

Cheshire South Methodist Circuit 
Service at home Sunday 6th July 2025

Opening Prayer

Jesus is here among us now as we worship God together. We pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit we hear afresh God's word to us, calling us to take the good news to all the world. **Amen**

StF no. 407 *Hear the call of the kingdom*

1 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.

Chorus:

*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.*

2 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.

3 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.

Chorus:

*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.*

CCL 821965 Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

Let us pray together

Loving, Creator God, as the new month of July comes round again, we praise you for the beauty we see through our windows, and in our gardens and parks. We rejoice in the colours, the sounds of the birds, and their busyness as they make nests, and raise young. All of these speak to us of your design – that all creation should live in families, each different, but part of your overwhelming love. We thank you that you put us into families too, and that we have grown, and learnt and know ourselves to be members of your own family, known by you, and eternally loved. We praise you for your love and care throughout our lives, and the promised of eternity spent with you. **Amen**

When we fail to produce our best for you and shrink from our tasks, forgive our apathy and refresh our hearts with your love. For all the times we turn away from you. For all the wrongs that separate us from you, forgive and restore us.

The Lord hears our prayer and pours out his mercy upon us. **Amen**

Reading: Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20 *The Mission of the Seventy*

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

Luke 10.16-20

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

The Return of the Seventy

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

Message

If the opening sentences of this reading are what remains with you ("the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" v.2), please do not be discouraged! For the next words remind us that God will be with us in our mission, provided that we thoroughly steep our outreach in prayer. Seeking God's will through prayer before embarking on any Christian project is essential to underpin human efforts. God needs to be involved if Christians are to be successful in preaching his good news effectively. This may seem to be an obvious statement, but too often we rely upon our own resources and carry out our own ideas without first asking God what it is we are to do in his name. The disciples were sent out "like lambs among wolves" with the blessing and protection of the Lord, and the added encouragement of those he provided to offer support and hospitality. The

seventy messengers were overjoyed with the success of their prayers and healings. But Jesus threw a note of caution to them, reminding them not to be too self-congratulatory but rather to rejoice that they were doing God's work. For we do not preach the gospel in our own strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

A time of prayer

We pray for God's guidance and inspiration for all church leaders and communities, for a strengthening of faith and a more effective sharing of the good news with others. We pray especially for those deacons and ministers who were ordained at the Methodist Conference last weekend that you will be very close to them and empower them by your Holy Spirit in all they do and say in your name.

Compassionate Christ,
You wept over Jerusalem; with how many tears must you view the troubles and conflicts in your world. We pray for peaceful resolution of wars, thinking especially of Egypt, Gaza, Palestine, Ukraine Africa, and pray for shelter for the homeless and refugees, for food for the hungry and tenderness for the young and old in need.

Loving God,
We pray for those who are grieving, those who feel lost, those who are without faith. May they all feel the touch of your hand upon their lives, healing, blessing and making them whole in your love.

We pray for our own concerns, placing our anxieties at the foot of the cross and looking upwards in thankfulness to share our joys with you. We remember at this time those in hospitals, care homes, or being cared for in their own homes, and those known to us who are in particular need of your loving arms around them, and your healing and your peace.

Accept these prayers and the prayers of our hearts for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father ...*

StF no. 410 *Lord, your church on earth is seeking*

1 Lord, your Church on earth is seeking
your renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of your love.
We would heed your great commission:
sending us to every place --
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.

2 Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within:
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

(continued...)

3 In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races
let us serve, and seek to bring
all the world to render praises,
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

CCL821965 Hugh Sherlock

A prayer of blessing

May you find an opportunity every day to share the love of Jesus with a stranger, a friend or a neighbour, so that the kingdom of God on earth might increase more and more through the power of the Spirit.
And the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love, today and always. **Amen.**