

AM I INVITED?

11th October 2020

Hounslow **Methodist** Church 



Come to the living God who invites us today to live with
love in our hearts, walk in peace alongside each other and
run with joy.

Come to Him today for you are invited and I am invited, we
are all invited.

VAGABONDS

Mark Edwards | Phil Baggaley | Stuart Townend © 2011 Thankyou Music (Admin.
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PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

For eternal hope that comes from you, almighty God,
we give you thanks and praise.
For your gentleness and compassion...
we give you thanks and praise.

For your peace within...
we give you thanks and praise.

For your light in the darkness...
we give you thanks and praise.

For hope when all seems hopeless...
we give you thanks and praise.

For love beyond measure...
we give you thanks and praise.
Amen.





A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, so often we give up if something goes wrong
or doesn't go our way.

So often we are overwhelmed by our own problems that
we forget to look out for others.

So often we are consumed with negatives and endings that
we lose sight of the positives and beginnings.

Eternal God, forgive us for our self-centredness, our
blindness and our deafness, and reawaken your Spirit
within us.

Amen.

READING PSALM 23

*ascribed to the Japanese poet Toki Miyashina
(Original source unknown)*

The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.
he makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness
which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency,
through calmness of mind,
and his guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to
accomplish this day,
I will not fret,
for his presence is here.

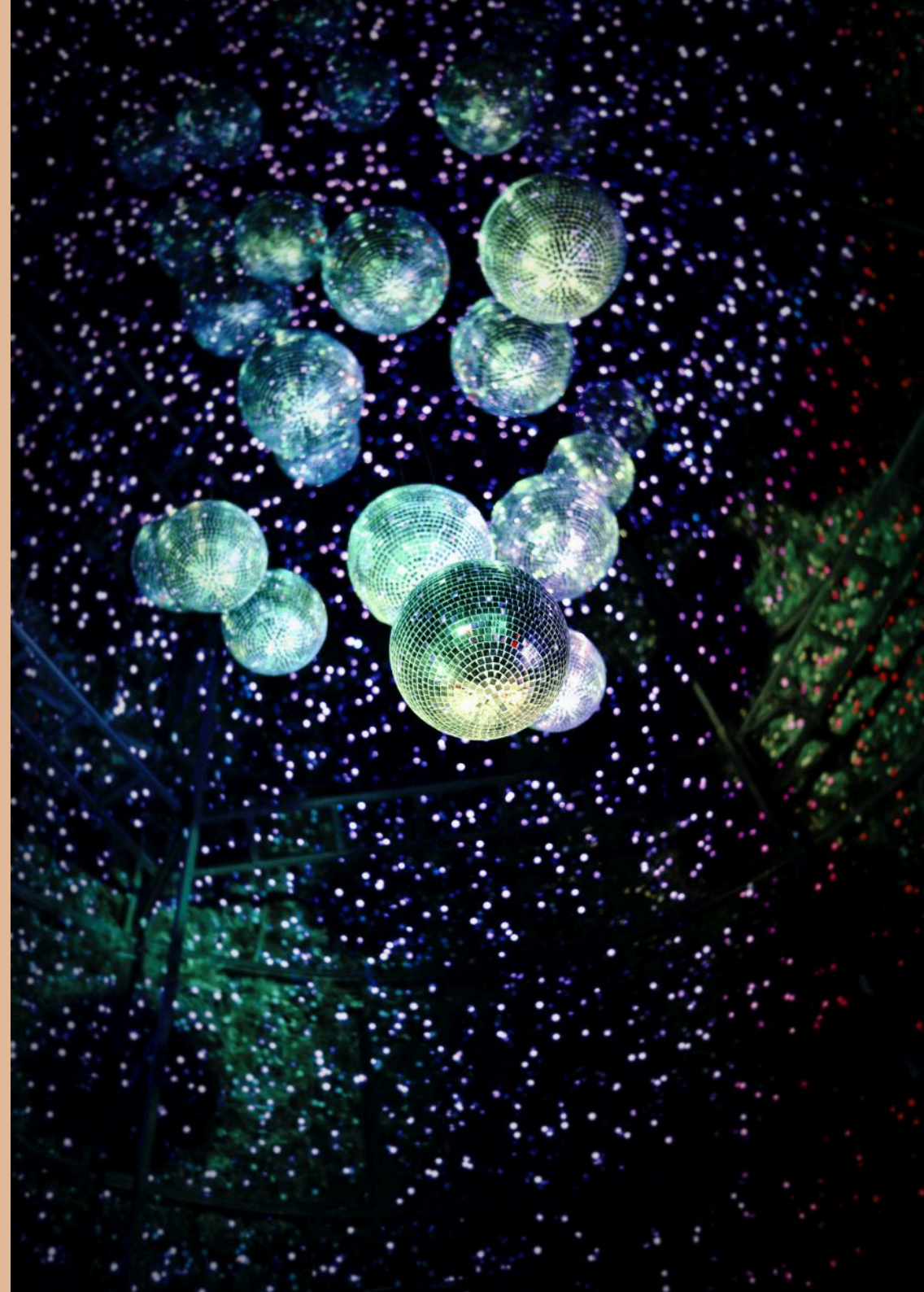
His timelessness,
His all-importance,
Will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal
in the midst of my activity
by anointing my head with the oil of tranquillity.

My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall
be the fruits of my hours,
for I shall walk in the place of my Lord,
and dwell in His house forever.

READING: MATTHEW 22.1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to





his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

ADDRESS

Rajie's sermon will be available on the website shortly after the morning service. A text version is also available on an additional sheet.

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/are-you-invited>

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, you are the giver of all good things, you give us an open invitation to share in your goodness, all are welcome. We humbly come before you with our requests for the world, our church, our families and ourselves.

Heavenly Father, we seek your help for our world. A place where justice, fairness and love has diminished. We have wandered from your precepts, merciful God, we come to you relying on your goodness. Knowing that you love justice and will not forsake your faithful ones.

Help us Lord to return to you, we accept your invitation. We pray for all leaders and those in authority who impact the lives of many. Give them wisdom, honesty, open their eyes to the needs of all, not just the few. Help them to realise, the gift you have given them and the lives entrusted to their keeping. Give them a heart to love as you love.

Loving God, whose invitation
and mercy stretches out to all
Receive our prayers

Heavenly Father, we pray for the sick, lonely, homeless, hungry, abused, the unemployed. Those troubled with mental illness. Lord, our times have seen some unprecedented challenges, we lift all these worries to you, our healer and provider. We particularly, pray for an end to this COVID19 pandemic, help us to find a vaccine. Bring healing to those who are ill and comfort those who mourn.

Give us strength to persevere and so share in your heavenly banquet.

May the hope in us, lift our hearts and keep our eyes focused on you. Inspire us to stretch out a hand of invitation, offering service, time, gifts of listening or money or whatever we have to share. Make us your arms, hands and feet.





Loving God, whose invitation
and mercy stretches out to all
Receive our prayers

Heavenly Father, we pray for all churches in the world, our own church, and our Circuit of churches, that through them your word will be proclaimed. We pray for ministers, preachers, leaders and all who give their time in bringing your word to others.

We thank you for this technological age and for those who have made it possible, that people everywhere can hear your word and know of you. Many have found comfort in this means of worship. Thank you for the churches that have re-opened and we pray for those who have not yet been able to return there. May your presence be with us all.

Loving God, whose invitation
and mercy stretches out to all
Receive our prayers

Heavenly Father, we bring our own concerns for our families, friends and ourselves. Lord, you have taught us, "Ask and it shall be given you, knock and it shall be opened onto you"

You are our mediator, we lift our heartfelt prayers to you. You are a faithful God on whom we can depend. You know our innermost needs and desires, even before we ask. Grant, we pray, that you will meet us in our time of need, knowing that we will receive what is best for us.

Loving God, whose invitation
and mercy stretches out to all
Receive our prayers

You are the spring of living water, help us Lord, to accept your invitation, your arms are open wide to welcome us in.

We bring these prayers to you, trusting in your mercies and promises. Restore us we pray, help us to accept your invitation to come in and share of your goodness with thankful hearts. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

May we all join in the Lord's prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

CCLI Song # 1585970
Stuart Townend

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BLESSING

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all,
evermore. Amen.

