

The **Methodist** Church 



**DORKING & HORSHAM CIRCUIT**

**WELCOME SERVICE**

**FOR THE REVEREND DAN BALSDON**

**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**AT 3PM**

**AT THE COBHAM UNITED CHURCH**

## THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

*We Sing:*

***BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL;***

*O my soul, worship His holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul.*

*I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near and my time has come,  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending;  
Ten thousand years and then forever more!

Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman  
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Let us pray.

God of truth,  
you are worthy of higher praise than we can offer, and of purer worship  
than we can imagine.  
By your Holy Spirit,  
assist us in our prayers  
and draw us to yourself,  
so that what is lacking  
in our thoughts and actions  
and in our words and music,  
may be supplied by your overflowing love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

Gracious God,  
when we do not listen for your word in the words of others,  
**forgive and renew us.**

When we do not use the gifts you have bestowed on us,  
**forgive and renew us.**

When we do not love one another as sisters and brothers in Christ,  
**forgive and renew us.**

When we do not serve our neighbours in their need,  
**forgive and renew us.**

When we do not share the Good News with those around us,  
**forgive and renew us.**

Silence

God calls us to serve, forgives us in Christ, and renews us by the Spirit.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

God of all grace,  
you call your Church to be a holy people to the praise of your name.  
In the power of your Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and our lives with  
your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We Sing:*

**BE THOU MY VISION, O LORD OF MY HEART,**  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Cont'd.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart:  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, 8th century  
translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880–1931)  
versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860–1935) (alt.)  
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 545

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Exodus 3. 1-15

A reading from the Gospel according to John 21. 15-19

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

The Gospel reading

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

*We Sing:*

**LO! GOD IS HERE! LET US ADORE,**

How awe inspiring is this place!

Let all within us feel his power,

And silent bow before his face;

Who know his power, his grace who prove,

Serve him with awe, with reverence love.

Lo! God is here! him day and night

The united choirs of angels sing;

To him, enthroned above all height,

Heaven's host their noblest praises bring;

Disdain not, Lord, our meaner song,

Who praise thee with a stammering tongue.

Gladly the things of earth we leave,  
Wealth, honour, fame, for thee alone;  
To thee our will, soul, flesh, we give,  
O take, O seal them for thine own!  
Thou art the God, thou art the Lord;  
Be thou by all thy works adored.

Being of beings! may our praise  
Thy courts with grateful fragrance fill;  
Still may we stand before thy face,  
Still hear and do thy sovereign will;  
To thee may all our thoughts arise,  
Ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769)  
Tr. John Wesley (1703-91) (Alt tune: MELITA H&P 379)

Sermon

## **THE PRESENTATION, PROMISES AND WELCOME**

All stand.

*The presiding minister says to the people:*

Sisters and brothers, I present to you Daniel Balsdon, whom the Conference has appointed to serve in this Circuit as a Circuit Minister and an Assistant District Chair.

*The presiding minister says to the newly-appointed presbyter:*

Dan, will you hold before us  
the story of God's love and mercy,  
above all, the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and will you be among us  
as one who preaches the word of God,  
administers Baptism,  
presides at the Lord's Supper,  
teaches the faith,  
and cares for the flock?

Answer: I will.  
I ask God to help me,  
and I invite you all to join with me  
in proclaiming the Gospel of life and hope.

**Through Christ, we have Good News to share.**

Will you hold before us God's call to holy living and be among us as one who awakens the careless and strengthens the faithful?

Answer: I will.  
I ask God to help me,  
and I invite you all to join with me  
in commitment to the way of Christ.

**May we reveal Christ's way through our words and example.**

Will you hold before us  
God's commitment to human community,  
to our neighbourhoods  
and all who live within them,  
and to the world that God has made?

Answer: I will.  
I ask God to help me,  
and I invite you all to join with me  
in sharing God's all-embracing love.

**May we respond to Christ in all we meet.**

Recognising that you are appointed to serve both the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church, will you faithfully serve both churches, upholding their traditions and honouring a spirit of unity of worship and service?

Answer: I will.  
I ask God to help me,  
and I invite you to join with me  
in seeking to be one in Christ.

**May we live our unity in Christ.**

*A Circuit Steward says to the people:*

Sisters and brothers,  
will you welcome Dan  
and will you offer him  
your friendship, support and prayers  
as we join together in the work  
to which God has called us?

**With God's help, we will.**

Welcomes may then be given by circuit and ecumenical representatives,  
civic leaders, and other appropriate persons.

*We Sing:*

**HAVE YOU HEARD GOD'S VOICE;** has your heart been stirred?

Are you still prepared to follow?

Have you made a choice to remain and serve,  
though the way be rough and narrow?

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow?*

*Will you trust in One who entrusts to you  
the disciples of tomorrow?*

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down  
when the multitudes are silent?

Will you make a choice to stand your ground  
when the crowds are turning violent?

In your city streets will you be God's heart?

Will you listen to the voiceless?

Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,  
will you share your faith with the faithless?

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith  
and believe it could be different?

Will you share your views using words of grace?

Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

*We will walk the path that will cost us much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow.*

*We will trust in One who entrusts to us  
the disciples of tomorrow.*

We Pray for Others and Ourselves:

Let us pray.

In faith we pray to God,  
who is more ready to hear than we are to ask.  
Let us pray for the whole Church of God,  
that, rejoicing in our richness and variety,  
we may seek peace and unity  
and be constantly renewed for mission and service.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the churches of our Circuit and District  
and for other churches in this area,  
that, rejoicing in our common heritage,  
we may strengthen each other and be built up in love.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the life of the world, that, rejoicing in our common  
humanity, we may reject the ways of war and conflict and work together  
for justice and peace.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us rejoice in the communion of saints, that, strengthened by their  
faithful example, we may follow the way of Christ and live to God's praise  
and glory.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

**Thanks be to God.**

Give us wisdom, Lord, to know your will, and courage to do it.  
May our words declare your love  
and may our compassion give substance to our words;



through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the  
power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Peace All stand.

We are the Body of Christ.

**In the one Spirit  
we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

Offering and prayer of dedication

Let us pray.

Gracious God,  
we thank you that in every generation  
you reveal your love for the world,  
and set before your people  
your word of life and hope.  
We thank you for Jesus Christ your Son,  
in whom you have made known

your way of perfect love,  
and in whose dying and rising  
we see your final purpose.  
We thank you for your Holy Spirit,  
who leads your people into all truth;  
for the service and witness of your Church;  
and for the preaching of the word  
and the celebration of the sacraments,  
through which you renew and strengthen us.

**All honour and glory be yours,  
in the Church and in the world,  
in time and in eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*We Sing*

**I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY,**

I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)  
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*The presiding minister says:*

May the God of love  
stir up in us the gifts of his grace  
and sustain each of us  
in our discipleship and service;  
and the blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with you/us for ever. **Amen.**

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