



AT HOME SERVICE

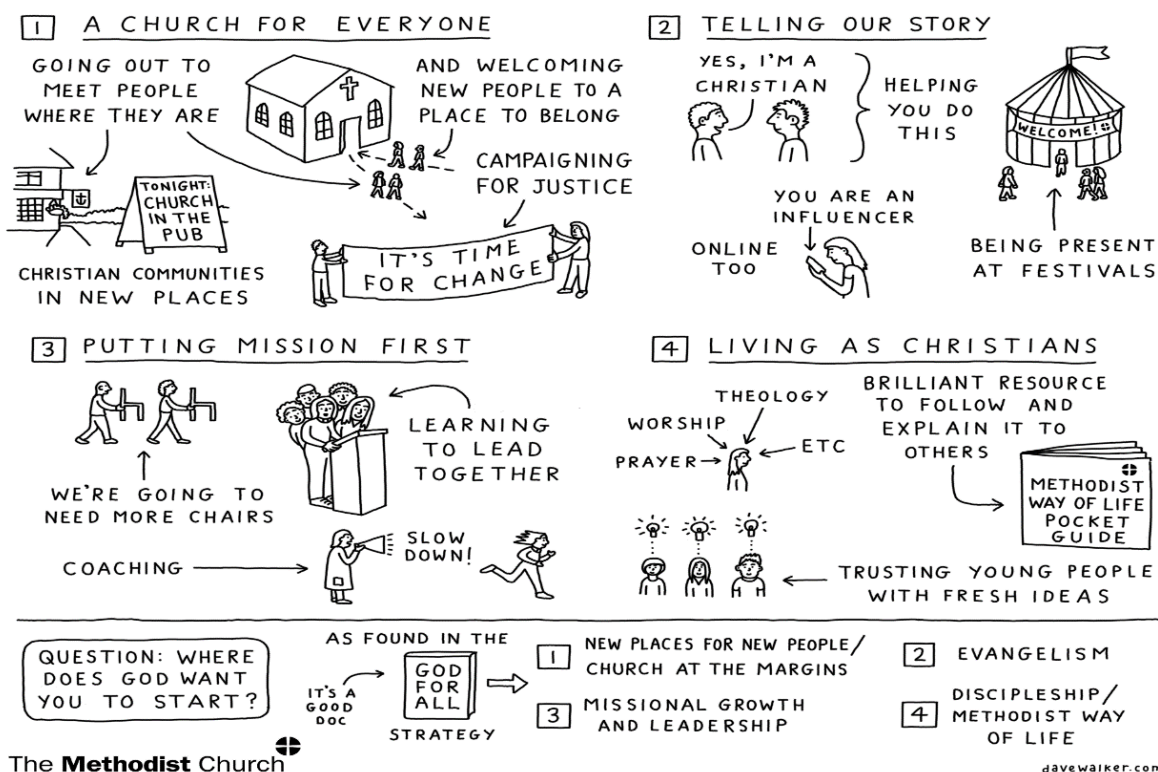
Sunday September 29th

compiled by Dean James (worship leader)

On Saturday 21st September the first Synod gathering of the newly formed Southwest Peninsula District was held at Plymouth Central Hall. The hymns and readings in this at home service were used as part of the worship at the beginning of the meeting. Look at the images and words below and keep them in mind as you worship today.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

A PLAN TO HELP US CHANGE AND WELCOME NEW PEOPLE



Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns". The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the people in his faithfulness.

Prayer of approach

Lord, as we worship you today speak to us about the new song you want each one of us to sing. Whether old or young, may we have a fresh understanding of your splendour and majesty. Let us lift our worship to you like the fields, trees and all creation. Faithful God we come to you this day. Amen

Hymn

1] O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

2] When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

Then sings my soul.....

3] And when I think that God—his Son not sparing —
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul.....

4] When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home—what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul.....

Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

vv. 1,2,4 Based on O store Gud by Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859-1940)

Use this prayer for yourself and others:

Heavenly Father, Forgive us for forgetting how much we need you, above everyone and everything else. We come to you and bring you people and places that are hurting. You see where no one else can fully see or understand. You know the pain we've carried. The burdens. The cares. You know where we need to be set free. We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken place. Every wound. Every heartache. Thank you that you are able to do far more than we could ever imagine. Thank you for your Mighty Power that acts on behalf of all your children. We reach out to you and know that you are restoring and redeeming every place of difficulty, every battle, for your greater glory. We release to you this day every need and problem we've carried or tried hard to control. We believe in your goodness and your faithfulness. We love you. We need you today. Lord, we want to be a people who keep their eyes on You and sing your praises, no matter what may come our way. So, thank you God for blessings and challenges. I know You are in control of all things. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

The Greek words for “Lord, have mercy,” are “Kyrie, eleison” that is to say, ‘Lord, soothe, comfort, take away pain, show your steadfast love. The next hymn/song is really a prayer that includes these words. There seems to be a few different versions if you can’t put a tune to it read it as a poem.

Hymn:

As we come before You
With the needs of our world,
We confess our failures and our sin,
For our words are many Yet our deeds have been few;
Fan the fire of compassion once again.
Kyrie eleison; have mercy, Christe eleison; have mercy, Kyrie eleison; have mercy

When the cries of victims
Go unheard in the land,
And the scars of war refuse to heal,
Will we stand for justice
To empower the weak Till their bonds of oppression
Are no more?
Kyrie eleison; have mercy, Christe eleison; have mercy, Kyrie eleison; have mercy

If we love our God with all our
Heart, mind, and strength,
And we love our Neighbours as ourselves,
Then this law of love Will heal the nations of earth,
And the glory of Christ Will be revealed.
Kyrie eleison; have mercy, Christe eleison; have mercy, Kyrie eleison; have mercy

Lord, renew our vision
To be Christ where we live,
To reach out in mercy to the lost;
For each cup of kindness To the least in our midst Is an offering.
Kyrie eleison; have mercy, Christe eleison; have mercy, Kyrie eleison; have mercy

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

Reading, Ephesians 3 14-21:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Reflection:

Do we like singing a new song? If you are anything like me, you like to sing the songs you know! Singing a new song can be awkward. You might start singing at the wrong time or you have trouble with the words fitting the tune. The songs you know are much better you can sing along with gusto, not having to

think about it. We feel comfortable singing the songs we know! This can be also very true in the way we live our lives outside and inside our churches, and in the way we share the good news about Jesus. We carry on doing the same things because we are comfortable doing them. That is not to say that they are wrong, but have we considered, thought, prayed about doing a new thing. Singing a new song! Have we thought about, prayed about doing a new thing that might help show people the love of God in Jesus? This is our great commission to show people how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

On Saturday we heard of some of the new ways people are reaching out to others with the good news of Jesus. In the images and words at the beginning of this service are things to think and pray about. There is grant funding available from the District to explore new ways of reaching out, showing Gods love in a different way. Is God calling you, individually or as a church to sing a new song. The tune may be new to you, you may not be sure how the words go, but as Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, "God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us".

So let us, Sing to the Lord, praise his name; For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. "The Lord reigns". To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King,
Let His song rise within you as a fragrant offering,
Of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the Kingdom to be children of light,
With the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ.
Walking justly before Him, loving all that is right
That the life of Christ may shine through Him.

King of Heaven, we will answer the call,
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the Kingdom to reach out to the lost,
With the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross,
Bringing peace and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come;
Let the nations put their trust in Him.

Keith (b. 1974) & Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) & Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

Blessing

May the love of God be the passion in your heart.
The joy of God your strength when times are hard.
The presence of God a peace that overflows.
The wisdom of God control us.
The Word of God the seed that you might sow.
In Jesus name. Amen

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