

# Salford Methodist Circuit



**Young, Mature? Our Call is for all Our Mission is for all - 6th September  
2020  
Rev Kim Ratcliffe**

Good Morning and welcome to our worship this morning.

All around the country our young people will have returned to school. School not as they were used to before the end of March. School is not only a place where we are taught but it is also a place where sometimes life-long friendships are developed, where fun and laughter happen, where hard lessons in life also happen. It is where our young people develop from being the wee ones who when we see them walking in with their teeny wee uniforms on at primary school to take, perhaps, part in their first nativity you hear all the parents in front of you and behind you say "oh my goodness look at them, I remember when our George, our Emma was that age". It's a happy time. Before you know it they have grown up into teenagers about to leave school and possibly begin apprenticeships and adult education or go straight out into work. A new leaf in their life turned over. All around the country our young people would have also returned from their break to attend Young Church, Junior Church or Sunday School, whatever you call it. As well as the Religious Education our young people receive at school, at church they meet with their church friends sometimes from being a baby, a small baby, together. They hear 'the message' and are encouraged to have discussions with their friends about their faith. They learn through doing activities together and in many different ways depending on what has been prepared by their leaders for that day or that week. It helps them to grow in their learning and, we pray, helps them to have a good standing to grow their spiritual life too. From being born we are given many opportunities to grow, from being the tiny embryo in our mother's womb, which is beauty in itself, but throughout life we are given the opportunity to grow to our full potential. Like a butterfly as it leaves the cocoon it has been living in and developing in, until the time is right for it to be released into world once more, very different to the tiny caterpillar it once was. Who we meet, our life's experiences, our spiritual experiences, all help to make us the people who we are today.

We, today, continue to be the bright succession of disciples led by Jesus. Our children, our teenagers, our young adults, adults, all have the opportunity to make a difference in the world that we live in. To make it a better place for people to live their lives alongside us in. If we have closed one page of our lives there is a new opportunity just waiting for you to turn over to a new page. As the ordinary people who were about to meet Jesus found out, their lives would change. Jesus remained with them teaching them all that He needed to until it was his time to hand over to them to do His work here on earth. We are all called, today, to follow Him have you heard God's call to you, God's Kingdom is here.

We're now going to have two passages of scripture and I thank Lykara for reading them to us. And then we will have, we're going to hear the call of the kingdom from our Clare. Thank you.



## **Reading: Mark 1 : 14 - 23**

*After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."*

*Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.*

*A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee's sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.*

*Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.*

*Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out.*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

## **Reading: Matthew 28 : 19 & 20**

*Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.*

## **Hymn: Hear The Call Of The Kingdom**

*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 us.*

# Salford Methodist Circuit



*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.*

*King of heaven, we will answer the call...*

Our prayer this morning is taken from our Global Partners and it comes from YouTube and it's written and read by Barbara Glasson.

*Loving God,  
As the Methodist Church in Britain we pray for our partners around the  
world who do not have the privilege of healthcare we rely on here. We are  
one world, part of the same struggle, but many face hardships  
compounded by poverty and poor nutrition. Help us to be good global  
neighbours, strengthen us with courage and all with the skills to alleviate  
suffering. Protect us with the shield of love and the sword of justice so  
that as one body, united in Christ, we will be people of light and peace in  
Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

## **Hymn: Come let us sing of a wonderful love**

*Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,  
tender and true;  
out of the heart of the Father above,  
streaming to me and to you:  
wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.*

*Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,  
joyfully came;  
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
sharing their sorrow and shame;  
seeking the lost,  
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.*

*Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
home, weary wanderer, home!*

# Salford Methodist Circuit



*Wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.*

*Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love,  
come and abide,  
lifting my life, till it rises above  
envy and falsehood and pride;  
seeking to be  
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.*

Only one of our buildings in the Salford Circuit is opened for worship for the first time this morning, we pray for Rev Clare and the congregation at Emmanuel as they enter into their building for the first time this morning. I pray that all goes well for them and that they have a blessed time as they worship God together. We are worshipping God from our homes this morning. This is the Sunday that we would have been celebrating missional work of JMA, I will pass over to Emma in a moment. Today after the service, our Young Church would have had a film and popcorn, sweets, drinks, just like being in a cinema, I suppose we could call it table fellowship. And it would have been a welcome back after the summer break. We don't have to be in a church building to do God's work and we don't have to be adults being called by God to do God's work. Our young people are called by God to do His work too. Our young people have a mission in our world today and what a world they have to do God's work in. Just as the disciples that Jesus called and sent out centuries ago, our young people are answering God's call today to go out and make a difference, and they are. I'd like to invite Emma to give you a tiny glimpse how our young people along with others have been continuing to doing God's work in just one area of mission in their church life.

What is mission? The dictionary definition is 'an important assignment given to a person or group of people, or a vocation or calling of a religious organisation to go out into the world and spread it's faith'. So what is our mission? In Methodism, we try to help in many ways to transform ourselves and others spiritually, but also practically, like a caterpillar that transforms into a butterfly. For us, giving to our local community through foodbanks, volunteering, helping Mission Partners around the world, and in Britain we are transforming others lives, through caring, giving and evangelism of God's love. One way we as Methodists join together, even though we are socially distanced at this time, from every district of the UK and Ireland is by continuing to contributed to the World Mission Fund and Mission in Britain Fund. And I mean 'All Methodists', from the youngest to the oldest, and that was how Junior Mission for All, or JMA, was formed to make sure the youngest members of the church family could be valued, contribute and join a calling to help others throughout the world. Hopefully by now, members of JMA should have received their badges for 2020 to thank them for their continuing support. We uphold all our volunteers, enablers, Mission Partners in Britain and around the world, in our prayers during this pandemic, as they consider how to continue their vital mission work in their local communities and further afield by helping others and showing Jesus in the heart of their mission.



We are partners in the mission of the church, we are called to follow Jesus and to do that together, we are not on our own. Jesus hasn't left us, he says in scripture he will be with us always. He didn't let the disciples down and He won't let us down today. Whether we are young or mature, we may still feel that we have not reached our full potential, that we are still growing within the cocoon or maybe just sticking a little wing out of the cocoon until we feel that the time is right to answer God's call. We can each turn over a new leaf in our lives to help each other; is that not what mission is about, as Emma said, helping to transform others' lives, not only our own.

If you go onto the Methodist Website and go into the link for Junior Mission for All you will find out more details about JMA. Their magazine, Rainbow, is available there too. One of the activities they have on their link is 'Turning over a new leaf' and this gives you ways that you can help others by looking after the planet. Have a look, small things CAN make a difference.

Here, now, we listen to Clare, who helps us through with the hymn now, and then Emma will lead through with our Prayers of Intercession. So here's Clare playing for us now.

## **Hymn: In the Bulb**

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

During our Prayers of Intercession, there will be times of silence for you to reflect on the issues we are praying for, as I transform the butterfly using the colours of the rainbow, the sign of hope. You may wish to draw or make your own butterfly later to create your own personal prayer of hope and mission. Let us pray.

# Salford Methodist Circuit



As the butterfly slowly emerges from the cocoon, after being in the darkness, and shows the slender of its transformation from a caterpillar into a butterfly, let us savour each colour for others and ourselves.

First, red. Take this time to think of people who are ill.

Orange, for people who are stepping out of their comfort zone and need to be brave.

Yellow; give thanks to the Lord for things that make us happy.

Green; pray for the world and the environment, climate issues and how we help to sustain the world we live in.

Blue; pray for people who are grieving and times of sadness in our lives.

Indigo; give thanks for the people who take care of us and surround us in love.

Violet; take this time to focus on mission, in the world and in Britain via our funds.

Let all the colours on the butterfly surround us in love, and may our own butterflies of transformation help us grown spiritually, give hope to others, show God's love and spread the Gospel and be mindful of mission in our world.

Amen.

Thank you Emma for those beautiful prayers. We will now bless each other as we end our service singing our blessing together, we'll sing it through twice. It's called 'May God's Blessing surround you each day'

Cheerio for now and God bless each and every one of you. Amen.

Hear The Call Of The Kingdom - Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend  
Words and Music: © 2006, Thankyou Music. Administered by worshiptogether.com Songs. excluding UK & Europe, administered by Kingswaysongs, a division of David C Cook tym@kingsway.co.uk Used by permission.

Come, Let Us Sing Of A Wonderful Love - Robert Walmsley

In The Bulb - Natalie Sleeth  
Words © 1986 Hope Publishing

May God's Blessing Surround You Each Day - Cliff Brown  
© 1982 Cliff Brown

CCL: 30925