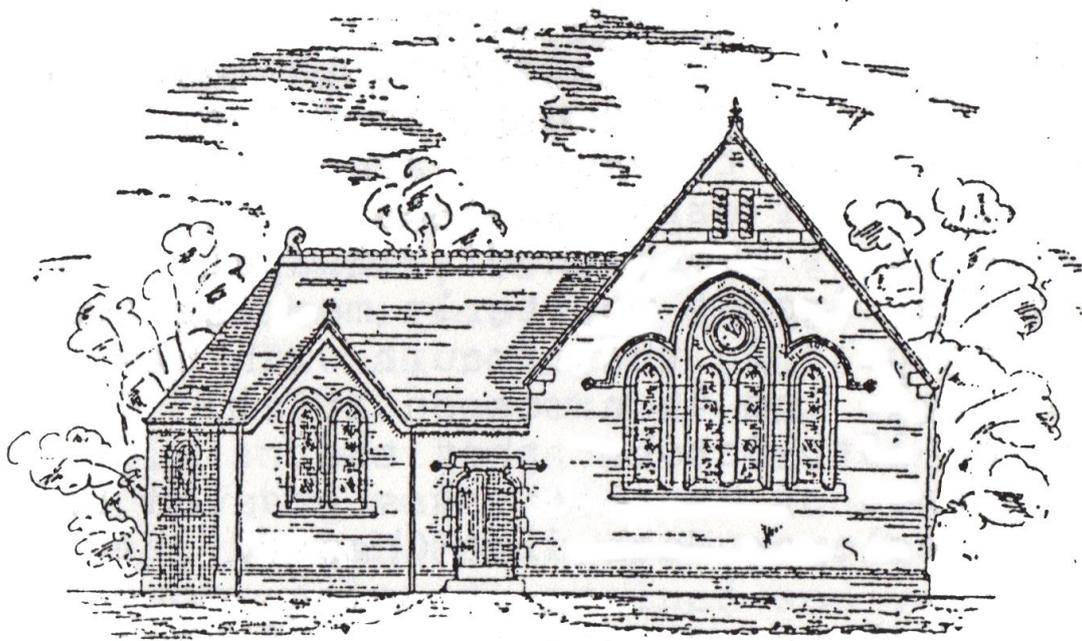


United Service for The Trinity Methodist Circuit and The Clays Group of Churches



· WESLEYAN · CHAPEL · AND · SCHOOL · WHEATLEY · 1891 ·
· JOHN · YILLS · ARCHT · DRAWT ·

To mark the closure of
Wheatley Methodist Chapel
and to pray for the ongoing ministry of
The Church in Wheatley

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

In Christ we are joined together and grow into the holy temple of the Lord; **In Christ we are built together into the dwelling place of God.**

Hymn 'All praise to our redeeming Lord'

- 1 All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.
- 2 He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.
- 3 The gift which he on one bestows,
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.
- 4 E'en now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesu's name,
in perfect harmony.
- 5 We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.
- 6 And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what heights of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet!

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Prayers of Adoration and Penitence

Eternal God, Creator of time and space,
beginning and end of all things;

you have been with us in all that is past: **to you be glory forever!**

Loving God, Saviour of the world, the Way, the Truth and the Life;
you are with us as we gather today: **to you be glory forever!**

Sustaining God, Spirit of renewal and inspirer of faith;
you will be with us as we go from this place: **to you be glory forever!**

Holy God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are with us always: **to you be glory forever!**

Sisters and brothers, as we meet to worship God, giving thanks for all
that God has done in this place, let us call to mind our sins: *Silence*

Loving God, when we have followed our own desires, and failed to
proclaim your love, **Lord, forgive us.**

Generous God, when we have lived for our own needs, and failed to
embody your generosity, **Lord, forgive us.**

Transforming God, when we have loved our own comforts, and failed
to hear your call, **Lord, forgive us.** *Silence*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to
an end. This is Christ's gracious word: "Your sins are forgiven."

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Collect

Lord God, whose Son was made the Cornerstone of a temple made of
living stones, as we move on from this place may we so live our lives
that they might shout aloud of your grace and love, through Jesus
Christ, your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Testimony from past and present members of Wheatley Chapel

Hymn Chosen by the Bennett family

- 1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
 tender and true;
 out of the heart of the Father above,
 streaming to me and to you:
 wonderful love
 dwells in the heart of the Father above.

- 2 Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
 joyfully came;
 came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
 sharing their sorrow and shame;
 seeking the lost,
 saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

- 3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
 why do they roam?
 Love only waits to forgive and forget;
 home, weary wanderer, home!
 Wonderful love
 dwells in the heart of the Father above.

- 4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love,
 come and abide,
 lifting my life, till it rises above
 envy and falsehood and pride;
 seeking to be
 lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Robert Walmsley (1831–1905)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Psalm 84

Gospel: John 17: 20-26

Reflection on the readings

Hymn 'Lord for the years'

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Spirit:

Living God, your Spirit came as wind and fire upon the apostles,
bringing the Church to birth and empowering it for mission and
service: pour out your Spirit on all who seek your will, on all gathered
here, on the churches of our circuit and benefice.

May we be blessed anew for the work you set before us.

O Lord, the Giver of Life, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, through the breath of your being you brought all creation to birth: pour out your Spirit on all the nations and their leaders...

May all people be inspired into the ways of justice and peace,
That the hungry may be fed, the homeless find a welcome
and the oppressed be brought to liberty and fullness of life.

O Lord, the Giver of Life, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, you anointed your Son Jesus Christ to bring sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and healing to the sick and the sorrowing:
pour out your Holy Spirit on all those who suffer,
those who are filled with anxiety and all who need our prayers...

May they know your comfort and grace.

O Lord, the Giver of Life, **receive our prayer.**

Living God,

you raised Christ from the dead: pour out your Holy Spirit upon us.

As we rejoice in that which has been, grieve at that which will be lost,
and look in hope for what is yet to come, may we know the assurance
of eternal life and the strength of the fellowship of all the saints.

O Lord, the Giver of Life, **receive our prayer. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come;

thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn Chosen by the Sutton family

An offering for the work of Action for Children will be taken during the singing of this hymn.

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 everything to God in prayer!
 O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear,
 all because we do not carry
 everything to God in prayer!

- 2 Have we trials and temptations,
 is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged:
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness:
 take it to the Lord in prayer.

- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
 cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Saviour, still our refuge —
 take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Do your friends despise, forsake you?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;
 in his arms he'll take and shield you,
 you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819–1886)

Prayers of Thanksgiving

A copy of the Sharing Agreement stands on the Communion Table as a symbol of the current and future life of the Church. Representatives from the congregation have been asked to move to specific places in the church as we pray.

As a steward stands at the door...

Welcoming God, we give thanks for all those who have encountered your presence in this place, for all those who have discovered your love shown to us through Jesus Christ.

God of hospitality: **we give you our thanks**

As a book of the history of the church is placed on the Table ...

God of the past, the present and the future, we give thanks for the story of this chapel and for all of the generations who have faithfully served you through this place. We honour their memory today.

God of our history: **we give you our thanks**

As someone whose family donated the font pours water into it, and as the baptism register is placed on the Communion Table ...

Transforming God, we give thanks for all those who have entered the Church through the waters of Baptism, for those who have received the gift of new life through the promise of the Holy Spirit. We remember those whose faith was nurtured through the work of the Sunday School and all who made a commitment to you through becoming members of the church.

God of new life: **we give you our thanks**

As someone who was married here stands in the aisle, and the marriage register is placed on the Communion Table ...

Uniting God, we give thanks for all who have stood before you and pledged themselves to each other, for new relationships celebrated and new families created. God of joy: **we give you our thanks**

As someone who has led funerals in the church stands in the aisle:

Comforting God, we give thanks for all who have joined the Company of Heaven, whose memory we still cherish, whose love still inspires us.

God of peace: **we give you our thanks**

As a Local Preacher stands at the lectern...

Inspiring God, we give thanks for your Living Word proclaimed from this place over the generations, your Word that informs our thinking and motivates our living, and for all those who have preached in this place. God of grace: **we give you our thanks**

As someone stands at the organ ...

Encouraging God, we give thanks for the worship that has been offered here, for the ways in which your praise has been proclaimed and your love lifted high in our hearts, and for all those who have enabled worship in this place.

God of celebration: **we give you our thanks**

As bread & wine are placed on the Communion Table...

Tangible God, we give thanks for all the ways in which you have come to us and for your means of grace made known especially through gifts of bread and wine, your body and your blood.

God of love: **we give you our thanks**

As someone places a Minute Book on the Communion Table ...

Creative God, we give thanks for the gifts and talents of all those who have given their time and skills to maintain the chapel building and to carry out the duties of the trustees.

God of faithfulness: **we give you our thanks**

As someone places a cup and saucer on the Table ...

Hospitable God, we give thanks for the many times that fellowship has been experienced here over meals. We celebrate the friendships which have grown through sharing food together.

God of the generosity: **we give you our thanks. Amen.**

PRAYERS AND DISMISSAL

Although the life of this chapel has come to an end,
the journey of faith continues through us, in new ways,

Though this building will close,
our worship and prayer will continue.

Though these doors will no longer be open,
we will remain open to the movement of your Spirit.

We will remember with gladness all that we have shared,
and continue to love and serve our neighbours.

We will trust in God,
who will guard us and guide us every step of the way. Amen.

Hymn *During this hymn symbols of the life & fellowship of the church will be processed out of the building as a sign of the life of the church continuing elsewhere.*

- 1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;
and give him the glory — great things he has done!
- 2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:
- 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

Frances Jane van Alstyne, (Fanny Crosby) (1820–1915)

Blessing

May Christ
be always at your side;
give you courage for the journey,
and be your goal and your joy
And may the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you
now and forever.

Amen.

We go in peace for God's Spirit dwells in us.
We will be a temple of God wherever we go.

Please stay and share in refreshments.

The hymn words in this service have been copied under CCL LICENCE NUMBER 90174
This liturgy is based on the service produced by the Worship and Liturgy Resources Group
of the Faith and Order Committee.



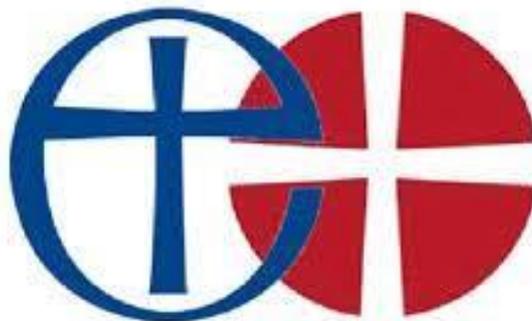


The words of Jesus:

'I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.'

John 17:20-21

The Church in Wheatley



An Anglican and Methodist
Local Ecumenical Partnership