

The Methodist Church  
SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020

BRIDGEMARY

GOSPORT

LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

#### INTRODUCTION

As our Churches begin to open, though still very limited in how that happens, we begin to see familiar half covered faces once more. We can talk to each other outside at a distance as we obey the law of the land. I can finally begin to put names and faces together, but it may take a while to get your names right, so please forgive me more than once if yours is the name I get frequently wrong. It is not intentional and I am sorry in advance.

#### OPENING PRAYERS

Help us to quieten ourself, help us to focus our mind, help us to still ourself, help us to lift our praise to you, the one who sustains us, the one who loves us, the one who died for our sin, the one who set us free, to you be all praise and glory.

Forgive us when we fail you, forgive us when we fail our family, forgive us when we fail our friends and people around us, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen. We thank you that you hear our confession and forgive us and restore your love to us, Amen.

#### READINGS

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

#### HYMNS

608 All praise to our Redeeming Lord

455 All my hope on God in founded;

#### REFLECTION

Jesus had heard of the death of John his cousin and had gone to this side of the lake to get away from the crowds, but they followed him, so he did not get the space he needed to spend with his Heavenly Father. He has sent the disciples away while he dismisses the crowds following the miracles he had worked in the lives of the people who had followed him. He was sending them away full and once they had gone he would be alone and could spend time in the prayer he had planned a while ago. Much later he goes to join his disciples who are having a bit of difficulty, being tossed about on their boat as the wind has got up. Jesus calmly walks towards them, with our British reserve, would we have made a noise? The disciples did and Jesus speaks and calms them all but Peter who as always is keen to have a go. Jesus is trying to make them realise he is educating them in the new way of faith, where things happen differently. Peter walks on water with Jesus, ten thousand are fed and go home satisfied; healed and full. This is the God we adore, so the hymn goes. Jesus jumps in and rescues people in need.

When we pray we basically ask Jesus to break in and change a situation. You may expect the answer come to straight away as we see in the gospel stories. Writing this I am reminded of a time when I was routinely visiting those in hospital, praying for them as they slept, when on leaving there was a bit of a commotion in the corridor, so as you do, you keep out of the way. I stood next to someone I recognised asking what they were doing there, their husband was the commotion, so I went and said a prayer then left. A few months later I saw the couple again, he quietly told me that the moment I prayed the pain eased. Isn't God good?

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, break in and rescue all those affected by the Explosion in Beirut, in Lebanon, hear the cry of injustice, hear the cry of those bereaved, hear the cry of those wounded by the blast, hear the cry of those made homeless, hear the cry of the hungry; make provision for all we pray, cause the peoples of the world to act with compassion,  
Lord Jesus hear us  
Graciously, hear us

Lord Jesus Christ, break in and rescue all those ill with Covid-19 and those on the long road to recovery give each one the help and patience they need. We pray for those faced with the uncertainty where there is a reoccurrence of Covid-19, those whose lives and livelihoods are on the line, give them certainty where there is uncertainty, open the way to the provision they need in this moment. Keep us all safe from this virus,  
Lord Jesus hear us  
Graciously, hear us

Lord Jesus Christ, break in and rescue those whose lives are turned upside down through no fault of their own, give them the resolve and resources they need at this time. We pray for those who are moving house, or changing jobs that they will settle in quickly. We hold Joan Fairchild to you as she finds herself once more in a different place, may she have the support she needs. We hold Marian & Rev David Muskett, Helen & Rev Andrew de Ville to you as they move, help them to find their way around easily,  
Lord Jesus hear us  
Graciously, hear us

Lord Jesus Christ, break in and rescue the planet from climate change, help us to change the way we live, so our impact is lessened. Take away any scepticism we may have about climate change and take away our doubt, so that those who live after us can have a fruitful earth,  
Lord Jesus hear us  
Graciously, hear us

Lord Jesus Christ, break in and rescue those who are ill at this time, those who are still waiting for medical appointments, that each may know your healing touch. We pray for those who are in mourning at his time, Bob and family, Sally, Jenny and Nigel and families, Sian and Tyler, the family of Jean Ruskin, Julia, Travis, Jasmine, Paul and Luke and family, Lillian and family, David and Nolan and family; that each one may know your love and compassion holding them and keeping them through this difficult time,  
Lord Jesus hear us  
Graciously, hear us

These prayers and our silent prayers we pray in the Name of Jesus, Amen

## BLESSING

May the Lord bless you, may the Lord bless the place where you live, may the Lord bless the people who live around you, may the Lord bless the street where you live. And may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit go with you wherever you stay or may go, this day and ever more, Amen.

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