

Lenten Worship Resources

Week 1

Lenten Responses

Make way for the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
One who comes with healing in his wings!

What does the Lord require of us?
**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread,
**because it is the Lord your God who goes with you;
God will not fail you or forsake you.**

What does the Lord require of us?
**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Prayer of Confession

When we are tempted to look for short cuts and quick fixes
Rather than follow the way of the cross:
Forgive us and heal us.

When we are tempted by the spectacular and empty promises
of systems that leave millions hungry and poor:
Forgive us and heal us.

When we are tempted to seek our own glory and are distracted by the love of power
rather than seeking the lost and understanding the power of love:
Forgive us and heal us.

Silence

Christ resisted temptations beyond our understanding
and came into the world to bring healing and forgiveness.
Hear then, his words of grace:
Your sins are forgiven.
Amen. Thanks be to God



Stethoscope or other symbol of the medical profession laid at the front of the church (or on the Lenten cross).

This week Methodists across the London District have been spending time in bible study groups thinking about health. We place this symbol as a reminder of all those who work in caring for the health and well-being of others. We remember the healing ministry of Jesus and his disciples and our own call to care for others.

Prayer:

Gracious God,
Creator of all,
We remember today the ministry of healing of your Son, Jesus Christ.
We give thanks for all those involved in healthcare and in caring for others
and pray that our church will be a healing space within our community.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

Song suggestions:

O Christ the Healer, we have come (StF 653)

Kyrie Eleison (StF 750, 788)

God to enfold you (StF 648)

Lord, we come to ask your healing (StF 652) – particularly appropriate for Holy Communion

We cannot measure how you heal (StF 655)

I've known questions without answers (StF 632)

Lenten Worship Resources

Week 2

Responses

Make way for the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
whose kingdom understands the greatness of the small.

What does the Lord require of us?
**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread,
**because it is the Lord your God who goes with you;
God will not fail you or forsake you.**

What does the Lord require of us?
**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Voices of Lament and Hope

Voice 1: Christ looks over the city today and laments.
“Would that there be peace in the city,
that the children would be safe
and the old men find a tree under which to sit and watch the world go by.
I long to gather you to myself.”

Voice 2: But, see, look, there in the play group, laughter and learning,
there in the park, folk playing bowls,
there in the market the young man helps the old woman with her bags.

All: **We are the peace Christ longs for.**

Voice 1: Christ looks over the city today and laments.
“Would that there be peace in the city,
Where is there justice for the poor and the widow?
Where does the stranger find solace today?
I long to gather you to myself.”

Voice 2: But, see, look, there in the courtroom someone is listening,
there in the food bank a parcel is made;
there in the church a bed for the homeless guest,
there is a place for the refugee to be safe.

All: **We are the peace Christ longs for.**

Voice 1: Christ looks over the city today and laments.
“Would that there be peace in the city,
that the followers of faith might sit together,
that the powerful might listen to the voices of hope.
I long to gather you to myself.”

Voice 2: But, see, look, there in the mosque, mandir and ghudwara,
in synagogue, temple, cathedral and hall
people of all faiths are meeting, learning and longing.
People of all faiths and no faith and faltering faith are writing,
voting, and challenging leaders and monarchs, presidents and powers.

All: **We are the peace Christ longs for.**

Voice 1: May Christ gather us all under the wings of his nurturing love and help us to
bring about his peace in our hearts and in all creation.



Symbol of youth culture – that resonates with your young people -is laid at the front of the church (or on the Lenten cross) (ask them to choose e.g. phone, designer label, music....)

This week Methodists across the London District have been spending time in bible study groups thinking about education and young people. We place this symbol as a reminder of the contribution that children and young people make in the life of the church and of society. We remember the way that Jesus welcomed children and declared them at the very heart of his kingdom.

Prayer:

Gracious God,
Creator of all,

We remember today how Jesus, your Son, wept over Jerusalem and longed for its peace. Help us to act as Christ today, gathering together those who are broken and needing peace. Help us to celebrate the contribution of children and young people in church and in society, learning to listen to their wisdom and to create a safe space in which they can grow, learn and be themselves.

In Christ's name.
Amen.

Song suggestions:

Beauty for brokenness (StF 693)
Come, now, you blessed, eat at my table (StF 695)
For the healing of the nations, (StF 696)
God of justice, Saviour to all (StF 699)
God weeps at love withheld (StF 700)
In an age of twisted values (StF 703)
Longing for light (StF 706)

Lenten Worship Resources

Week 3

Responses

Make way for the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
whose kingdom is a place of shelter, safety and protection.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread,

because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

A New Psalm of assurance of God's sheltering love

You have been my shelter,
my tower of strength,
my refuge from the storm.

When I was lost you sought me out and brought me to safety.
When I travelled to the farthest shore, still you were there.

You have been my hiding place,
my sanctuary,
my place of peace.

When I ran for my life, and all seemed lost,
you were there to offer food and shelter.

When I fell on the roadside, exhausted and in despair,
you sent angels to tend to me, aid-workers to heal my wounds.

When I ran from the bullets and bombs of war,
you helped me to cross borders and seek asylum.

You have been my shelter,
my tower of strength,
my refuge from the storm.

When I was in trouble, evicted and alone,
you were my companion.

When I was homeless, cold and afraid,
you led me to a night-shelter, to warmth and light.

When I was sofa-surfing, with no place to call my own,
you found me an advocate to plead my cause.

You have been my shelter,
my tower of strength,
my refuge from the storm.



Symbol of housing, a brick or For Sale sign, is laid at the front of the church (or on the Lenten cross)

This week Methodists across the London District have been spending time in bible study groups thinking about housing. We place this symbol as we remember those who have no home, or live in inadequate or unsafe housing. We remember that Jesus was described as having no place to lay his head and how he was a refugee in Egypt, seeking sanctuary from oppression.

Prayer:

Gracious God,
Creator of all,
We remember today how Jesus, your Son, was born into poverty and homelessness, how his family sought refuge in Egypt to flee the violence and terror of their homeland. We pray today for those who have no home, or live in homes that are unsafe and inadequate. We pray for those who seek sanctuary and refuge. Help us to be generous in our hospitality and in our giving, that your love might be known.
In Christ's name.
Amen.

Song Suggestions:

In the darkness of the still night (StF 109)
When deep despair (StF 399)
Let us build a house where love can dwell (StF 409)
Longing for light (StF 706)
The right hand of God (StF 715)
The God who sings (StF 714)
We do not hope to ease our minds (StF 717)
When mountains that we thought secure (StF722)
Who can sound the depths of sorrow in the Father heart of God (StF 723)

Lenten Worship Resources

Week 4

Responses

Make way for the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
the creator of the earth, the stars and all the wonders beyond.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread,

because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Prayer of Confession

For those times when we have been poor stewards of your creation,
squandering the gifts we have been given, with no thought to the future:

Forgive us and renew the face of the earth.

For those times when we have been selfish with your gifts,
leaving others in poverty and crushing need:

Forgive us and renew the face of the earth.

For those times when we have recklessly or deliberately damaged the earth,
through our constant demand for more material goods:

Forgive us and renew the face of the earth.

Silence

Jesus was, in the beginning, with God the Creator and without him not one thing was made.
Later, when human beings had broken the world and the Creator's heart, he came into the
world to remind us how to love God and our neighbours and he brought grace and truth and
forgiveness into the world in a new way.

Hear then, his words of grace:

Your sins are forgiven.

Amen, Thanks be to God.



Symbol of the environment - a utility bill, globe or recycling sign, is laid at the front of the church (or on the Lenten cross)

This week Methodists across the London District have been spending time in bible study groups thinking about the environment. We place this symbol as we remember the damage that human beings have done to the world, our part in God's creation. We remember that the actions of those in the richest nations of the world have had disastrous consequences for developing countries.

Prayer

Gracious God,

Creator of all,

We offer thanks for the beauty, diversity and abundance of your creation.

We remember today the damage that human beings have caused to the

earth. We pray that those who have power to make decisions which have

consequences for generations to come will be wise and compassionate.

Help us to play our part as good stewards of creation, generous to those in

need and careful to use well your many gifts to us.

In the name of Christ.

Amen

Song Suggestions:

As if you were not there (StF 724)

God in his love for us lent us this planet (StF 727)

Touch the earth gently (StF 729)

Into a world of dark (StF 387)

Summoned by the God who made us (StF 689)

God said world (StF 105)

Oh the life of the world (StF114)

Sing praise to God who reigns above (StF 117)

Lenten Worship Resources

Week 5

Responses

Make way for the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
the one who comes to proclaim good news to the poor.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread,

because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

What the Lord requires - a biblical reflection

Voice 1: I ask again my friends, what does the Lord require of you?

All: **To do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.**

Voice 1: To whom should justice be shown?

Voice 2: Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgements, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

Voice 1: To whom should we show kindness?

Voice 2: Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker,
but those who are kind to the needy honour him.

Voice 1: How do we walk humbly with God?

Voice 2: With my mouth I will greatly extol the Lord; in the great throng of worshipers
I will praise him. For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their
lives from those who would condemn them

Voice 1: I ask again my friends, what does the Lord require of you?

All: **To do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.**



Symbol of poverty - Food bank items (this week ask everyone to bring an item that can then be distributed) are laid at the front of the church (or on the Lenten cross)

This week Methodists across the London District have been spending time in Bible study groups thinking about Welfare/Benefits/Poverty. We place these items here to bring those who face poverty into the very heart of our worship and church life. Poor people are often left out, marginalised and forgotten. As those who belong to Christ we should reserve the best seat at the table for those who are ignored and neglected. The food here will be taken to our local food bank (or night shelter) as a contribution to tackling poverty in our community.

Prayer

Gracious God,
Creator of all,

Today we remember the words of your Son, that 'the poor will always be with us'. Make us ready to proclaim and be good news for the poor, to live as your hospitable and generous people. Help us to challenge systems that keep people in poverty and may your church honour Christ through outrageous acts of generous and grace-filled hospitality. In his name we pray.

Amen.

Song Suggestions:

I will speak for those who have no voices (StF 702)
Beauty for brokenness (StF 693)
Come, now, you blessed, eat at my table (StF 695)
Oh Freedom (StF 697)
God of justice, Saviour to all (StF 699)
Heaven shall not wait (StF 701)
Longing for light (StF 706)

Lenten Worship Resources

Week 6

Responses

Make way for the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
who enters Jerusalem riding on a humble colt.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread,

because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you.

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Poem: The body of Christ (or building community)

An open table, round in shape,
no head, no feet, no sharp corners to bump against.

Conversations take place here,
without the need for agendas.

No one cares about your shape,
your colour,
your accent,
your income.

No one needs to know
how big or small your house is,
how many mistakes you have made,
what car you drive.

People want to know,
what makes you giggle,
what makes you dance,
what makes you cry.

People notice you
care for you
listen to you.

You might sit next to someone who makes you feel
comfortable
angry
concerned

That's okay, that is grace -

you may make the person next to you feel all those things and more.

This is community
common brokenness
and shared optimism
that together we are wiser
more loved and more loving

No one can remember who are the hosts and who are guests
we are all one messy, creative, chaotic
mass of fellow travellers
building a community of love.

What else is worth any effort at all?



Symbol of Community (local newspapers/flyers about community events) is laid at the front of the church (or on the Lenten cross)

This week Methodists across the London District have been spending time in Bible study groups thinking about community – Crime and Integration. We place this item here to remind us of all the activities that go on in our neighbourhoods, some in church and many more in schools, hospitals, coffee shops, bars, markets and shops. The communities we live in are complex and diverse - diversity is part of God's plan but human beings have not always understood how to live with such diversity, allowing fear and prejudice to create barriers that separate people. Jesus encountered the narrowness and fear of people and this led him to the cross. As Christ's body in the world, we are called to break down barriers, loving God and our neighbours.

Prayer

Gracious God,
Creator of all,

We pray today for the community we live in. We give thanks for the diverse experiences of so many people, for the gifts each person brings and the contribution many make to enriching society here in London. We pray for places of tension and fear and ask that you help us to remain open and loving to those we consider as different or do not understand. Help your Churches to be places where community is built, barriers broken down and love of neighbours is central to all that we do.

In the name of Christ.

Amen

Song Suggestions:

All praise to our redeeming Lord (StF 608)
As we gather in your presence now (StF 609)
Brother, Sister, let me serve you (StF 611)
Let love be real (StF 615)
Thou God of truth and love (StF620)
Christ, from whom all blessings flow (StF 676)
Let us build a house (StF 409)