

# Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Prayers September to November 2021

## Worship

As far as we are able, with God's help:

We will pray daily

We will worship with others regularly

We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

(from Methodist Way of Life)

We worship together .....

Because if my candle is to stay alight, it helps if it is in a line of other candles, and in a place where the fire has descended before.

Tom Wright

In you we live and move and exist.

You are the strength, the joy and the inspiration of our lives.

We love and adore you.

You are God in the depths of our being.

Creator of all life,

Origin of all love,

Source of all goodness,

We praise you for all you are.





## **A prayer as we Dwell in the Word**

Loving God,  
Although our destination is not yet clear,  
May we trust in your graceful promises;  
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,  
May we be rooted in your loving regard;  
Though our attention is inclined to wander,  
May we hear the things you are saying;  
Though we often neglect your influence,  
May we be convicted of your power to change,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## Dwelling in the Word text: Psalm 146 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

<sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes\*,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith for ever;

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

\* in other translations "great leader" or "rulers of this world".

God of unimaginable love, we give you thanks and praise. For the love that welcomes the unlovely, for the love that pardons the unworthy, for the love that knows no limit, we give you thanks and praise. In the love that inspires our worship, in the love of which we would learn more, in the love we share in our caring, we give you thanks and praise. As your love in us serves our neighbour, as your love tells its story through us, as your love calls us your people, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference

We praise you, God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
who made all that is in creation,  
and who always keeps your promises,  
who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

We want to worship you as you deserve, in spirit and in truth,  
with our minds, hearts and lives.  
With our Methodist brothers and sisters, we seek to promise that,  
as far as we are able, with your help:  
we will pray daily,  
we will worship with others regularly  
we will look and listen for You in Scripture, and the world.

Who would have thought that worshiping with others regularly  
needed a computer or a printed script?  
We give thanks for those with technical skills,  
who enable all of us to worship together in these difficult times.  
Your Church everywhere is facing new challenges, and new  
opportunities.

Here, in our circuit, we need your Spirit's wisdom and discernment  
to direct us in new ways of thinking about being your church.  
May your Spirit inspire our ministry, mission and worship,  
so that we will be bold, willing to take risks for the sake of your  
kingdom.

In Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.