

Prayers during week commencing 14 June 2020

14th June is Methodist Homes Sunday. 15th – 21st June 2020 is **Refugee Week**. This week we pray for compassion, justice, shelter, equality and freedom.

[Leviticus 19: 33-34](#) When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Lord Jesus, as a child your parents fled, taking you to safety in another country. I hold before you all who flee in fear. I ask your special care for all who do not know where they will rest tonight; for those risking their lives in small boats; those crossing dangerous borders; and those living in refugee camps awaiting a new future. Grant me eyes to see and to weep, a heart to love and to care, generosity of mind and wallet, and a passion for justice whereby your Kingdom may truly come. Amen.

As ‘**Black Lives Matter**’ hold our headlines and the world shouts in anger, we pray for equal treatment for all people regardless of race, class, skin colour, educational achievement, gender and age.

Take Action: Follow the new Joint Public Issues Team ‘Stay Alert’ Campaign <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/corona-virus/stayaalert/> with actions to take as we stay alert to Racial Justice and to the treatment of refugees seeking asylum.
Prayer hymn – “I will speak out for those who have no voices...” StF 702

Fridge Prayer for Refugee Week: Generous God, as I eat and drink this week I remember those without food or shelter. Teach me compassion and help me to reach out in the ways you give me to share your love. Amen

Praying for our world: June is Caribbean American Heritage Month – this week we pray for Antigua and Barbuda. Watch a [prayer](#) by Revd Dr Calvin Samuel based on the national anthem of Antigua and Barbuda.

Bible passages are quoted from New Revised Standard (Anglicised) Version

SHARING IN PRAYER FOR OUR DISTRICT AND OUR WORLD

What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the LORD.

Psalm 116: 12-13.

This week as we pray for our circuits: we invite you to pray for Circuit Invitation Committees. In this Refugee Week we pray for all who are homeless and those away from home in this time of pandemic.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>For our District</u>	<u>For our Wider World</u>
Sun 14 th June	Psalm 100	LEPs and Ecumenical Partners	Residents and staff in Methodist Homes
Mon 15 th June	Ps 53	Chinese speaking Congregations	Hong Kong Conference and Miathene Synod, Kenya
Tues 16 th June	Ps 54	Methodist Women in Britain: Debs Coggrave, District President	President-designate, Richard Teal, and Vice-President-designate, Carolyn Lawrence
Wed 17 th June	Ps 55a	Darlington District – Chaplains	Prisons and criminal justice systems
Thur 18 th June	Ps 55b	Darlington Circuit	Victims of injustice and those badly served by systems
Fri 19 th June	Ps 56	Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit	Those unable to work in the current situation
Sat 20 th June	Ps 57	Stockton Circuit	World Refugee Day. The lonely, forgotten and isolated

Finding a rhythm of prayer and reflection in lockdown.

Here are some suggestions for maintaining spiritual rhythms at this time.

Praying with hymns in Refugee Week: Singing the Faith (StF) 681, 693, 695.

Pray the **psalm of the day** (see table above) at a time of your choice each day, or choose to read the psalm at the same time as others each day.

Lectio divina during week beginning Sunday 14 June 2020

Lectio Reading Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8 (9-23)

The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Chapter 10: The Twelve Apostles

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

The Mission of the Twelve

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. (you may like to continue reading to verse 23)

Other Lectionary readings for 14 June

- Genesis 18: 1-15
- Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19
- Romans 5: 1-8

If you are following Bible Month you may prefer to reflect on the gospel passage suggested for this week: [Matthew 2: 1-12](#).

REFLECTION on the lectionary Gospel reading

Jesus had been on a preaching and healing tour, and found many people needy and directionless. They are described both as being like shepherd-less sheep (a picture linking back into the Hebrew Scriptures) and a grain harvest ready to reap. In his concern, Jesus told his disciples to ask God 'to send out' or 'to thrust forth' in Mr Wesley's translation, more labourers.

We don't know if they actually got round to this, but as the story moves forward we find very soon Jesus is sending the twelve disciples themselves out to engage with these folk! He had been proclaiming God's good news, now they will: he brought God's healing and wholeness now they will. We are reminded of the danger of praying, for in the Lord's purposes we may end up as part of the answer to our own prayers. We often pray that God's will 'be done on earth as it is in heaven' which is a dangerous thing to ask!

But they could only do this because Jesus gave them authority to do so, for as they, as we, are told elsewhere without him they, we can do nothing. Here is our hope: like those disciples we aren't left to get on with God-stuff in the world alone. Jesus' last words in Matthew's Gospel are the promise 'I am with you always, to the end of the age' and we know and experience God the Holy Spirit at work in and through (and sometimes despite) us...

LECTIO: READING

As you read the words again underline or highlight words which stand out for you. Notice and appreciate what is written.

MEDITATIO: MEDITATING

Place yourself amongst the disciples. You might like to add your own name to the list of names. What does the passage mean for you today?

ORATIO: PRAYER

Respond sharing all you have noticed with God. Listen for God to respond to you.

CONTEMPLATIO: CONTEMPLATION

Be still before God. Invite God to be with you. Give time for the words of the passage to suggest action in your own discipleship. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.