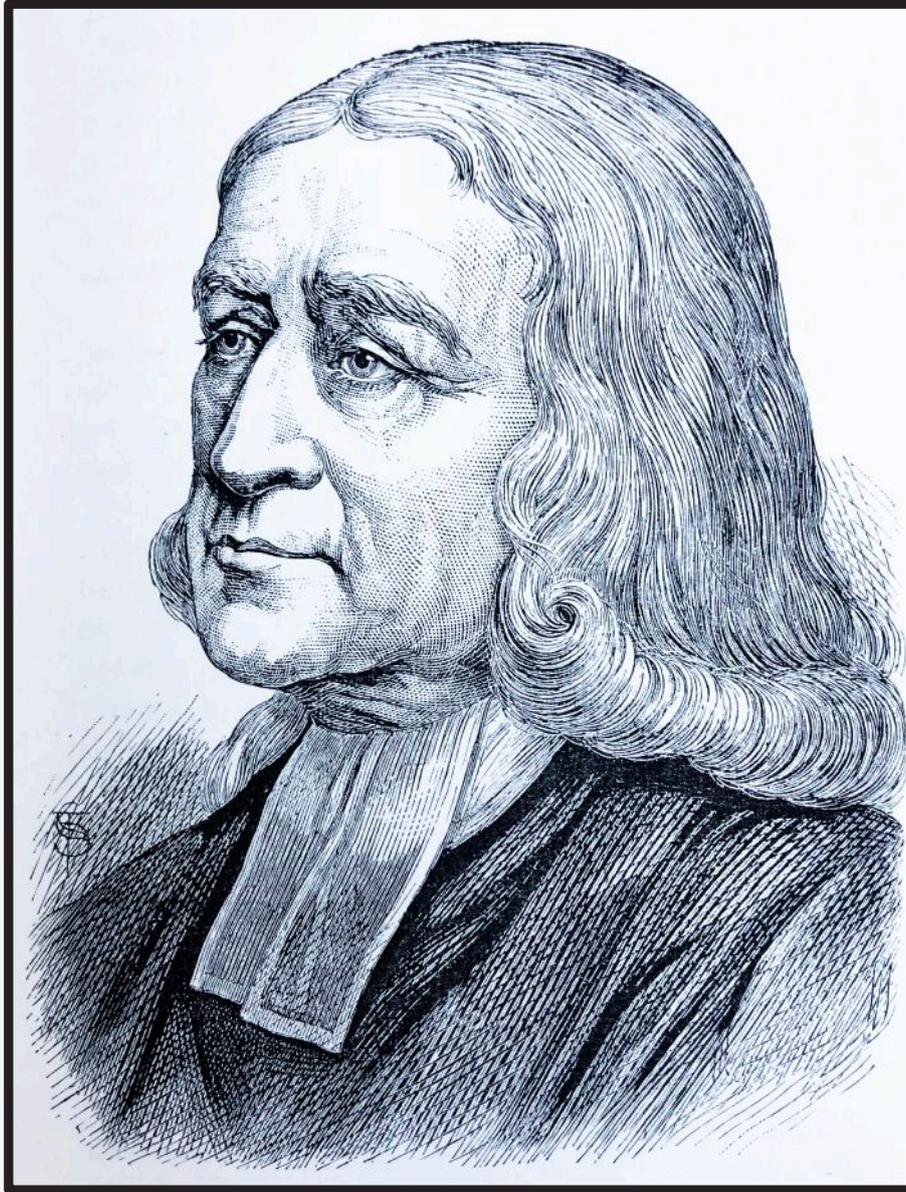


# Aldersgate Sunday

The Story of John Wesley



Today is Aldersgate Sunday. The day when Methodists all over the world remember the conversion of John Wesley and his brother Charles, the founders of the Methodist Church.

So today we are going to do things a little differently. We thought we would tell the remarkable story of John Wesley. Methodism is unique in having Local Preachers, or "Mr Wesley's Preachers" as they were known. Therefore we decided that all our hymns today should be

chosen by "Mr Wesley's Preachers" here at Hounslow.

We hope this service provides a introduction to the life of John Wesley and the history of Methodism.

This week there is a guest appearance from 'Little John Wesley' who was given to the Logans by Drew when he visited during his ministerial training from the USA. He has since travelled the country on many adventures. Look out for photo's of his journeys throughout the service.

# Something to still yourself

'When it's All Been Said and Done'  
by Robin Marks

<https://youtu.be/1l1IhBMCjU>

## Hymn

Chosen by Rajie. 'This was Charles Wesley's hymn written especially for Ascension Day.'

Singing the Faith 300

[https://youtu.be/7b\\_0Dz\\_jgTs](https://youtu.be/7b_0Dz_jgTs)

Hail the day that sees him rise,  
Alleluia!  
ravished from our wistful eyes!  
Alleluia!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given,  
Alleluia!  
reascends his native heaven:  
Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits:  
Alleluia!  
lift your heads, eternal gates;  
Alleluia!  
wide unfold the radiant scene;  
Alleluia!  
take the King of Glory in!  
Alleluia!

Him though highest heaven  
receives, Alleluia!  
still he loves the earth he  
leaves; Alleluia!  
though returning to his throne,  
Alleluia!  
still he calls the world his own:  
Alleluia!

See! He lifts his hands above;  
Alleluia!  
see! He shows the prints of love;  
Alleluia!  
hark! His gracious lips bestow  
Alleluia!  
blessings on his Church below:  
Alleluia!

Master, parted from our sight,  
Alleluia!

high above the azure height,  
Alleluia!  
grant our hearts to you may rise,  
Alleluia!  
following you beyond the skies:  
Alleluia!

Cast ourselves before your throne,  
Alleluia!  
here our heaven of heavens to own,  
Alleluia!  
there we shall with you remain,  
Alleluia!  
partners of your endless reign:  
Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)



## First Story

'A Brand Plucked from the Burning'

John (Logan) tells the story of John Wesley's childhood and the disaster that would set him on his path.

Watch here: <https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/aldersgate-sunday/>

A text version is also available.

## Susanna Wesley's Apron Prayer

Help me, Lord, to remember that religion.....is not to be confined to the church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in thy presence. So may my every word and action have a moral content. May all the happenings of my life prove useful to me. May all things instruct me and afford me an opportunity .....of exercising some virtue..... and daily learning and growing toward thy likeness. Amen.

# Hymn

Chosen by Heflin - 'This is one of my favourite Charles Wesley's hymn. It reminds me that I cannot do anything without grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, my whole life is not enough to praise about His peace and blessings upon my life. He is my gracious Master and the wordings of hymn is so assuring to my daily life.'

**Singing the Faith 364**

<https://youtu.be/X-dEfVz6Vms>

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through  
all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

Jesus – the name  
that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power  
of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make  
the foulest clean,  
his blood availed for me.

He speaks; and,  
listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful,  
broken hearts rejoice;  
the humble poor believe.

See all your sins on Jesus laid:  
the Lamb of God was slain;  
his soul was once  
an offering made  
that all may heaven gain.

In Christ, our Head, you then  
shall know,  
shall feel, your sins forgiven,  
anticipate your heaven below,  
and own that love is heaven.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

# Second Story

'A Heart Strangely Warmed'

John Wesley's story continues in Oxford with 'The Holy Club' and then the lessons of the Moravians on the stormy seas.

Watch here: <https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/aldersgate-sunday/>

A text version is also available.



## The Covenant Prayer

**This prayer has been the prayer of Methodists since John Wesley himself.**

**Take time to reflect on this beautiful version in song:**

[https://youtu.be/F3\\_TjhpK50Y](https://youtu.be/F3_TjhpK50Y)

I am no longer my own but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing,  
put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you,  
or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you,  
or brought low for you;  
let me be full,  
let me be empty,  
let me have all things,  
let me have nothing:  
I freely and wholeheartedly  
yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious  
and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
And the covenant  
now made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.



## Third Story

'The World is my Parish'

John Wesley's story continues in Oxford with 'The Holy Club' and then the lessons of the Moravians on the stormy seas.

Watch here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/aldersgate-sunday/>

A text version is also available.

## Hymn

**Chosen by Adam - 'This hymn affirms my calling to the ministry. Reminds me and encourages me to be keep fervent in prayer especially these difficult times'**

**Singing the Faith 658**

<https://youtu.be/8w-m4JlKjy4>

A charge to keep I have:  
a God to glorify;  
a never-dying soul to save,  
and fit it for the sky;

To serve the present age,  
my calling to fulfil;  
O may it all my powers engage  
to do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,  
as in your sight to live;  
and O your servant, Lord, prepare  
a strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,  
and on yourself rely,  
so shall I not my trust betray,  
nor love within me die.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

## Prayer

Almighty God, in a time of great need you raised up your servants John and Charles Wesley, and by your Spirit inspired them to kindle a flame of sacred love which leaped and ran, an inextinguishable blaze.

Grant that all those whose hearts have been warmed at these altar fires, being continually refreshed by your grace, may be so devoted to the increase of scriptural holiness throughout the land that in this our time of great need, your will may fully and effectively be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fred D. Gealy, UMC

## The Lord's Prayer

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 Barbara - 'this was very special to me when I was a teenager and finding faith for myself rather than inheriting it from my mother and through having been brought up from childhood in the Methodist Church. This hymn helped me realise that Jesus loved and died for me personally. It remains a special hymn which reminds me of the mystery and wonder of God becoming human in Jesus.'

## Singing the Faith 345

<https://youtu.be/sQeIGbKqiw8>

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in  
the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me,  
who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die  
for me?

'Tis mystery all:  
the Immortal dies!  
Who can explore  
his strange design?  
In vain the first-born  
seraph tries  
to sound the  
depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above  
so free, so infinite his grace –  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's  
helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
fast bound in sin  
and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused  
a quickening ray –  
I woke, the dungeon  
flamed with light,  
my chains fell off,  
my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth,  
and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in  
righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the  
eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through  
Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

# Blessing

Do all the good you can, by all the  
means you can, in all the ways you  
can, in all the places you can, at  
all the times you can, to all the  
people you can, as long as ever you  
can.

John Wesley



# Collection

If you have enjoyed this service  
please consider giving a small  
amount to support the work of the  
church. Thank you.

[https://  
www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk  
/donate](https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/donate)

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone involved in  
putting this service together.  
Photo credit: John Logan and Andrew  
Logan.