



Western Fells Methodist Circuit

**10 January 2021**

**Service**

by

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# Genesis 1

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.<sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

## Prayer

Almighty God, creator of all things and the light in our darkness we come before you now in worship and bow in humble adoration at your feet. Surround us with love and open our hearts to respond to you. Let us know that we stand on Holy Ground as we come into your presence. Amen

## Hymn StF 20

Video [here](#)

Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in him no sin is found --  
we stand on holy ground.

Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.

Be still,  
for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned:  
how awesome is the sight --  
our radiant King of light!

Be still,  
for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still,  
for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace:  
no work too hard for him --  
in faith receive from him.

Be still,  
for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

## **Prayer**

Lord, we come to you today thankful for all you have given to us. You have given us life and light. You sent Jesus to us that we may once more be able to enter into your presence and be children of you, our God Most High. You give us this invitation to be part of your family but so often we turn away, convinced that we can do things on our own, so convinced that our way is the right way. Lord we confess these wrongdoings to you. We bring to you that which we have done that is not pleasing to you and ask that you will forgive us and draw us close to your side that we may walk the path you have set out for us.

### **Let us say the prayer Jesus taught us:**

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.

## **Acts 19**

### **Paul in Ephesus**

<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some

disciples <sup>2</sup> and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

<sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

## Thoughts

Haven’t we had, indeed aren’t we having some very cold mornings? It is beautiful to see the frosty ground, trees, cars and rooftops outside the windows once it is light enough to open the curtains but it is stinging cold and somewhat treacherous underfoot, be careful. I really enjoy looking at the patterns the frost makes on the cars, beautifully formed patterns and the artist is God. And have you heard that cry as people enter and leave? “Close that door, quickly, you are letting all the cold in!” of course that’s not something we can do, let cold in, all we can do is let heat escape for cold is an absence of heat. That’s where I was drawn with those words from Genesis about God separating the light and darkness. The two cannot mix, one is the absence of the other. God separated light and darkness. Interestingly, in verse 4 we read that God saw that the light was good. Its difficult to totally banish light, even the tiniest flicker from an alarm or a night light gives us something to be guided by even in the depth of night, sufficient to help us find the right way.

In todays reading from Mark (Mark 1:4-11) we read of Jesus, who is the Light of the World (John 8:12), being baptised. Once again God,

the Father, make a declaration of goodness, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' So Jesus, on whom the Holy Spirit has descended is the way, the guide back to the Father, He will never leave us, we can always find our way back to God if we look to Him.

In the reading from Acts we learn how had people had been baptised but they had not done so in the name of the Lord Jesus, it was only once they were baptised in His name that they received the Holy Spirit, only then were they walking in the light. However good their intentions it wasn't the right way and this was obvious to Paul for they had not received the Holy Spirit, It is easy for us to look for, and live in the grey areas but they don't exist for God, there are very definite boundaries. This year may we all choose to walk God's way not our way that we might walk in the light and guide others to Him.

**Prayers – Bring these and other items laid upon your heart to God. Have a look at the news and bring to the Lord the troubles that others, our neighbours, are facing.**

Lord, so often we wander off from your will, so often we look to ourselves for answers instead of to you. As we progress into this year help us to walk ever closer to you that your will may become ours that we may find all we need in your presence.

As we face another lockdown and uncertainty we turn to you Lord for help, guidance, love and peace, joy in you and hope for a future with you as King. When we find life difficult send us what we need that once more we can shine your light into the darkness that others too may find their way to you.

Faithful God who cares for us in everyway we bring before You now:

A world that is hurting, with a lack of trust between nations and in governments, particularly the situation in...

We pray for world leaders that they may be given wisdom and guidance from You...

The people of the world that they may love You and each other.  
Bring healing to the injustices of the world, bring peace and bring a  
longing to know You more deeply...

We pray for our country and its leaders. We ask that they govern  
with wisdom and love and seek You.

We pray especially for the people of ...

We bring to You by name those who have been bereaved that they  
may be comforted ...

We pray for the sick that they may feel Your Presence and for  
healing...

We pray for the elderly, infirm and those living alone that they may  
feel Your Presence...

For our families, friends and neighbours we bring to You their  
needs...

We pray particularly for those who are working through this  
pandemic helping others and for those who are working hard for the  
benefit of all.

We pray for Your Church that it may be the beacon of light that  
brings people to seek and know You...

We pray for ourselves, You know our every need and we bring  
those to You now...

Read the words of this hymn. Dwell upon them and take them to the  
Lord in prayer that this may be how we live our lives to His glory.

### **StF 541**

Tune [here](#)

To the river I am going,  
bringing sins I cannot bear;  
come and cleanse me, come, forgive me;  
Lord, I need to meet you there.

In these waters healing mercy  
flows with freedom from despair.  
I am going to that river;  
Lord, I need to meet you there.

*Precious Jesus, I am ready  
to surrender every care.  
Take my hand now, lead me closer;  
Lord, I need to meet you there.*

To the river I am going,  
bringing sins I cannot bear;  
come and cleanse me, come, forgive me;  
Lord, I need to meet you there.

In these waters healing mercy  
flows with freedom from despair.  
I am going to that river;  
Lord, I need to meet you there.

*Precious Jesus, I am ready  
to surrender every care.  
Take my hand now, lead me closer;  
Lord, I need to meet you there.*

Come and join us in the river,  
come, find life beyond compare.  
He is calling, he is waiting;  
Jesus longs to meet you there.

*Precious Jesus, I am ready  
to surrender every care.  
Take my hand now, lead me closer;  
Lord, I need to meet you there.*

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965), Michael Hansen and Brian Thiessen  
Words and Music: (c) 2004 Integrity's Hosanna Music / Sovereign Music UK

## **Blessing**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, forevermore. Amen.