

The Promised Helper

SERVICE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Welcome to this week's service. However you are choosing to worship during this time we hope you find what you need within it as we explore 'The Promised Helper'.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the service this week.

If you have found this service valuable please consider giving your collection/donation at:

[HTTPS://WWW.HOUNSLOWMETHODIST.ORG.UK/DONATE/](https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/donate/)

Part 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Father loves you.
The Son loves you.
The Spirit loves you.
Come and show your love.

Part 2

SOMETHING TO STILL YOURSELF

Sit comfortably, and
quieten your thoughts and
prepare for worship while
listening to:

Come Alive (Dry Bones) - Lauren Dingle

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=7XAeyCOMFAGCEQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XAeyCOMFAGCEQ)

Part 3

OPENING HYMN

SINGING THE FAITH #663

CHOSEN BY THE SPENCERS IN MEMORY OF NICOLA

¹ I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard
you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my
heart.*

² I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

³ I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)

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Portland, OR 97213, USA.

Part 4

PRAYERS OF PRAISE

God of love, we are sorry
that at times our
love for you falters;
that we have wrong priorities;
that we overlook
your guidance.
O God, forgive us.
O God, *renew us.*

Spirit of truth,
we are sorry
that we disregard
your presence;
that our thoughts and feelings
are unrighteous;
that we follow the world's way.
O God, forgive us.
O God, *renew us.*

Loving Saviour, we are sorry
that we disobey your
commandments;
that we fail to love;
that we walk by on the other
side.
O God, forgive us.
O God, *renew us.*

May your presence abiding in us
lead us in the right way,
in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Part 5

A STORY

ST FRANCIS AND THE CHURCH OF SAN DAMIANO

Most of you have heard of St Francis of Assisi who lived a thousand years ago. Here's a story about how Francis found his faith. Francis loved everyone. He loved all of creation. He talked about 'brother sun and sister moon' and all the animals and birds as his friends. They were special to him. Growing up in Assisi was for Francis quite easy. His parents were wealthy and so he wanted for nothing. His parents

were very proud of him. As a young man, Francis was expected to go away and fight in the Crusades and at the right time he set out to do so. On his way he heard a 'still small voice' telling him to return. He listened to this voice and turned round and headed home. On his way home he came across a poor man begging and he gave him his cloak and armour and his money. He decided to live a life where he only had simple things.



THIS ICON OF ST FRANCIS WAS PRODUCED BY REGAN O'CALLAGHAN, A GOOD FRIEND OF BELL ROAD.

CAN YOU FIND BROTHER SUN AND SISTER MOON IN IT?

THANKS TO REGAN FOR ALLOWING US TO USE IT.

Francis loved to go out into the countryside to pray, there was something he found special about being away from everyone else. One day he was out praying and he noticed a sign to San Damiano, a ruined church. He went inside to pray and as he knelt to pray he felt God's Holy Spirit speak to him. Three times the voice spoke to him 'Francis, go and repair my church which, as you see, is all in ruins!' Francis was so shocked by the voice, which was as loud as if someone was standing next to him talking, he looked up and saw the cross and from that day onwards he worked to rebuild the church. He started by rebuilding the church of San Damiano, but then he went around building churches and monasteries all over the country. But not just

the bricks and mortar, he 'built up' the people by sharing his faith with them. He told them about how God loves them and how his Holy Spirit can change their lives, just as the Holy Spirit did his. Francis gave away all he had to the poor and lived his life helping them wherever he could. He always looked for the simple ways of life and taught people that you could find God in the simple things.

Over 1000 years later people still follow the teachings of Francis, of living amongst and caring for the poor and looking for the simple things of life in creation.

IS IT THE SIMPLE THINGS OF LIFE THAT ARE IMPORTANT?

HOW COULD YOU HELP TO REBUILD GOD'S CHURCH ONCE WE COME OUT OF LOCKDOWN?

Part 6

A SONG

¹ God of love I come to You,
I believe Your word is true.
There is nothing I can do,
Only trust in Jesus.

² Jesus, You were crucified,
Freely gave Yourself to die.
I can know Your risen life
As I trust in Jesus.

MUSIC
[HTTPS://WWW.HOUNSLOWMETHODIST.ORG.UK/THE-PROMISED-HELPER-WORSHIP-AT-HOME/](https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/the-promised-helper-worship-at-home/)

Father God, my life is Yours,
Jesus, You have done it all.
I can offer nothing more,
I will trust in Jesus.

INSTRUMENTAL

Take my life and let it be
Always, only, Christ in me.
In Your fullness, living free,
Simply trusting Jesus,
Simply trusting Jesus.

Part 7

READING

JOHN 14:15-21 (NRSVA)

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ BY CRAIG:

[HTTPS://WWW.HOUNSLOWMETHODIST.ORG.UK/THE-PROMISED-HELPER-WORSHIP-AT-HOME/](https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/the-promised-helper-worship-at-home/)

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,^[g] to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

Part 8

SERMON

Listen to or read Rev. Adam's sermon here:

[HTTPS://WWW.HOUNSLOWMETHODIST.ORG.UK/THE-PROMISED-HELPER-WORSHIP-AT-HOME/](https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/the-promised-helper-worship-at-home/)

Part 9

PRAYERS

Listen to or read Rev. Barbara's prayers of intercession here:

[HTTPS://WWW.HOUNSLOWMETHODIST.ORG.UK/THE-PROMISED-HELPER-WORSHIP-AT-HOME/](https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/the-promised-helper-worship-at-home/)

SINGING THE FAITH #503
CHOSEN BY THE MICHAEL
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/JGGCQHKSHQ8](https://youtu.be/JGGCQHKSHQ8)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to
earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would
be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee,
without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Part 10

HYMN

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns
before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

"Greetings from Ghana as I wait for a plane to bring me home! I chose this hymn for friends and family who I love in difficult times like now."

MICHAEL

Part 11

CLOSING PRAYER

Go in peace to live in love,
to show God's love,
to receive God's love
– everywhere, and at all times.
Amen.