

WORSHIP AT HOME SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2026

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South Molton and Ringsash Methodist Circuit

CALL TO WORSHIP.

We turn to you, O Lord, for your love is kind.

In your great compassion, turn to us

Be swift and answer us, for we are in distress.

Draw near to us and redeem us.

(based on Psalm 69 v 18-20)

HYMN:- StF 250.

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his voice is sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"

2. As of old the apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more!"

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these!"

5. Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895).

PRAYERS.

We come to you, God of every generation.

We worship you for your kindness, your
compassion and your love.

We see you in all of the beauty you have
created.

We find you waiting here for us, ready to
listen to our prayers, to heal our wounds, to
come near to our hearts.

We come to hear your word for us, and seek a
better knowledge of you, our God, the one
Jesus calls "our heavenly father".

As we worship, help us to follow Jesus.
Receive our prayers and set our feet on right
paths.

We confess to you, loving God, that we need
your health and redemption.

We wander far from you and fall and fail.
Forgive us, we pray, and by your Spirit make
us new.

LORD'S PRAYER.

READING:- Matthew 10:24-39.

MESSAGE.

There are some passages in the Bible that are
a joy to preach on and a joy to hear. This is
not one of them. This passage from Matthew
leaves us feeling uncomfortable at best and a
quivering wreck at worst.

Jesus is preparing his disciples before sending
them out, so that they can do everything that
he is doing such as preaching, healing, casting
out demons and preparing the way for the
coming of the Kingdom of God. Basically, he's
warning them this is going to cause them a lot
of problems. It's going to ruin their
reputations, it's going to make them fall out
with their families, and if you read all of
Matthew Ch. 10, you'll find that Jesus had
more to say which is a whole lot worse.

The fact is that taking up the cross rather than
the sword is not accepted by some today.
Many people find it far easier to point the
finger at others and judge, forgetting that
when they do, there are three fingers pointing
back at them. It is so much easier to judge
others rather than ourselves and yet

Christianity calls us to work on our own behaviour and view others as God sees them. We are called to meet people where they are and to love them as we love ourselves. That is as countercultural today as it was when Jesus spoke.

When we live the way Jesus teaches, showing radical hospitality to strangers, amazing love to our enemies or compassion and mercy to the sick and the poor, then we are going to offend people who have a vested interest in keeping the downtrodden oppressed and those who have nothing poor.

God calls us to a radical change in our lives when we come to faith. Our Christian journey will not always be an easy one. When we pick up the cross, we are embracing the probability of opposition, oppression and just like the disciples, the possibility that we too may face threat.

God calls us to strength in faith and that often means standing up for Christ during ridicule for it, whether that comes from stranger, family or friend. It means spending time in God's word so that we are fed spiritually and can talk about our faith with courage and conviction.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts it this way in *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1937), 99.

"The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship, we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus, it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may

be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call".

Paul saw his life as a daily death to himself. He expressed this understanding to the church elders of Ephesus: "I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" ([Acts 20:24](#)). This dying to self-empowered Paul to face unimaginable suffering and many persecutions for the sake of the gospel.

When Paul said, "I die daily," he reminded the church that he faced the possibility of death every time he strode into a new synagogue and proclaimed Christ to those who didn't want to hear ([Acts 17:2-5](#); [18:4](#)). In [2 Corinthians 11:24-28](#), Paul lists some of the dangers he had faced that threatened death, yet he was undeterred. [Acts 14:19-21](#) records Paul being stoned and left for dead. But he miraculously survived, got up, brushed himself off, and went to the next town to preach.

Matthew 10 offers some stark words for us to digest, but it also provides beautiful words of comfort. It tells us that every hair on our head is counted and reassures us of how loved we are as followers of Christ. Let us never forget, that the journey we make with God is not one we travel alone but with Him. Furthermore, we don't travel in our own strength, but in God's.

Like Paul we do not fear physical death because we have already reckoned ourselves "crucified with Christ" ([Galatians 2:20](#)).

HYMN:- StF 673.

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.

In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

John L Bell(b 1949) and Graham Maule (b 1958).

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.

God of all mercy, our loving heavenly Father,
we bring our prayers to you.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those who feel their life is lost in
deep water and great darkness.

For those trapped in debt or addiction.

We pray for all who love and serve those who
feel lost.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those who fear the deep will
swallow them up.

For those facing bullying or oppression.

For those undergoing medical tests or
treatment.

We pray for those who speak out for justice
and kindness.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those whose distress leads them
to feel that your face is turned against them.

For victims of natural disaster and those who
find themselves in the midst of war.

For those struggling with lack of self-worth.

For those with poor mental health.

We pray for all who support and encourage
vulnerable people.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray for those who need to know that
you,

Loving God, draw near to them.

For those whose lives have just begun,

or whose lives have changed dramatically.

For those nearing death

We pray for all those who accompany others and bring hope.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

Loving God, save us, lift us up, hear us, draw near to us.

That our prayers may be heard and answered, and we and all your children know your love more deeply.

Father, hear us: **You alone can help and save us.**

We pray in Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN:- StF 164.

1.Your words to me are life and health;
They fortify my soul,
Enable, guide, and teach my heart
To reach its perfect goal.

2.Your words to me are light and truth;
From day to day they show
Their wisdom, passing earthly lore,
As in their truth I grow.

3.Your words to me are full of joy,
Of beauty, peace, and grace;
From them I learn your blessed will,
Through them I see your face.

4.Your words are perfected in One,
Yourself, the living Word;
Within my heart your image print
In clearest lines, O Lord.

George Currie Martin (1865-1937).

BLESSING.

May the love of the God whom Jesus called Father care for us in each challenge and carry us through each day and may the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord and the strength of the Holy Spirit be with us today and always.

Amen.

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