



**The Representative Session of Synod  
Order of Service**

**19 September 2020  
Methodist Central Hall Westminster**

# London District Representative Synod 2020

## Order of Service

### Call to Worship – Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures for ever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

### Singing the Faith 456 *And Are We Yet Alive*

### Prayer of Approach

Gracious God, you are our host and guest.

We worship together,  
knowing that you are with us, wherever we are.

As you have welcomed us,  
help us to be a welcoming community.

Send your Spirit to blow through our worship  
as a breeze blows through the open windows  
of a long-closed house.

**Amen**

### Prayer of Praise *Denise Tomlinson on Zoom*

God of creation, Source of all being  
the heavens declare your glory  
and the earth is your handiwork.  
For the diverse beauty of all you have made;  
**we offer you our praise.**

God of salvation, Eternal Word,  
you came amongst your people,  
and made yourself vulnerable  
to the risky business of human living.  
**we offer you our praise.**

God of life, Holy Spirit,  
you move in the church and in the world,  
calling the least and the lost  
into a deeper fellowship of love.  
**we offer you our praise.**

God of all grace,  
Accept our praise, and help us to live as your people in the world.  
**Amen.**

## **Confession**

Let us confess our sins,  
trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

For those times when we have lost sight of your love,  
despairing for ourselves and the world  
**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

For those times when we have lost perspective,  
putting our own concerns before the needs of your world.  
**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

For those times when we have taken for granted  
the gifts that you have given to us.  
**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

For those times when we have chosen to ignore injustice,  
and neglected those in need.  
**Heal us, God, and grant us a new beginning.**

## **Declaration of forgiveness**

God has heard our confession,  
loves us still and, through Christ,  
offers healing and a new beginning.

Hear then, Christ's gracious words:  
"Your sins are forgiven."

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## **Collect**

Loving God, you built your church,  
the body of Christ, as living stones.

As we join together in Synod today,  
 help us to remember that we are your church in every place.  
 Unite us in your Son, and send us out in the power of your Spirit,  
 to witness in your world. **Amen**

## Welcome to New Ministers

|                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Revd Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva | Hackney & Stoke Newington            |
| Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John | Enfield                              |
| Revd Conrad Hicks            | Methodist Church House (Via Wembley) |
| Revd Sonia Hicks             | Wembley                              |
| Revd Catherine Hutton        | Sutton                               |
| Revd Ling Yu Ji              | Southwark & Deptford                 |
| Revd Japhet Kabilu           | Battersea & Wandle Valley            |
| Revd Julie King              | Harrow & Hillingdon                  |
| Revd Charity Madenyika       | Southwark & Deptford                 |
| Revd Stephanie Njeru         | Forest                               |
| Deacon Andy Packer           | Barking, Dagenham & Ilford           |
| Revd Lansford Penn-Timothy   | Westminster                          |
| Deacon Theresa Sam           | Ealing Trinity                       |
| Revd Martin Wellings         | Barnet & Queensbury                  |
| Revd Sang Wook Han           | Purley                               |
| Revd Kan Yu                  | Teddington                           |

## Singing the Faith 41 *Blessed Be Your Name*

### Marking Loss – a litany of lament and testimony of hope

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.  
 Day followed night, every week had a Sunday  
 and that was the day for church.  
 How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.  
 We made our plans, held our meetings,  
 kept the roof on the church and the show on the road.  
 How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.

We would see colleagues, friends and loved ones again,  
and we would embrace, laugh and share stories as we always have.  
How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

As the music plays, you are invited to remember people and things that you and others have lost because of the pandemic. Offer these losses to God.

## **Prayer**

In the face of so much loss,  
we turn to you, Loving God,  
praying for comfort and strength.  
We hold before you the precious losses that we have named today.  
Be with us in the days ahead, as we try to make sense of a new way of living.

In the face of so much fear,  
we turn to you, Loving God,  
praying for hope and confidence.  
We are your people, gifted with the assurance of your love.  
Be with us in the days ahead, as we work out how to serve this present age.

In the face of so much need,  
we thank you, loving God,  
for all who have given their skill, time and commitment,  
to care for those who have been ill, vulnerable and isolated.  
Be with us in the days ahead, that we might share your love with all.

Loving God,  
hear our prayers and fill us with your Spirit,  
that we might be your people in the world.

**Amen**

## **Lockdown Stories**

Short testimonies from Kido Baek, Kathleen Loveridge and Sonia Hicks about their lockdown/pandemic experiences. Zoomed in, live.

Images from the District Team – 'Life in Lockdown'

## **Marking Hope – a litany of moving forward**

And now, we know something new.  
We know that the world is not ours to control,  
and that our plans are confounded by the smallest microbe.  
God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

And now, we know something new.  
We know that church is not committees, agendas and buildings,

it is us, in homes, streets, hospitals throughout the world.  
God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

And now, we know something new.

We only have today with those we love, today is the day  
to say, 'I love you', to mend an argument, to hold on tight.  
God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

## **Gospel**

*Hilary Porter on Zoom*

John 20.19-29 Jesus appears to his disciples

## **Reflection**

God of the poor,  
Friend of the weak and marginalised  
Give to us willingness to support migrants  
Give us compassion to stand with the oppressed  
Melt our hearts to respond to the needs of the lost  
Warm our hearts and minds to connect with those in need  
So that together, we change our communities for the better,  
To become all embracing and inclusive, beyond racial tensions;  
For in you Lord Jesus, We are One, fully made in your likeness, Amen!

## **Singing the Faith 531** *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*

## **Synod Business**

### **District Budget 2020-21**

Confirmation of the voting that was undertaken remotely:

- **Results of Resolution 1:** The Synod adopts the District Budget for 2020-21
- **Results of Resolution 2:** The Synod adopts the allocation of the assessments to the Circuits for 2020-21

### **London District Representatives to Conference 2021**

Confirmation of nominations received (new members highlighted in orange):

|                     |         |                      |         |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Ms Nancy Acquah     | 2021-23 | Mrs Janet Arthur     | 2020-22 |
| Revd Rachel Bending | 2021-23 | Revd Stephen Cooper  | 2021-23 |
| Mr Samuel Ebdon     | 2019-21 | Revd Geoffrey Farrar | 2019-21 |

|                       |         |                        |         |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| Mr Bala Gnanapragasam | 2021-23 | Miss Georgina Graham   | 2019-21 |
| Revd Eleanor Jackson  | 2021    | Revd David Jebb        | 2021-23 |
| Ms Madalena Leao      | 2020-22 | Deacon Alison McMillan | 2020-22 |
| Revd Faith Nyota      | 2020-22 | Ms Bola Nzekwe         | 2021-23 |
| Revd Dr Karl Rutledge | 2021-23 | Revd Ben Twumasi       | 2021    |

Synod are seeking to appoint a further three lay people to serve for one year and three reserves for lay and ministerial representatives.

- **Results of Resolution 3:** The Synod delegates to the District Council to fill the remaining vacancies for Methodist Conference representatives on behalf of the Synod

### **Deferred Special Resolution**

Notice of the provisional legislation

### **Sabbaticals**

#### **Sabbaticals deferred from 2019/20**

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Revd Nigel Cowgill       | Revd Emma Cusack     |
| Revd David Hollingsworth | Revd Nicola Morrison |
| Revd Elizabeth Osei      | Revd Alex Terrett    |

#### **Sabbaticals 2020/21**

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Revd Karen Bell     | Deacon Dawn Canham  |
| Revd Peter Cornick  | Deacon Linda Gilson |
| Revd Rita King      | Revd Duncan MacBean |
| Revd David Markay   | Revd Kristin Markay |
| Revd Joseph Ribeiro | Revd Shaun Sanders  |
| Revd Shirlyn Toppin |                     |

#### **Sabbaticals deferred from 2020/21**

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Revd Soon Cheol Choi | Revd Karen George       |
| Deacon Claire Gill   | Revd Chellaian Lawrence |

### **Sabbaticals 2021/22**

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Revd Geoffrey Farrar | Revd Andrew Letby |
| Deacon Terry Street  |                   |

### **Letters of Greeting** *Denise Tomlinson on Zoom*

- Revd Geoffrey Farrar & Mr Steve Wright
- Revd Dr Eleanor Jackson
- Revd Lena Ali
- Revd Dr Andy Dart
- Deacon Maureen Spinks
- Mrs Ailsa Clark

### **Prayers of Intercession** *Theresa Sam on Zoom*

Gracious God,  
 You care for all that you have made,  
 hear us now as we offer our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

For all creation, we pray,  
 remembering places degraded by human selfishness.  
 Forests disappeared, rivers dried up, planes flooded and rising sea levels.

Today we pray for...

God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

#### ***Pause***

For all in authority, we pray,  
 remembering those who bear the heavy weight of responsibility.  
 We think of those whose decisions affect many lives,  
 in our villages, towns and cities,  
 in our counties and in our countries.  
 We pray that they may have wisdom, strength and humility.

Today we pray for...

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

***Pause***

For all your church, we pray,  
remembering the body of Christ throughout the world.  
As we give thanks for our District – churches and circuits working in mission together.  
We know that some churches will struggle to continue, following months of closure and the loss of members.  
We pray for wisdom and discernment as we work out how to be your church in the future.

God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

***Pause***

For all in need, we pray,  
remembering those who are ill in homes and in hospital.  
We give thanks for the NHS, for all health and social care professionals, cleaners and caterers and so many others who help to bring healing and comfort.  
We give thanks for volunteers and all who serve their neighbours, offering care.  
We pray that those who give their time and skill to serve others might be protected and be given your peace and strength.

God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

***Pause***

For all who grieve, we pray,  
remembering those who have not been able to mourn in the way that they would wish,  
and those who have not been able to say goodbye.  
We hold before you all who have died,  
remembering that each person is made in your image.  
Help us to remember that you are the God of resurrection and in you we find hope and new life.

God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

All our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we offer to God,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

*Theresa Sam*

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.

### **Music** *Magnificat 4 (Jazz Setting Ike Sturm)*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Creator God, source of all life,  
you formed a diverse and complex creation.  
You created us in your image;  
we are part of the story of your love for all that you have made.  
Receive our thanks and praise.

Through the teachers and prophets of old,  
the story of your love was told.  
We have not always followed your way of love;  
yet, you continue to care for us.  
At great cost, you sent Jesus Christ into the world,  
to teach us again what it means to live in your way.  
Receive our thanks and praise.

Through Christ's life, death and resurrection,  
we can know for ourselves, the story of love, faith and salvation.  
Through your gift of the Holy Spirit, you continue to lead us into truth  
and give us power to tell your story throughout the world.  
Receive our thanks and praise.

As we give thanks for the story of your love,  
strengthen us for service  
and accept our praise.  
In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

### **Singing the Faith 372** *Love Divine*

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

The blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.

All hymns provided by Methodist Central Hall Westminster CCLI No. 45497