



Western Fells Methodist Circuit

**22 August 2021**

**by  
David Hasson**

## Hymn 86 Praise the Lord you heavens adore him

Music [here](#)

Praise the Lord! You heavens,  
adore him;  
praise him, angels in the height;  
sun and moon, rejoice before him;  
praise him, all you stars and light.  
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;  
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
laws that never shall be broken  
for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord, for he is glorious!  
Never shall his promise fail;  
God has made his saints  
victorious;  
sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
hosts on high, his power proclaim;  
heaven and earth, and all creation,  
laud and magnify his name!

### Prayer

Holy God, to you alone belong glory, honour and praise. We join with the hosts of heaven as we worship. You alone are worthy of adoration from every mouth, and every tongue shall sing your praise. You create the earth by your power; you save the human race in your mercy, and renew it through your grace. To you, loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all glory, honour and praise now and for ever. **Amen**

### In silence we confess our sins.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. This is His gracious word:  
'Your sins are forgiven' **Amen. Thanks be to God**

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your Name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
#Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
Now and for ever. **Amen**

## Reading: Ephesians 6 : 10-20

Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power. Put on all of God's armour. Then you can remain strong against the devil's evil plans. Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world. So put on all of God's armour. Evil days will come. But you will be able to stand up to anything. And after you have done everything you can, you will still be standing. So remain strong in the faith. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the armour of godliness on your chest. Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace. Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word.

At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me. Pray that whenever I speak, the right words will be given to me. Then I can be bold as I tell the mystery of the good news. Because of the good news, I am being held by chains as the Lord's messenger. So pray that I will be bold as I preach the good news. That's what I should do.

## Hymn 89 Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

Music [here](#)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord. Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.	Our God, you reign forever. Our hope, our strong deliverer.  You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God. You do not faint, you won't grow weary. You're the defender of the weak, you comfort those in need; you lift us up on wings like eagles.
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## Thoughts

Well this is the next to last written service as they finish on 29 August with a service by Fiona now that all of our churches are having some form of worship. It's been a long time since the first lockdown when churches had to close and much of the time since then has been spent without 'in person' worship and the fellowship and encouragement which that gives.

As churches re-open with varying degrees of restrictions and these gradually being relaxed. Perhaps you are not sure about coming to church just yet, perhaps you are coming and feeling a little nervous because other people have a different idea about restrictions than you do and they are too lax. And isn't that part of what church life is about – getting on with each other in spite of our different ways of doing things or thinking.

Not only that, don't we live in a world in which there is quite a large range of different views on any particular topic. Within that world we have to be a shining light of God's love which means we need to be able to relate to all manner of people. I don't know about you but I find it very difficult to be the person he wants me to be in the world and sometimes in the church as well.

When God made me he put a warning sign on my head in my early years. It was a mass of curls which were bright red. Fortunately the curls became straight before I started school but, yes, I had, and still have, a fiery temper. Some people who know me well have noticed it simmering in some difficult church meetings, perhaps you have. While God made me that way, and he loves me, through much prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit he has enabled that temper to be kept in check. You may not think so but be assured he has.

I suppose that is a long way round of saying that God can help us through all the uncertainties of the future and help us to discern what our churches should be doing as we look to the future after the pandemic. We may have to face difficult situations, we may not feel up to the job, we may not feel equipped to answer the difficult questions which could be asked of us as Christians,

We need to get ready for the new challenges which face us as we seek to reach people and draw them into God's family. This Ephesians passage reminds us of how important prayer is, 'At all times pray by the power of the

Holy Spirit'. How often do you pray? Is it on your own or is it as part of a church prayer meeting? Do you pray but not expect anything to change or do you pray because you mean business with God and want to know what you can do in His work?

But it isn't just about prayer, we also need to read and study the bible regularly so that we are equipped to answer people's questions. I wonder how long you remember the message of a Sunday sermon. If my experience of people is anything to go by then most people don't have long memories. I did have one woman in a congregation who told a Chair of District that he had preached the same sermon when he was last in her church 12 months previous. Would that we could all do that but we can't so regular bible study is important. Do you have a church bible study?

The study and the prayer enable you to live a Godly life in which you are covered by the whole armour of God and therefore ready, and raring, to go out and serve Him in the world in the confidence that He is with you.

## **Intercessions**

O Lord our God, we worship you at the beginning of a new week  
Through the coming days help us put on the armour  
That enables us to be true followers of Jesus Christ.

Let us wear truth like a belt around our waist:  
Truthfulness on our tongues, in our hearts and in our minds;  
Living the true way of Jesus, who calls us to leave self behind and follow him.

May we put on the breastplate of holiness,  
Offering all that is best in us, all that is noble, all that is right,  
As our gift to you, and to inspire our life in your world.

On our feet let us wear the gospel of peace,  
Walking through the coming days as peacemakers,  
Living gently, and with care and forgiveness with one another.

Let faith be our shield,  
So that when we face difficulty or danger we will trust you,  
Hold on to the rock that is Christ,  
And live in the world confidently and bravely

May salvation be our helmet: Living always with hope in the future,  
The future you have promised for all who love and serve you,  
So that we may be people of unquenched hope in this world too.

And give us the sword of the Spirit, enabling us to live with joy in the world,  
and be people of honesty, integrity and faith,  
With lives that honour you, our great and glorious God.

Receive the worship of our hearts and our hands today,  
And tomorrow go with us into all the places and opportunities of everyday  
life,  
Proudly wearing the armour of faith, to your glory and praise.

Clifford Wilton

And having prayed for ourselves we remember others  
The people of Keyham, Plymouth after the shootings there.....  
The people of Haiti after the earthquake.....  
The people of Afghanistan during the turmoil there.....  
And the world's response to all these events.

### **Hymn 395 Spirit of the living God**

Music [here](#)

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Break me, melt me,  
mould me, fill me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

Daniel Iverson (1890-1977)

May there always be work for your hands to do.  
May your purse always hold a coin or two.  
May the sun always shine upon your window pane.  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.  
May the hand of a friend always be near to you and  
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.  
Amen

(traditional blessing)