

Worship for June 21st. Central

Call to worship psalm105 v1-2

¹ Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. ² Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.

We sing STF 293 all heaven declares

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=kPkZAJA610k&list=RDAMVMkPkZAJA610k>

We praise God in our Prayers of praise thanksgiving

We give you all thanks and praise for you provide for the needs of your people with a generosity beyond our comprehension. In the first of your mighty wonders you created the earth and filled it with good things. You care for your people as in when you led them out of slavery, you heard their cries in the desert and gave them food from heaven and water from the rock.

You came among us in your son, Jesus, to nourish us and strengthen us in the faith.

Though he was killed, you raised him to life, and now he gives himself with scandalous extravagance to all who respond to his call, the early comers and late comers alike.

so now for us, through your gracious gift of faith, we are called to live in Christ and reflect his love to the world. Therefore, Because of your amazing Love we lift our hearts high and offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We share together in the Lords Prayer

We read or sing STF 548 “Blessed assurance Jesus is mine” , which is a hymn that reminds us that following Jesus is a personal choice .

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=rDeiy9-t2GE&list=RDAMVMrDeiy9-t2GE>

Gospel reading___There are many different translations of the Bible . The Message version is one that is an interpretation that puts over God’s word in simple everyday English which really hits home about our relationship with God through Jesus.

Matthew 10 v24-39___²⁴⁻²⁵ “A student doesn’t get a better desk than her teacher. A labourer doesn’t make more money than his boss. Be content—pleased, even—when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me, the Master, ‘Dungface,’ what can the workers expect?”

26-27 “Don’t be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are. So don’t hesitate to go public now.

28 “Don’t be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There’s nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in his hands. Forget About Yourself 29-31 “What’s the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do. He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head! So don’t be intimidated by all this bully talk. You’re worth more than a million canaries.

32-33 “Stand up for me against world opinion and I’ll stand up for you before my Father in heaven. If you turn tail and run, do you think I’ll cover for you?”

34-37 “Don’t think I’ve come to make life cozy. I’ve come to cut—make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law—cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies. If you prefer father or mother over me, you don’t deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don’t deserve me.

38-39 “If you don’t go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don’t deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you’ll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you’ll find both yourself and me.”

Gospel Reflection Wesley never set out to create the denomination known as methodism. Its birth came about because The Wesley’s had an Arminian approach that Christ died for all, because God loves all his creation. They took the Gospel message to the ordinary working class men and women of the mine, the factory, the street and the Pub and out into the colonies in America. The need to send people out to work in America was the cause of methodism’s birth. The Anglican Bishops refused to ordain the missionaries that Wesley wanted to send out. Wesley was moved by the Spirit and stepped outside man made rules and laid hands on them to bless them for the task and a new denomination with a social Gospel of Love and action reaching out in Christ’s name into being.

V32 of the Gospel passage tells us our responsibility “Stand up for me against world opinion . “ Given that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus into the world to show us the way to live witness to the world, Then the real challenge is how we are to live out our faith. We need to reflect upon what we as the people of God (the church) are called to do

What our predecessors had in common was the fact that God’s love as seen in Jesus is for all and that love was to be shared in a way that people could grasp . Christ for All , All for Christ is parts of our Methodist heritage , driven by scripture , and one that we should

never ever lose sight of. We are called by God to be his hands on earth to grow his Kingdom so he builds us up for his work through the power of the Holy Spirit

Sing or Mp151 for I'm building a people of power (words are below)

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=rQdOYFRN7z4&list=RDAMVMrQdOYFRN7z4>

Prayer Our Human nature often shuts our ears and our hearts to the prompting of the Spirit so we offer up our prayer of confession.

*Most loving God, among us there are many shades of both strength and need.
We are the people of much knowledge who lack wisdom, the people of many possessions who lack fulfilment, the people of abundant technology who lack hope,
the people of pleasures who lack contentment, the people of many comforts who lack peace,
the people of much pride who lack dignity, the people of ideals who lack vigour,
the people whose actions often fail to follow the way of your Son
we are people of belief who lack faith and people of faith who lack love.*

Therefore Most merciful God, please forgive us, cleanse our shallow selfish motives and refresh that which is stagnant, and invigorate everything that shows promise in your eyes. We pray In the name of Christ Jesus our Saviour, **Amen!**

In Christ our shortcomings are forgiven and we are made new. Amen thanks be to God.

The Challenge from God's word

Living out our faith is not a salaried job. It is a responsibility born out of our Love of God and our thanks for him sending Jesus into the world to shows us the way When we do things out of love it is about wanting to make the one we Love happy. Similarly serving God is not looking for personal reward.it is about what we can do for him in response to his love.

The key to eternal life is our faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ who guides us through the Holy Spirit The letter to the Romans tells us that "Nothing we can do or say will make Jesus love us more or make him love us less" , for he is the pure Love that calls us into God's presence. Our actions have to be born out of our Love of Jesus.

Last Year The Archbishop of Canterbury warned the Anglican church that the present structures in society see the rich get richer and the poor get poorer whilst those in the middle stand by and watch. Now , these differences have been exaggerated by the

problems of the pandemic. When you cannot feed your children as you have no Job. Or as a pensioner you have to choose between staying warm or food and are alone, and in isolation, these directly impacts upon your quality of life. They dominate your existence and you start looking for who you can turn to. Your faith, your relationship with God starts to be challenged. But we are not alone in our doubts.. Even Jesus uttered the words under stress “My God My God why have you forsaken me?”

So how do we let people know God loves them, that he cares and is there walking beside them and all they have to do is to reach out to him and accept him as part of their lives? How do we help them experience the Good News of Jesus? This is where faith has to step up to the mark and be seen in the actions of each and everyone one of us as the church

Old ways have to change as we reach a “new Normal”. Standing in the precinct and shouting at people about their shortcomings doesn’t cut the mustard. It doesn’t overcome the needs in people life that dominates their being. Our approach can benefit from the wisdom of and experience of those who have gone before like St Francis. He can be attributed as saying about preaching the word that :- “Its no use walking anywhere to preach UNLESS THE WALKING is the preaching” and that Christians should first start by doing WHAT IS NECESSARY, Then what is POSSIBLE and suddenly you find your self doing the impossible in God’s strength.

In our new situation, We have to remember that a church is a group of different people who have the Love of Jesus in common as he reaches out to change us from within. So a church has to be accessible and inclusive to all in many ways, using the gifts God bestows on it. Our Unity in Christ should bring about the cooperation necessary to be at the heart of growing the kingdom and sharing the Good News with those we encounter.

God has a purpose for each and every one of us and would never expect us to tackle a challenge without empowering us with the necessary gifts through the work of the Holy Spirit. Whether we are part of the powerhouse of the church in prayer or have the skills to interact directly with those the church serve,. All of us have our part to play in working together to share the Good News. In what we say and do as we live out our faith and trust in Jesus people should see the changes loving Jesus makes in us as people. God uses the

fellowship , nurture and support of our fellow Christians as the tool that starts that change so the Love of Jesus shining through equally on all we meet.

During this coming week take time to pause and think about two questions:-

1)What Jesus may be calling “Central “ to do in its role in the City Centre and in the coming “City of Culture project” as part of its witness in context of V 32-“Stand up for me against world opinion and I’ll stand up for you before my Father in heaven.

2) Verses 38–39 are challenging 38–39 “If you don’t go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don’t deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you’ll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you’ll find both yourself and me.”.
SO How does God want you to respond to his love and use the gifts he has given you in engaging with the Witness of “central” so that people see “Christ for all, all for Christ” in action

We praise God for his love as we read or sing stf 443 Come let us sing of a wonderful love
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BZfXTCUbr8>

Prayers of intercession. Bring before God :-

the situations in the world , the tensions , confrontations and the pandemic

God to give world leaders the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring justice.

The researchers , doctors , nurses and carers caring for the sick

Your family , friends and yourself

Heavenly Father hear our individuals prayers offered in the name and power of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.,

Methodism has always taught its theology through its hymnody so we draw worship to a close as We sing Mp 728 we have a Gospel to proclaim.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BZfXTCUbr8>

Blessing Go out into the world to proclaim the Good news of Jesus through word and deed

Knowing that you walk in the knowledge of the love of Jesus , in the power of the Spirit

And the assurance that no matter who or what we are,or where we go we walk in the presence and the blessings of the Father. Amen.