



# The Methodist Church In Ireland

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 'Blessed Beyond Resources'

This short act of worship has been prepared so that you can spend some moments with God, knowing that other people in your local congregation and beyond are sharing in this same act of worship with you.

### Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather to worship you and to thank you for all that you have done in our lives.

We thank you for counting us worthy to serve you and know you as the only true God. Accept our thanks and praises in Jesus' name.

Today is the day that you have made, and we rejoice and are glad. Father, as we continue with these service sheets, fill us with your unlimited joy and refresh our spirits. Let everyone see your glory and power through us. Amen.

### Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing

*Sing/read/proclaim the words of this wonderful song*

1. Let all the world in every corner sing:

my God and King!

The heavens are not too high,

his praise may thither fly;

the earth is not too low,

his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing:

my God and King!

2. Let all the world in every corner sing:

my God and King!

The church with psalms must shout;

no door can keep them out,

but, above all, the heart

must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing:

my God and King!

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

### Genesis 32: 22-31

#### Jacob Wrestles With God

<sup>22</sup>That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. <sup>24</sup>So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup>Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup>The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

<sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,<sup>[a]</sup> because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

<sup>29</sup>Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel,<sup>[b]</sup> saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

<sup>31</sup>The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel,<sup>[c]</sup> and he was limping because of his hip.

### Let us pray

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved and trusted you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

### Romans 9: 1-5

#### Paul's Anguish Over Israel

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, <sup>4</sup>the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup>Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!<sup>[a]</sup> Amen.

### Matthew 14: 13-21

#### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

<sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

<sup>17</sup> "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

<sup>18</sup> "Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup> And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### Reflection

Each time we hear this story, we are often reminded that despite how the disciples doubted that they had the resources, or food in this case, to feed all the people gathered, it did happen, they had enough. In fact, it happened in such a way that it was beyond what was needed, with so much food being collected that was leftover.

Don't you just love it that the disciples, who didn't think they could do anything to feed the whole crowd, each got to pick up a basket full of pieces that were left over! Jesus has a way of using, teaching, and rebuking us all at the same time when we don't have faith that what needs to be done can be done with his blessing.

In our home lives we doubt and worry about having enough money, food, energy, time or just the general resources needed to keep a home ticking along. Or in our work lives we worry about resources whether its capacity, time, motivation, know how, finances, we doubt that we have enough. What doors of opportunity is the Lord opening for you to minister through right now? Are you afraid you don't have the resources? Remember, Jesus' power is great when the glory goes to God, ministry is for others, we pool our resources, we offer what we have to him, and we are motivated out of compassion!

### Respond/Reflect

Take some time to reflect and respond. Are there resources that immediately come to mind that you doubt you have enough of. Bring those doubts and worries to God, trusting he will provide.

## A time of Prayer

Let's pray

Loving God, we pray for this world, your world, for those in charge and making difficult decisions, give them wisdom and integrity.

Lord of all, Lord for all

Hear our prayer

We pray for the people in this world, that more will hear, know and believe in the salvation and eternal life that only you can give them.

Lord of all, Lord for all

Hear our prayer

We pray for our town/ city/ village. That all who live here will live happily and peacefully together, with tolerance, patience, and love.

Lord of all, Lord for all

Hear our prayer

We pray for those struggling to find a job to support their families or those worried about how secure their job is. Take that anxiety away and give them peace and a sense of hope.

Lord of all, Lord for all

Hear our prayer

We pray for those close to us, our family and friends. If any are struggling silently, may they reach out for help, may you guide them to the right people to talk to.

Lord of all, Lord for all

Hear our prayer

We pray for ourselves, loving father you know us, you see us, you hear us. Protect our hearts, minds and bodies.

Lord of all, Lord for all

Hear our prayer. **Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

## Hymn: Christ is Enough

*Sing/read/proclaim the words of this wonderful hymn*

Christ is my reward  
And all of my devotion  
Now there's nothing in this world  
That could ever satisfy

Through every trial  
My soul will sing  
No turning back  
I've been set free

*Christ is enough for me  
Christ is enough for me  
Everything I need is in You  
Everything I need*

Christ my all in all  
The joy of my salvation  
And this hope will never fail  
Heaven is our home

Through every storm  
My soul will sing  
Jesus is here  
To God be the glory

*Christ is enough for me.....*

I have decided to follow Jesus  
No turning back  
No turning back (repeat)

The cross before me  
The world behind me  
No turning back  
No turning back (repeat)

*Christ is enough for me...(repeat)*

I have decided to follow Jesus...(repeat)

Jonas Myrin / Reuben Morgan

## A prayer of Blessing

Heavenly Father, provider of all things. Help us to trust you more as we navigate what resources we need. Keep us optimistic and hopeful **Amen**.

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

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