

# Salford Methodist Circuit



**Wisdom – 15th August 2021**

**Pat Wilson**

Good morning and welcome to worship. This morning our theme will be 'wisdom'. But let us turn to God in prayer:

Loving God  
We draw near to worship you  
Draw near to us  
Make yourself known to us today  
In all that we think, say, and do.  
Amen.

## **Hymn: O Lord My God, When I, In Awesome Wonder**

*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!*

*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...*

*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...*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home - what joy shall fill my heart;  
then shall I bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art:  
Then sings my soul...*

## **Prayers**

Creator God your Word became flesh and lived on earth as we do  
We give you thanks that you are present with us right now  
Dwelling in our hearts and our homes.

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Holy God we give you our praise and thanks  
Holy Spirit we worship you  
Living Bread, we adore you.

Lord we are sorry when we are not hospitable as you were  
Forgive us Lord we pray

When we damage relationships rather than repair them  
Forgive us Lord we pray

When we seek to put ourselves first and fail to uplift others  
Forgive us Lord we pray

Make us whole, Lord today.  
We give thanks that we have assurance of your forgiveness  
In our Saviour Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.  
Hospitable God your loving arms are always open  
to welcome us.

We give thanks that nothing is too much for you.  
You paid the price that we might live,  
We praise you friend and Saviour.  
Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen*



## Hymn: Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart

*Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.*

*And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'  
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'  
because of what the Lord has done for us;  
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'  
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'  
because of what the Lord has done for us;*

*Give Thanks*

## Reading: 1 Kings 2 : 10 - 12, 3 : 3 - 14

*Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.*

*Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.*

*The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."*

*Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.*

*"Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"*



*The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honour—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."*

## **Reading: Ephesians 5 : 15 - 20**

*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore;  
feed me now and evermore.*

*Open thou the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream shall flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.*



## Reading: John 6 : 51 - 58

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*

*Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"*

*Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."*

Well, what is Wisdom? The dictionary gives us a definition, "the quality of being wise as the quality of having experience, knowledge and good judgement "listen to his words of wisdom" based on sensible or wise thinking."

This morning we heard the reading from the Old Testament in the book of Kings where we find that King David has died and his young son Solomon is now king. The reading gives us an insight into the young Solomon who has just become king after the imminent death of his father David. God came to Solomon in a dream and offered him anything his heart desired. And Solomon told God he was just a little boy and requested wisdom so he could fulfil his duties to the many people he needed to lead.

God was so pleased with Solomon's request that He told the young boy he would also have health and wealth and a long life.

Our reading from Ephesians picks up the theme of wisdom too, with the words "look carefully then how you walk not as unwise but as wise making the best use of the time because the days are evil."

Difficult days in the Biblical times and difficult days in our time.

We are at last making some progress towards a more normal way of life after really difficult times which have touched every one of us in many ways. We have been urged to be wise and keep to the rules of social distancing, wearing masks, and not forgetting regular good hand washing.

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In the first lockdown a Southampton policeman saw the behaviour of someone who had drunk alcohol in excess and totally forgot to do social distancing.

Within our communities when we come together, we can learn from each other and acquire the information we need to take care of ourselves and importantly to take care of each other. We will have acquired wisdom.

Turning to the Gospel reading from John we find echoes of the celebration of the Eucharist.

And there is nothing more meaningful than for us to gather together, to pray together and to share together the bread and the wine. A time to feel God's presence, a time to connect with our God and a time to connect with each other. Jesus tells us He is the bread of life.

We need to feed on His word, we need to drink in His life actions and his teachings in order to be wise in our understanding and our actions.

The current trend of electric cars is fascinating to me, can't believe we are going that way now, and it reminds us that eventually the vehicle will need to return to the power source to be recharged so it can be active again, just like we return to our power, the power of God to be fulfilled and to be able to act and be able to love again.

The Eucharist and God's word provides us with the time to plug into the Word and work of Jesus to recharge and to be able to fulfil our calling to love and care for each other as we are so loved by God.

To have wisdom is to know how to best care and support each other especially in difficult days and to thank our God for all His unconditional care and love. At this time we need to befriend people, we need to still support people, because we still have a long way to go but with God's help we will get there and we will support and love each other as we have been commanded to by God.

Amen

## **Prayers of intercession**

Merciful God, in love You created us, and in love You sustain us, day after day. So, it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to You, knowing that You will hear and respond.

We hold before you all racial conflicts, where people are judged by colour or religion and have been oppressed.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

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We pray for those who are estranged from spouse or family, friends or neighbours, who find it difficult to forgive past wrongs done to them.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who for years have carried feelings of guilt or regret for something they did or something they neglected to do, who find it difficult to ask for forgiveness or forgive themselves;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who find themselves far away from You, struggling to overcome their doubts or disillusionment, and who wonder how to find their way back.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those watching someone they love to try to cope with serious illness or injury, and who long for Your miraculous intervention. And we think about people we know personally in a little moment of silence:

[Silence]

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the many others in our world who are suffering this day— For those who are mourning, suffering and homeless. For those who suffer from grief, or loneliness, hunger, poverty, violence, or illness.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain all those who look to You in hope. And strengthen us and give us wisdom as Your people— so that we may be a light to all those who find themselves in darkness.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.  
Amen.

## **Hymn: 'Be Thou My Vision'**

*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;*

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*be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;  
be thou in me dwelling, and lone 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.*

*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.*

And now we come to our Closing Prayer. It has been good to share worship with you all this morning, and I hope that we have a good week ahead of us.

So let us pray:

May God's Word be in our heart.  
May God's Word be on our lips.  
May God's Word be in our touch.  
May God's Word direct our feet.  
On this day and all our days to come  
May God's Word be the life we live.

Amen

CCL: 30925

O Lord, My God - Stuart K. Hine

vv. 1, 2, 4 based on O store Gud 1885 by Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859-1940)

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Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart - Henry Smith

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Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah - William Williams

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