

# Salford Methodist Circuit



**And Then There Was One! – 16th May 2021**  
**John Brocklehurst**

For a few moments, let's just have a period of silent prayer.

[Silence]

## **Call to Worship**

O sing to the Lord a new song  
Sing to the Lord, all the Earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
Tell of his salvation from day to day  
Declare his glory among the nations  
His marvellous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

## **Hymn: We thank thee Lord for this Fair Earth**

*We thank Thee, Lord, for this fair earth,  
The glittering sky, the silver sea;  
For all their beauty, all their worth,  
Their light and glory, come from Thee.*

*Thanks for the flowers that clothe the ground,  
The trees that wave their arms above,  
The hills that gird our dwellings round,  
As Thou dost gird Thine own with love.*

*Yet teach us still how far more fair,  
More glorious, Father, in Thy sight,  
Is one pure deed, one holy prayer,  
One heart that owns Thy Spirit's might*

*So, while we gaze with thoughtful eye  
On all the gifts Thy love has given,  
Help us in Thee to live and die,  
By Thee to rise from earth to heaven.*

## **Prayers**

Dear God,  
Sometimes when I look back on the road that I have travelled,  
I can hardly remember exactly when you began to walk beside me.  
I can look back and know that I am not the person I was at the beginning of the path.

# Salford Methodist Circuit



As you have taken each step with me, our strides have slowly fallen into a pattern.

Slowly as we walked and talked together,  
I understand more of you;  
I wanted more of you;  
And my need for you grew.

Yet as time passed some memories faded, and in the maelstrom of the everyday  
I often forget the person I was at the beginning  
and the reason why I am the person I am now.

But you are the reason.  
You came into my life and changed it around.  
You took my fears and my anger,  
You took my disappointments and my upsets,  
You took my frustration and my anxieties.  
And I thank you.

You did not change me in a moment:  
You took each of my steps and whispered your love into every footfall;  
You took each of my words and wrapped them in your understanding;  
You took each of my thoughts and touched them with your kindness.  
As we have walked together I have grown into you;  
I am a different person.

Thank you for re-creating me.  
Thank you for our walk together,  
My loving God.

God of welcome,  
we bring before you the times when we have excluded others;  
when we have looked at people as if they were lepers,  
when we didn't see past the labels.  
Help us to see your gifts in all of your people  
and make us clean.

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

We ask these, our prayers, in the name of Jesus., our Lord and friend.

**Amen**

## **Hymn: When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee**

*When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee  
Heal us, heal us today!  
The deaf came to hear  
and the blind came to see  
Heal us, Lord Jesus!*



*A paralysed man was let down through the roof  
Heal us, heal us today!  
His sins were forgiven;  
his walking the proof.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus!*

*The death of his daughter caused Jairus to weep  
Heal us, heal us today!  
The lord took her hand  
and he raised her from sleep.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus!*

*When blind Bartimaeus cried out to the Lord  
Heal us, heal us today!  
His faith made him whole  
and his sight was restored.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus!*

*The twelve were commissioned and sent out in twos  
Heal us, heal us today!  
To make the sick whole  
and to spread the good news.  
Heal us, Lord Jesus!*

*The lepers were healed and the demons cast out;  
Heal us, heal us today!  
Now lame leap for joy  
and the dumb laugh and shout;  
Heal us, Lord Jesus!*

*There's still so much sickness and suffering today;  
Heal us, heal us today!  
We gather together  
for healing and pray:  
Heal us, Lord Jesus!*

## **Bible Reading: Luke 17 : 11 - 19**

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

# Salford Methodist Circuit



One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

I am a great fan of Doctor Who, I have been since it started in November 1963, the day after JFK was assassinated. At first it was fighting aliens, we all remember the daleks and their extermination and how we all hid behind our sofas. And then along came the cybermen in their silver uniforms. Now, although they are still in story lines, it goes into different times of history, so we've had stories about Shakespeare and recently we had a story about Rosa Louise McCauley Parks who was instrumental in the Montgomery bus boycott, the first lady of the civil rights movement in America. For a moment let us take a ride in the TARDIS and travel back in time.

The timeline is 1666. In 1665 a bale of fabric was sent to the Eyam village tailor from London. London was already in the midst of a plague and this fabric was to set in motion a series of events to defeat the plague. As people in the village of Eyam started to die, the vicar, Rev William Mompesson in the spring of 1666 along with the previous rector, Rev Thomas Stanley decided to isolate the whole village, no one in. No one out. Food was delivered to the village boundary to be collected. Eventually - it was over in November 1666. It was due to the villagers sacrifice the plague spread no further. Does this ring any bells with us today?

What has this to do with our bible reading, well everything really, isolation and quarantine was a way to deal with some diseases and leprosy was one. In Leviticus 13, verse 46 it says: "the whole time he has the infection he will be continually unclean. He must live in isolation, and his place of residence must be outside the camp". The people with leprosy lived in their own communities, generally outside the village and if they went close to people, they had to warn them they were coming and quite often they used to ring a bell. It was a lonely existence. They would try anything so when they heard that Jesus was around, they decided to try and get in touch with the man. Jesus passed by the village, and as he was doing so they saw him from far off and shouted for help. The lepers shouted out, "Jesus, master have pity on us." That act of faith is all it took. All Jesus said was for them to go and show themselves to the priest. As they went, they were cleansed.

No doubt there was great rejoicing amongst the ten who were cleansed. But notice only one bothered to go back and give thanks to his healer. Nine showed



their ingratitude but was it ingratitude or did they genuinely forget in the euphoria of being healed but Jesus notices, he even notices that out of the ten only one came to see him and give glory to God and to give thanks. This one was a Samaritan. Just like the parable of the good Samaritan it was they who bothered to act. And so Jesus gives him a final blessing to rise up, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.

Where does that lead us?

We too have been in isolation and quarantine to defeat a virus. We keep our distance, we wear masks. How many times do we forget our ingratitude, forget to give thanks, forget not only people but to God himself? Quite often we forget to say thank you to people for what they have done to help us.

We indeed can be ungrateful to our parents. In our younger days we were dependent upon our parents then later on in our lives we can easily forget what they did for us. How often did we thank our parents for all they have done for us?

Often, we are ungrateful to our fellow-men. We may have cause to thank someone, and thank someone for what they have done, but in time that gratitude diminishes. Sometimes we may be grateful to a surgeon and cannot repay the debt if we so often fail to try and repay the debt we owe but we can always give thanks.

Most of all are we ungrateful to God. He has provided all our needs and he is always near to hear our every problem. In times of national or personnel situations we pray to God for help to see us through it. Then we forget to be grateful and give thanks. Things slip our minds.

It is always good to give thanks, not just in times of need but also in our everyday lives as we look out of our windows on the beauty of creation. The beauty of tree and flower, just a smile when we pass people on the street or in the shops. All these help with us giving thanks in all situations. And the best thanks we can give him is to try to deserve his goodness and his mercy a little better.

In 1 Thessalonians 5 v 17 – 18 it says:

“pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

We must keep on trying to give thanks for everything. Sometimes we find this is hard, we get down, we do not feel like thanking anybody, let alone God. But we will always find something to give thanks for, a piece of music, birds singing, flowers and trees and beautiful paintings, and yes, at times, even people. So as Paul says let us give thanks in everything. So, give thanks to the living God and may his name be praised.



## Hymn: What A Friend We Have In Jesus

*What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations,  
is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness:  
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge -  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
in his arms he'll take and shield you,  
you will find a solace there.*

## Prayers of Intercession for Christian Aid Week

God of abundant life,  
we see your goodness all around us and we thank you for every  
part of it;  
from the plants and animals which play their part in complex  
ecosystems,  
to the dry deserts and stormy seas which test the limits of life.

We pray that in this time of climate crisis and ecological  
emergency, you may help us to rediscover your love of  
creation and to reflect that in our own lives.

God, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

# Salford Methodist Circuit



God who speaks through unexpected people,  
We thank you for contemporary prophets who are challenging us to  
act on climate change;  
for indigenous people and their invaluable knowledge of the land  
and sea where they live,  
for scientists dedicating their careers to warning us about changes to  
the planet,  
and for young people striking for their future.

We pray that you will help those in power to hear their prophetic voices.  
Help them to see beyond short-term political priorities and business  
plans. and give them wisdom and courage when they face difficult  
decisions.

God, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of second chances,  
we recognise the damage we have done to the Earth  
and the injustice we see in society every day,  
all of it fuelled by worship of profit and possessions.

We pray for the coming of a better world  
with justice, kindness and humility at its heart.  
We ask that you guide us to be co-creators of this new  
world.  
Give us confidence to follow the prophetic voices  
to stand against injustice to people and to planet.  
So that together, in your strength,  
we stop this climate crisis.

God, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We ask all this in the name of your Son,  
**Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together.**

## **Lords 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 who 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 Great 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;*

## **Sending Out Prayer**

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory  
May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling  
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour  
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
rest upon each one of us and on all creation  
this day and for the future to come.  
Amen.

We Thank Thee, Lord, For This Fair Earth - George Edward Lynch Cotton

When Jesus The Healer Passed Through Galilee - Peter Smith  
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What A Friend We Have In Jesus - Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart - Henry Smith  
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