

Salford Methodist Circuit 

# Welcome Service

**Rev John Palmer**  
Superintendent Minister



**Janet Crozier**  
Church & Community  
Development Worker



**Anne Huddleston**  
Lay Pastoral  
Assistant

**Sunday 5th September 2021 - Emmanuel Church**  
**Led by Rev Dr Andrew Lunn**  
Chair, Manchester & Stockport Methodist District

## The Gathering of the People

### Hymn: Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like thee his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress;  
praise him, still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

## Prayers

*Including the following responses  
(congregational responses are in bold type):*

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.**

God calls us to serve,  
Forgives us in Christ,  
And renews us by the Spirit.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**Singing Group: The Lily of the Valley**

**Reading: Isaiah 35: 4-7a**

## Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me lie in pastures green,  
he leads me by the still, still waters,  
his goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone,  
and I will trust in you alone,  
for your endless mercy follows  
me,  
your goodness will lead me  
home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and he anoints my head with oil;  
and my cup - it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path -  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for you are with me, and your rod and  
staff  
are the comfort I need to know.

## The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of Christ.  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

## Mark 7: 24-37

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon: Rev Dr Andrew Lunn

## Hymn: The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy

The kingdom of God  
is justice and joy,  
for Jesus restores  
what sin would destroy;  
God's power and glory  
in Jesus we know,  
and here and hereafter  
the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God  
is mercy and grace,  
the prisoners are freed,  
the sinners find place,  
the outcast are welcomed  
God's banquet to share,  
and hope is awakened  
in place of despair.

The kingdom of God  
is challenge and choice,  
believe the good news,  
repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners  
brought Christ to his cross,  
our crisis of judgement  
for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,  
the gift and the goal,  
in Jesus begun,  
in heaven made whole;  
the heirs of the kingdom  
shall answer his call,  
and all things cry glory  
to God all in all!

## **The Presentation, Promises and Welcome for our Superintendent Minister**

*Including the following responses:*

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.**

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.**

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.**

## **The Commissioning of our Lay Workers**

### **The Circuit's Commitment**

*Including the following response:*

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

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

## **Words of Welcome**

*John, Janet and Anne are welcomed by civic, circuit, ecumenical and church representatives.*

### **Hymn: In Christ Alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
he is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones he came to save:  
till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
for every sin on him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain;  
then bursting forth in glorious Day  
up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory,  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine -  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
can ever pluck me from his hand;  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

### Prayers of Intercession

The Lord hears our prayer.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### The 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 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.

### The Peace

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.**

### Hymn: Come My Table is a Meeting Place

Come, my table is a meeting place,  
here I'm waiting ready for you,  
come and share, you are invited,  
come, beloved, I chose you.

Come, my table is a feeding place,  
bread, my body broken for you,  
wine, my blood poured out to save you,  
given eternally for you.

Come, my table is a touching place,  
hands to greet you span time and  
space,  
see my arms stretched out in welcome,  
this for you a holy place.

Come and meet me in this moment,  
taste and see this gift of my grace,  
here, the feast spread out before you,  
come, my child, and take your place.

## **The Lord's Supper**

*Including the following responses:*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And so, with all the faithful of every time and place, we join the choirs of angels in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

And so, in remembrance of all his mighty acts, we offer you these gifts, and with them ourselves as a holy, living sacrifice.

**You send forth your Spirit. You bind us in love. You renew the face of the earth.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Unite us with him and with one another in mission to all the world; and bring us with the whole of creation to your heavenly kingdom.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all blessing and honour  
and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **The Sharing of the Bread and Wine**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray.

**God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you, now and always. Amen.**

### **Hymn: Have You Heard God's Voice**

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.*

## **Spoken Blessing**

### **Sung blessing: Go Peaceful**

Go peaceful  
In gentleness  
Through the violence of these days  
Give freely  
Show tenderness  
In all your ways  
Through darkness  
In troubled times  
Let holiness be your aim  
Seek wisdom  
Let faithfulness  
Burn like a flame  
God speed you  
God lead you  
And keep you wrapped around his  
heart  
May you be known by love

Be righteous  
Speak truthfully  
In a world of greed and lies  
Show kindness  
See everyone  
Through heaven's eyes  
God hold you  
Enfold you  
And keep you wrapped around his  
heart  
May you be known by love  
God speed you  
God lead you  
And keep you wrapped around his  
heart  
May you be known by love  
May you be known by love



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#### **Liturgy from the Methodist Worship Book**

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#### **Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven - Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)**

#### **The Lord's My Shepherd - Stuart Townend**

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