
Lighting of the Candle

Call to Worship
(based on Psalm 133)

How wonderful it is when brothers and sisters get along!
It's wonderful when we work well together.
When we look out for each other, it's like a refreshing perfume.
When people care, it's like a soothing balm.
Each day is a new start,
a new opportunity to live like God's people.
God's presence is among us as we gather;
as we come together, let us worship God.

Hymn

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of our God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth
abroad
the honours of your name**

**Jesus! the Name that charms our
fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He speaks, - and, listening to his voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.**

Tongan
**Ko Sisu 'a e Huafa lahi,
'O 'ikai hano ua:
'Ikai ha taha ke tatau,
Ha taha ke kakunga.**

Fijian
**Sa vosa ga, qai rekiu mai
Na yalo vutugu
Na mataboko, era rai;
Na bale era tu.**



Charles Wesley

Prayer

Loving God, you called this world into being;
you want us to live in harmony with each other and with creation.
Thank you for the days when we feel at peace with the earth,
enjoying its beauty and blessings.

**Thank you for times when others offer the love and support
that we all need to feel safe and to grow.**

Life is not always like that,
and we often experience worry and pain.
Sometimes it is because people - including ourselves - make mistakes;
often it is just because we live in a world that is somehow broken.

We look back on the past week and think of the disasters and difficulties,
tragedies and trauma that have been in the news;
we run out of compassion but find it hard to turn away.
In our own lives, we have run out of patience and energy;
sometimes we have made decisions because they were easy
rather than because they reflected the values we say we hold as important.
We reflect on our feelings in response to the resurgence of COVID
and the restrictions necessary at raised alert levels.

short silence

Thank you, God, that as we turn to you
our disappointments are met by your hope,
our failure to think of others is overcome by your grace,
and our limited minds are expanded by your loving possibilities.

**You offer us new life and create paths for healing.
Forgive us, we pray, and show us how to forgive.**

Words of affirmation

Forgiveness is a gift that does not hold on to anger and resentment.
Forgiveness frees us to let go and be open to healing and renewal
for ourselves and others.

God offers the freedom of forgiveness.

In this, let us be assured of pardon.

Thanks be to God.

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Do not put us to the test, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 5:13-16

Salt and Light

¹³ You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt,
how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.

¹⁴ You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be
hidden, ¹⁵ and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is
placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶
Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will
praise your Father in heaven.

Colossians 3:12-15

The new life

¹² You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then,
you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness,
and patience. ¹³ Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever
any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one
another just as the Lord has forgiven you. ¹⁴ And to all these qualities add love,
which binds all things together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is
to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful.

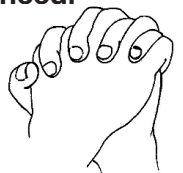
**Reflection - Being Christian
Believing - Belonging - Behaving**

Offering

Offering Prayer

Generous God, we offer to you the gifts of our time, skills and energy,
and the money and food we share.

**Use them to bring light and hope to those most in need.
we pray. Amen**



Prayers for Others

Today we think especially of young people as we pray:
for those who are sick with COVID and those facing life-long illness;
for those who are worried and depressed;
for those who have lost loved ones
or are separated from them by border restrictions;
for those across the world who are front-line health workers
and those making difficult decisions for the public wellbeing;
for those closest to our hearts who need our prayers today.