



---

Service: 7 June 2020

Rev. Jannet Mudavanhu

"Go Ye Therefore..."

---

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Christian life is a journey with others.

**We travel as a people, sharing our lives,  
our experiences and our hopes.**

With joy and in hope,

we welcome new travellers to share our lives.

**Committing ourselves to them.**

**Wanting to learn from them and with them,**

**to become the people, you Lord, want us to be.**

We were called to call others.

**Help us O God, to always be an inviting people! Amen.**

**HYMN – 509 WOV** (*May we please hum along*)

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, as soldiers of the cross

Lift up his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.

From victory unto victory, his army he shall lead

Till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;

Forth to the mighty conflict, in this his glorious day!

All Christians true now serve him, against unnumbered foes;

Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone

The arm of flesh will fail you, you dare not trust your own!

Put on the gospel armour; each piece put on with prayer

Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;  
This day the noise of battle, the next the triumph song,  
To him that is victorious, a crown of life shall be;  
He with the King of Glory; shall reign eternally.

**Three-in one Prayer (Thanksgiving/Adoration/Intercessory)**

Gracious and loving God, we gather once more,  
to worship and give thanks for your being in our walk of life,  
We gather, to be strengthened and equipped for the road ahead through  
you and by you. We pray for that ear to hear and see you as you wish  
us to.

We give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us:  
Blessings of life, our homes, family, and friends, and our church family.  
Thank you for our health, our work and our social moments.  
Thank you for the blessings that we have through nature and our  
environment. We pray for your wisdom to care for and preserve your  
creation, not only for our generation, but also for those yet to come.  
This morning, we acknowledge that there is much in our lives that  
needs renewal and change especially as we reflect on the death of  
George Floyd in America. Very sad to see abuse of power and blatant  
racial hatred.

It is sad to see that sometimes we are too slow in giving up ancient  
prejudices, prejudices that once upon a time masqueraded as normal –  
regarding other people as less than human.

Such attitudes are still so deeply engraved and so apparent, and at times  
surreptitiously implemented – it is so sad but very much rife. We pray  
for Divine intervention and grace to help us reach that stage of seeing  
beyond the physical features you chose to give us all, the grace to love  
all humanity – that after you created, you saw it as good. Because it is  
a bridge that can be crossed only through you and by you.

**Lord of all creation: Forgive and help us to see you in every person.**

May you implant in us, that moral consciousness that only you can give

- that sees no good in inflicting suffering and pain in others,
- That see no good in getting pleasure through the other's suffering.

We bring before you all manner of injustices prevalent in our communities and nations and we pray for peaceful resolve to the tensions caused or aroused by such inhuman attitudes.

**Lord of peace, hear our prayers.**

Forgive us Lord, when we knowingly and intentionally inflict pain on others and when we treat others in the way we would not have it done to ourselves. Our faith calls us way beyond racism, into a radical unity, in the Kingdom of God. Gracious God, let your grace abound on us all and help us to see you through the variety of humanity that you created.

**Lord of love, hear our prayers.**

Loving God, may your Spirit continue working in us, that you may fulfil your purpose in us and for us. It is in you that the mysteries of life are made meaningful. It is in following your guidance and living by your truth that the chains that tangle us down are broken and we are set free to live for your Kingdom; but we need a constant touch from you, a constant awakening to those norms fit for your Kingdom. Apart from you, we can do nothing.

**Lord of mercy hear our prayers.**

May we please stand: (*In silent supportive prayers for all those who are still fighting for their right to humanity in this generation; for a peaceful resolve to the wave of raising tensions; for those in authority positions to have a conscience to respect all lives – including blacks, because **BLACK LIVES MATTER TOO.***)

(*After a minute of silent prayer, we please sit*)

We bring before you members of our congregation who are not feeling well, those recovering at home. May they find comfort in your presence in the midst of their pain. We also remember our nation, as we prepare to go into level 1 under Covid 19 restrictions, we continue to pray for your wisdom, protection and guidance to do that which is right for the greater good of all.

**Lord of all wisdom, guide us through. Amen.**

**BIBLE READING:** Matthew 28: 16-20

**HYMN: TELL ME THE OLD STORY** (*May we please remain seated as we hum along*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqSIMQaeAds>

Tell me the old, old story  
Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory,  
Of Jesus and His love.  
Tell me the story simply,  
As to a little child,  
For I am weak and weary,  
And helpless and defiled.

*Tell me the old, old story,  
Tell me the old, old story,  
Tell me the old, old story,  
Of Jesus and His love.*

Tell me the story slowly,  
That I may take it in,  
That wonderful redemption,  
God's remedy for sin.  
Tell me the story often,  
For I forget so soon;  
The early dew of morning  
Has passed away at noon.

Tell me the same old story  
When you have cause to fear  
That this world's empty glory  
Is costing me too dear.  
Yes, and when that world's glory  
Is dawning on my soul,  
Tell me the old, old story:  
Christ Jesus makes thee whole.

*Tell me the old, old story,  
Tell me the old, old story,  
Tell me the old, old story,  
Of Jesus and His love.*

## **REFLECTION**

Most of us have invited our friends and family to our homes for different functions – be it birthday parties, graduations celebrations, meals or for a cuppa of tea or coffee. Inviting people into your home can be a blessing that flows in both directions—to the guests and to the host. A guest is more likely to learn more about their host as the host do the same about their guest and a long-lasting relationship may result. Invitation also has the likelihood of building bridges between unlikely parties and in so doing, positive relationships are likely enhanced. Invitation can also enlighten both the host and guest about the other, in so doing promote constructive relationships. I think it is therefore, an incredible way to facilitate possible fellowships, genuine friendliness and possible communion with one another. All of which are some of the characteristics that makes up the mission of the Church – to GO and make disciple – to GO and share Christ. We are called to be an inviting Church.

**The thing is, for every single one of us here today,** I would like to think there was that day when we made our first step in our spiritual journey. When someone, led us to church. For some, probably your first time was when you just followed your friend, or followed a girl-friend/boy-friend. Or perhaps your parents made you to go to Church – which at that time you might not have enjoyed – I can relate to that!!

For me, that journey began in my childhood - which means my parents had a lot to do with my Christian journey, especially my father. He was very strong in faith and was sure to instil that faith us children. This does not, by any means imply that as children we turned out be angels, not at all, I know, I wasn't, but through God's grace, that seed of faith implanted in me as a child, helped me to be where I am today with my faith journey – along the way, each time I stumbled, that seed of faith prompted me to reflect, dust myself up and journey on. Each time I fell, I would ask myself – what would my father say. With that voice sounding at the back of my mind. I would slowly, get myself up and soldier on; or rather crawl on!

I know that your story is probably a lot different to mine, but probably all of us here, are where we are now because at some point in our life, there was someone who loved us enough to invite us to a community of believers. You might not have appreciated it then, but the fact that you are still here now says a lot. You might have liked it from the very first time you stepped your foot in and you wish you had been invited earlier. It might not have been this particular church but nevertheless – someone did make an effort. And so, should we.

The good news of Christ, that was passed to us through and by other faithful people, we cannot let it perish in our hands. You and me, have a task to remind ourselves and act upon the great commission we have read today – Go ye therefore!

At times, we don't have to go very far when we are thinking of inviting people to Church. We get the invitation model from Jesus himself. His invitations for his disciples came out of existing relationships:

- Andrew and John knew each other before Jesus invited them to be disciples.
- Andrew and Simon were brothers. And they also
- lived in the same town with Philip and

- Philip was a friend of Nathaniel.

It was all happening in the same town amongst people who already knew each other but not necessarily connected through faith. Go ye therefore, where do you think you are being prompted to go, who does Jesus have in mind for you? Whom has he place in your way specifically for you?

My encouragement for us is that, let us heed to Christ's message for us, give THE GREAT COMMISION A GO. Using the same model Jesus used – thus starting from those already known to us, in our own family or community - go and invite!

I thought it can be a good idea if we set a date just to help us all to focus on and work towards. And I have set it as the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. This will give us enough time to pray about it before we extend our invitations.

My prayer is for all of us to make a prayerful, conscious and deliberate effort to invite someone on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August.

I have put together invitation notes for you to take and send to the person that crosses your mind. If you prefer to use the word of mouth that's still ok but I am encouraging us all to consciously make an effort to extend an invitation to someone to come and join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of



August. Sometimes the best way to lead someone to Jesus is just to invite them to COME and SEE. May God bless us all as we go and prayerfully invite, then let God do the rest! **Amen.**

## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

**HYMN: ONE BODY ONE COMMUNION** *(May we please silently listen to this hymn – if anyone wishes to hum along, please do so)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG9T8UmN6VY>

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
Woman or man - no more.  
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one Lord.

Many the gifts, many the works,  
One in the Lord of all.  
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one Lord.  
We are one body in this one Lord.

Draw near with faith and take this sacrament in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

*(please come forward for communion sharing with your families/bubbles – leave a metre between each family/bubble)*

## **CONTINUE TO PLAY THE HYMN: ONE BODY ONE COMMUNION AS PEOPLE SHARE COMMUNION**

### **AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty and ever-loving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

Gracious Lord, accept these gifts we offer and those offered through internet banking. We ask that you bless them in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **HYMN 478 WOV** *(May we please hum the along)*

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, x2  
Feed me now and evermore, x2

Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the living waters flow

Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through  
Strong deliverer, x2  
Be thou still my strength and shield, x2

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 x2  
I will ever give to thee x2

### **THE SENDING FORTH**

Go now into the world in the power of the Spirit,  
And make disciples.

Remember, Jesus is with us always.

**We go: to invite others to Christ.**

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO BECKENHAM METHODIST CHURCH**  
**INVITATION SUNDAY**  
**DAY: 2<sup>nd</sup> OF AUGUST 2020**  
**TIME: 10.00am**

DEAR

.....  
I/WE are kindly inviting you to our Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2020.  
Our starting time is 10.00am. Please feel free to bring your friend or  
family member. WE ARE SIMPLY SAYING: “**Come and see**” (Luke  
1:46b)!

We would love to have you!

**Address:** 83 Malcom Avenue, Beckenham, 8023.

**Phone:** 981 7629

**Email:** beckenham.methodist@gmail.com

**Invited By:**.....