

# **Worship & Devotions**

## **JOHN & CHARLES WESLEY METHODIST HERITAGE TOUR OF ENGLAND, WALES & SCOTLAND**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Christian Heritage Tour of Methodism in Great Britain is a pilgrimage of faith for us. Not only are we going to learn about the Church and Christian life in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, we are going to study it in such a way that it informs and influences our own Christian faith today. A primary goal for our tour is to experience God in a new way and to in our discipleship of Jesus. Thus, devotions and worship will be an important part of our trip.

We will be traveling to sites and buildings where significant Christian history took place. These “Ebenezers” (1 Samuel 7:12) will witness to our faith today, as they testify to us of the mighty things that God has done for His people throughout history.

Although the locations and stones themselves may be silent, voices can still be heard among them. There are voices of people today: tourists like ourselves, locals who live out their lives in these contexts, and faithful Christians from all walks who continue to live a life of faith and worship, testifying and witnessing to the inspirational stories of the Ebenezers we see. As a pilgrim, I urge you to let your lives be intersected and impacted by these voices of today.

These holy places also echo with the voices of the past. These are voices of the faithful (and sometimes not so faithful!) for hundreds of years. They testify to God’s greatness and His mighty power as witnessed in their lives. These echos inform and witness to our lives and faiths as we walk the pilgrim’s journey now.

Most importantly, we seek to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as we travel. Therefore, I’m offering daily devotions for each morning and evening on our trip. The main source of our devotions will be John Wesley’s “A Collection of Forms of Prayer for Every Day of the Week” which he wrote in 1733 to help the Methodists grow in key spiritual disciplines. As Wesley’s original wording is rather difficult for us to follow, I’m drawing on David deSilva’s rework of these prayers. David was one of my professors in seminary, and I have used his prayer book often over the years. It is now out of print, but I am importing the text into the our devotions below.

John Wesley expected all those who became Methodists to engage in daily prayer: “We have need daily to retire from the world, at least morning and evening, to converse with God.”

In addition, I have added a few “Devotional Supplements” to help offer some context for certain significant heritage sites we will visit. I hope that they will enhance your reflections on the days that you experience those sites.

At significant sites during the tour, we will gather for a time of group worship. Sometimes we will join in local Christian worship services. Other times we will join together as a group in private worship. Included are worship outlines and resources we will use.

I recommend downloading this document onto your device so you can access it along the tour. I invite you to make the whole trip an extended worship experience!

Be listening for God’s voice all along the way - in our devotions, in one another, in the people we meet, in the whispers of testimony of the past, and directly into your heart. God speaks!

May God bless you richly and draw you closer to Him during this tour!

Pastor David

## FOR OCCASIONAL USE DURING THE TOUR:

### MORNING SONG: "THIS IS THE DAY!"

Note: David & Reese remember singing this song often at Stanwood British Methodist Church, Sheffield, during their year living in England. Iris Jones played the song happily *on the organ*, and everyone clapped and as they smiled at each other sharing the joy!

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

Lead: ...That the Lord has made!

**Response: ...That the Lord has made!**

Lead: We will rejoice...

**Response: We will rejoice...**

Lead: ...And be glad in it!

**Response: ...And be glad in it!**

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

**All: ...That the Lord has made!**

### THE "WESLEY TABLE GRACE":

(Written by John Cennick in 1741, applied to a tea set by Josiah Wedgwood and presented to John Wesley in 1761) (Can be sung to the tune *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)

**Be present at our table, Lord;**

**Be here and everywhere adored;**

**Thy creatures bless, and grant that we**

**May feast in paradise with Thee.**

**We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,**

**For life and health and every good;**

**By Thine own hand may we be fed;**

**Give us each day our daily bread.**

**We thank Thee, Lord, for this our good,**

**But more because of Jesus' blood;**

**Let manna to our souls be giv'n,**

**The Bread of Life sent down from Heav'n. [Amen.]**

**"THE GRACE"** (2 Cor. 13:14) British Methodists often bless one another by saying this together.

**"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen."**

**"DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN"** -Attributed to John Wesley (but not appearing in his writings!)

**"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."**

# TUESDAY, MARCH 18

## FLIGHT FROM MINNEAPOLIS

### I. FIRST DEVOTIONS *(At the Airport: Afternoon.)*

GATHERING IN WORSHIP *(The group is to divide itself into two halves.)*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

Leader: In the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: We gather at the beginning of our trip to dedicate ourselves and our adventure to God. The ancient Israelites used to sing and pray the “Psalms of Ascents” (Psalms 120-133) as they traveled to Jerusalem to gather in worship together. We begin our spiritual journey by joining in the ancient prayer of ascent of Psalm 121.

**One Half: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?**

**Other Half: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

**One Half: He will not let your foot slip—He who watches over you will not slumber;**

**Other Half: Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**One Half: The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;**

**Other Half: The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**

**One Half: The Lord will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life;**

**Other Half: The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

### INTRODUCTIONS, SHARING AND EXPECTATIONS

Rev. Dr. David & Reese Werner, Rochester, MN

Tom & Pat Johnson, Duluth, MN

Chris & Rebekah Jorritsma, Bismarck, ND (Daughter of David & Reese)

Bev Morgan, Rochester, MN

Susan Perkey, Cottage Grove, MN (Sister of Cheryl Root)

Cheryl Root, Rochester, MN

Rev. Joel Certa-Werner, Elk Mound, WI (brother of David & father of Thanael)

James & Catherine Kelly, Eden Prairie, MN (Parents of Alicia Motszko)

Alicia Motszko, Elk Mound, WI (daughter of James & Catherine)

Pastor Wendy Slaback, Menomonie, WI

Rev. Thanael Certa-Werner, Burke, SD (Son of Joel, nephew of David & Reese)

Janice Christensen, Iona, SD

Donald & Barbra Fenenga, Gregory, SD

Deb Leibel, Burke, SD

Dennis & Linda Purvis, Burke, SD

Frederick Schwartz & Marty Watson, St. Paul, MN

Beverly Vaughn, Burke, SD

### PRAYERS:

L: Let us pray.

**All: O risen Jesus, today we embark on one of the grandest adventures in our lives. We go to see your people in distant lands. We pray for safe travel, a smooth itinerary and a wonderful time. We ask that this may be an experience of education as well as of spiritual heritage. Help us as we live closely with each other, granting us patience and understanding with our fellow travelers. During our next two weeks together, grant that we might grow closer to each other and closer to You. This we pray in the Name of the One who taught us to pray together, saying,**

**“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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

**CLOSING:**

Leader: We bless one another with the traditional Irish travel blessing.

**One Half: May the road rise to meet you,**

*Other Half: May the wind be always at your back,*

**One Half: May the sun shine warm upon your face,**

*Other Half: May the rains fall soft upon your head,*

**One Half: And during our trip together,**

*Other Half: May God hold us in the palm of His hand.*

**All: Amen.**

**II. TUES., MARCH 18 EVENING DEVOTIONS** *(On your own while on the plane.)*

**Opening Prayer:** Lift up each of the other tour members by name to God:

Rev. Dr. David & Reese Werner, Rochester, MN

Tom & Pat Johnson, Duluth, MN

Chris & Rebekah Jorritsma, Bismarck, ND (Daughter of David & Reese)

Bev Morgan, Rochester, MN

Susan Perkey, Cottage Grove, MN (Sister of Cheryl Root)

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Frederick Schwartz & Marty Watson, St. Paul, MN

Beverly Vaughn, Burke, SD

Ask for a safe journey as God gathers us together today from all our various homes.

**Scripture:** Read through twice, slowly, listening to what the Holy Spirit brings to mind as you do.  
Romans 8:28-39

28And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Record Your Reflections:**

### **Closing Prayer for Evening Devotions**

Thank God for the day. Thank God for technology and craftsmanship that have made this flight even possible. Thank God for your travel/roommate. Ask God to hold the airplane, the crew and the weather in order to grant a safe flight as we fly the thousands of miles over land and sea. Ask God’s blessings on the loved ones you leave behind in the U.S.A. Ask God to grant you rest—even in the seat you are sitting in!

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

### OXFORD, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

#### **I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On the plane, before arrival.)*

##### **A. Opening prayer:** Thank God for brining us all safely this far.

Thank God for the new day. Pray for stamina and to remain alert until bedtime!

Invite God to grab your attention with something new today.

##### **B. *Praying with John Wesley*** by David A. deSilva (Discipleship Resources: Nashville, 2001.)

During our tour, each day morning and evening, we will be praying from John Wesley's "A Collection of Forms of Prayer for Every Day of the Week," as reworked by David A. deSilva.

#### **Introduction**

In 1733 John Wesley compiled "A Collection of Forms of Prayer for Every Day of the Week" for his own use and for others who sought a spiritual discipline by which to grow in virtue, in service, and into the image of Christ. This cycle of prayers captures much that would come to characterize the distinctive contribution of Methodists to the universal church. Here we find the commitment to daily improvement in particular Christian virtues, the exercises in accountability (if only to oneself before God), and the implicit articulation of Wesley's vision for going on toward perfection in love for God and neighbor.

Wesley's forms for daily prayer seek to nurture six virtues that he considered indispensable for Christian discipleship. These are love for God, love for neighbor, humility, mortification, resignation, and gratitude. Morning and evening prayers provide a means for growth in each virtue. The morning devotion introduces the participant to the virtue that is to be the focus for that day. The evening devotion begins with a period of self-examination in which the participant reflects on the extent to which he or she has grown in that virtue during the day. The evening prayer provides an opportunity to ask again for God's help in making the day's virtue one's own. Each of the virtues Wesley selected for special emphasis is one that lies near the heart of Christian spirituality, attested by the recurrence of each virtue across centuries of devotional literature and across all denominational lines.

The goal of this book is to make Wesley's model for daily prayer accessible to Christians seeking to grow toward maturity in their faith and walk. As a devotional tool, it will encourage regular times of prayer and reflection that will cultivate core Christian values. Wesley was a realistic man who understood that Christians were called to serve God in any and every vocation, in the midst of the business of daily life. This model seeks to prepare Christians to use daily activities for spiritual growth and for advancing God's purposes.

#### **How to Use These Exercises**

The prayers are arranged in a one-week cycle. Each morning's devotion begins with a brief self-examination designed to prepare one for a God-centered day, followed by a Scripture reading, a short time of spiritual reflection, and a prayer that focuses on the day's virtue. The morning devotional time closes with a period of intercessory prayer on behalf of the church, the world, and those in any kind of need. The evening devotions begin with an extended period of self-examination. You will find general questions to be asked daily and particular questions related to the virtue

highlighted that day. These are followed by a reading from Scripture, a brief spiritual reflection, the evening prayer, and the Lord's Prayer. The writing and singing of hymns was a vital part of the early Methodist movement, so I would encourage you to use the hymns suggested to close each evening's prayer. The devotions are designed to be meaningfully completed within half an hour.

Each section begins with an introduction to the virtue to be pursued that day. This introduction attempts to describe the virtue and its biblical foundations. You may use the introduction as a devotional reading at the start of the morning prayer time; or you may choose to read all the introductions before starting the cycle, in order to gain a broad picture of the virtues. I urge you to read the Scripture references given in the introductions to tie the virtues more closely with the nurturing word of God.

The prayers cannot have their intended effect in one cycle. The first time through the cycle, you will be exposed to these virtues, learn about them, wrestle with their meaning and value. Only with repetition will the discipline bear significant fruit. Wesley gave no explicit directions for the use of his model for daily prayer, but the most reasonable assumption is that the model was meant for use indefinitely—until the virtues are perfected and become second nature. I would recommend using them for some extended period of spiritual discipline (for example, during Advent or Lent, which are traditional seasons for pursuing spiritual growth more fervently). However, any cluster of weeks you choose will work well. You will probably use my introductions only during your first time through, at most the second. Thereafter it will be sufficient to use the prayers and other devotional aids without preamble.

Commitment to doing acts of charity has been a distinctive part of Methodist spiritual growth from its very beginnings. Wesley could not imagine a life of prayer that was not also a life of service filled with acts of compassion and justice. The General Rules of The United Methodist Church articulate a value system that extends back to the earliest activities of John and Charles Wesley and the group forming around them. This involved doing no harm, doing good as far as one had power, and attending to all the means of grace (Holy Communion, fasting, prayer, worship, Scripture study, Christian conferencing). Ministering to the needs of people's bodies as well as leading them into discipleship stood at the heart of Wesley's reform movement. Visits to the homeless shelter, the prison, and the orphanage characterize the early Methodist movement. Progress in the virtues held up by Wesley in these prayers will be proportional to one's engagement in these acts of mercy and witness. After one cycle through the prayers, you may be led to replace some evening entertainment with visiting a nursing home or soup kitchen, replace some Saturday morning shopping or fishing excursion with visiting the sick or imprisoned, or develop a mentoring relationship with an adolescent.

If you are anything like me, when you ponder the questions for self-examination and the descriptions of the virtues, you will find the distance between yourself and the ideal rather wide. Please do not let this discourage you. Let it spur you on to progress, and be content that progress toward the goal, not arrival, pleases our patient God.

### **The Revisions of Wesley's Texts**

Wesley exerted himself to provide the "serious Christian," as he put it, with devotional aids that assist in growth toward Christian maturity. He sought to lead the participant into habits of prayer and intercession and to infuse the mind with Scripture by weaving scriptural images into the prayers at every turn. These references are noted at the beginning of each prayer, and you are encouraged to use these Scriptures for personal study and reflection before or after praying the prayer.

It is in the spirit of Wesley, rather than in devotion to the words of Wesley, that this book is undertaken. The prayers in this book are based on the prayers of John Wesley. While the underlying

premise of each prayer is directly related to Wesley's prayer for each day, most of the words of the prayer are not direct quotations. In some prayers, I have modernized and condensed Wesley's words; in other places, I have expressed the ideas in the prayers in new words. In all of the prayers, I have tried to remain faithful to Wesley's intent and emphasis.

The original morning and evening prayers all closed with a paragraph of intercessions. Rather than reproduce this paragraph, I close the morning prayers with an invitation to the reader to offer up his or her own petitions, following a list of suggested topics. In this way, this book may also help the user become more comfortable with extemporaneous intercession and may confirm him or her in a regular practice of the same, such as we are enjoined to do throughout the New Testament (Ephesians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:16; Philemon 4-6; James 5:13-18).

To complete the transformation of Wesley's prayers into a model for devotions, I have suggested short Scripture readings before morning and evening prayers, provided prompts for reflection and prayer to begin each prayer, and selected a hymn from *The United Methodist Hymnal* (chosen to reinforce as much as possible the day's virtue and echo themes from the evening prayer) to close the evening devotions.

### **Wednesday: Mortification (1)**

#### **Introduction**

When Wesley talks of mortification, he is not talking about shame and humiliation, which is the more common use of the word in today's language. Rather, he is referring to disciplining ourselves by self-denial. The concept of mortification does not sit comfortably with those of us brought up in a culture of gratification and indulgence. The Greek and Roman ethical philosophers understood that a life of virtue was jeopardized at every turn by the passions: our desires for pleasure and aversions to unpleasant sensations, the emotions that often drive us to dishonorable actions or inaction, as well as the cravings both for material and immaterial goods. A major thrust of ethical philosophy was the mastery of these passions that threatened virtue. This could be pursued through abstaining from pleasurable activities, even engaging in unpleasant ones just to strengthen the will against the power of these passions, and seeking what was sufficient for natural needs without being extravagant or indulgent.

Jesus also understood that our slavery to self-indulgence of every kind stood at the root of our spiritual and moral weakness, but he pressed this even deeper than the philosophers did. When Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and lose our lives for his sake, he shows us that it is our commitment to live for ourselves and our own pleasures that has cut us off from God and the proper service due God. The remedy, therefore, must be to renounce ourselves and renounce our commitment to please ourselves.

It was with a view to the mastery of the passions of self-indulgence that the church took up the practice of fasting, of prayer vigils long into the night, and even of self-imposed discomfort. Such practices were used and commended by Jesus himself (Matthew 4:2; 6:16-17; Luke 6:12). The goal of such exercises was to weaken the tyranny of the body's desires and aversions, to prepare oneself through small deprivations for victory when tempted in more serious ways.

Every denial of a desire that springs from our human nature (whether a desire to express impatience, to seek revenge, to indulge a lustful eye, to eat too much, or to satisfy one's pride through extravagance in clothing or other purchases) is a step toward freedom for unhindered service to God. Wesley gives us two days each week, Wednesday and Friday (the traditional fasting days in the Anglican Church), to grow in this area. He invites us to find ways, both small and great, to put to death our self-will, our responsiveness to our body's cravings, our servitude to "the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches" (1 John 2:16). The goal is that, by self-denial, we



will place ourselves ever more at the disposal of God and less at the disposal of the whims and urges of our indulgent natures.

## **Morning Devotions: Mortification (1)**

### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Colossians 3:1-10. [NRSV]

1 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, 3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.[b] 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. 8 But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

2. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the day, and for the Spirit's aid in resisting and disciplining your urges for self-indulgence.

### **Morning Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Mark 10:45; John 5:30; 6:38; Romans 15:3

Lord Jesus—my way, my truth, and my life—you have said that I can follow you only by denying myself. You have diagnosed my disease; namely, self-love, a self-serving heart, and slavery to my own ambitions, desires, and emotions. This has been my idolatry: to serve myself as my god, to please myself, to do my own will.

Your own example is my cure. Although you made all things for your pleasure, you did not please yourself but made yourself a servant of all. You allowed yourself to be insulted, ridiculed, and nailed to a cross for me. How can I hesitate to renounce myself for you? Let me not presume to set myself above my master, to do not my will but the will of God. I am too much addicted to preserving physical comfort, to indulging myself, to insulating myself from any unpleasantness. Free me from this addiction so that I can serve you with my whole being, and not merely give you what is left over after I have served my ease and excess. Give me the grace to walk in your steps and to take up my cross daily.

Help me this day to set aside any pleasure or desire that does not have you as its ultimate goal. Let me abstain from any pleasure that will not pre- pare me better to take pleasure in you. Keep me from being distracted by the pleasures that the world entices me to pursue, which would only

entangle me and keep me from drawing closer to you. Cause me to be aware of where my senses, appetites, and emotions would carry me, and let me resist every movement that will not honor you or advance your good in this world. Let me have a small victory over these impulses today, that I may hope for a greater victory tomorrow. Strengthen me to practice fasting, prayer vigils, and other spiritual disciplines. Let me accustom myself to small deprivations, so that no deprivation will ever cause me to be disloyal or disobedient to you.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the conversion of the self-centered and of those who live by violence;
- God's leading of this nation and its leaders into the paths of justice and peace;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

**Conclude** by asking God for a successful landing and smooth transition to the bus/coach.

## **II. BUS DEVOTIONS:** *(On the bus, as we begin our journey.)*

### **A. Morning Song: “This Is the Day!”**

Note: David & Reese remember singing this song often at Stanwood British Methodist Church, Sheffield, during their year living in England. Iris Jones played the song happily *on the organ*, and everyone clapped and as they smiled at each other sharing the joy!

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

Lead: ...That the Lord has made!

**Response: ...That the Lord has made!**

Lead: We will rejoice...

**Response: We will rejoice...**

Lead: ...And be glad in it!

**Response: ...And be glad in it!**

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

**All: ...That the Lord has made!**

### **B. Blessing of Pilgrims:** Blessing of our trip as a pilgrimage *(A handout will be provided.)*

## **III. PRAYER TIME AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

### **Blessing of the Cathedral** (We will use as a group at each religious site on our tour.)

Leader: Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

Reader: In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

**People: We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.**

#### IV. CHRIST CHURCH MEAL GRACE FOR THE GREAT HALL

**Introduction:** This grace has been prayed before meals in the Great Hall for centuries. Pray it through, hearing the words silently echo as you eyes feast on this impressive building.

**Meal Grace:** “We unhappy and unworthy men do give thee most reverent thanks, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for the victuals which thou hast bestowed on us for the sustenance of the body, at the same time beseeching thee that we may use them soberly, modestly and gratefully.

“And above all we beseech thee to impart to us the food of angels, the true bread of heaven, the eternal Word of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, so that the mind of each of us may feed on Him and that through His flesh and blood we may be sustained, nourished and strengthened. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

#### V. DEVOTIONS AT THE WESLEY STUDY AT LINCOLN COLLEGE

**A. Introduction:** The Wesley Study is too small for our whole group to tour at once. Therefore we will break into two groups. As one group tours the Wesley Study, the waiting group is invited to celebrate “The Wesley Community Daily Office” (the daily prayer service, written by John Wesley for occasional use.) *A handout will be provided.*

##### B. Devotional Supplement for Wesley’s Room at Lincoln College

Oxford is the fourth great sight in Wesley’s Britain. The other three are London, Epworth and Bristol. Both John and Charles attended college here, and it is from Oxford that Wesley received his M.A. degree. John was also a fellow of Lincoln College until he revoked this honor by getting married. There was also a Methodist Society in Oxford, although it was not connected to the university. Regrettably the Methodist influence in the university dwindled after Wesley traveled to America.

John entered Christ Church College in 1720 at the age of 17. In 1724 he earns his B.A degree and enters the Masters Degree program. In 1725, while pursuing this degree, Wesley commits to a rigorous, strictly-disciplined Christian life. This has been called his “Oxford Conversion.” That same year he is ordained deacon in the Church of England. In 1726, Wesley is elected a Fellow of Lincoln College with tutoring and teaching duties. In 1727 he earned his M.A. Degree at Lincoln. That same year he took a leave of absence from Lincoln to help his ailing father by being his curate at Wroot. Also in 1727, Charles enters Christ Church college.

While at Oxford, Charles began the Holy Club to pursue Scriptural Holiness. He and a few friends met regularly to study, pray and read the Scriptures. In 1728 John was ordained full Anglican priest. As a Fellow of Lincoln, John’s ordination was unique. He was not assigned to a local church but rather to duties at Lincoln. It did grant him the privilege, however, of having the authority to preach in any parish of the Church of England. Later John used this special authority time and time again to gain access to pulpits all across Britain. Wesley was recalled to Oxford in 1729 to teach Greek and tutor in Logic. Upon his return, John quite naturally assumed leadership of the Holy Club.

John and Charles continued their studies and duties at Oxford for another five years. In 1735 Charles is ordained an Anglican priest and both he and John set sail for America. John never returned to Oxford full time, although he returned from time to time to preach and keep up his other duties as a Fellow. Wesley records that “On Friday, August 24, 1744,”

“St. Bartholomew's day, I preached for the last time before the University of Oxford. I am now clear of the blood of these men: I have fully delivered my own soul. And I am well pleased that it should be the very day on which, in the last century, near two thousand burning and shining lights were put out at one stroke. Yet what a wide difference is there between their case and mine! They were turned out of house and home, and all that they had; whereas I am only hindered from preaching, without any other loss; and that in a kind of honourable manner; it being determined, that, when my next turn to preach came, they would pay another person to preach for me. And so they did twice or thrice, even to the time that I resigned my fellowship.”

Wesley did finally resign his fellowship upon his marriage to the widow Mary “Molly” Vazille in 1751 at the age of 48. From that time on, Wesley’s only connection to Oxford was to the Methodist Society here.

## **VI. BLESSING OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**

**Leader:** Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

**Reader:** In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

**People:** **We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.**

## **VII. MEAL GRACE FOR DINNER CRUISE ON COUNTESS OF EVESHAM**

### **Christ Church Meal Grace for the Great Hall:**

“We unhappy and unworthy men do give thee most reverent thanks, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for the victuals which thou hast bestowed on us for the sustenance of the body, at the same time beseeching thee that we may use them soberly, modestly and gratefully.

“And above all we beseech thee to impart to us the food of angels, the true bread of heaven, the eternal Word of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, so that the mind of each of us may feed on Him and that through His flesh and blood we may be sustained, nourished and strengthened. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

## **VIII. END OF DAY GRACE**

Before we retire, we say together “The Grace” used among British Methodists (2 Cor. 13:14):

**All: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

## **IX. EVENING DEVOTIONS** (*On your own before bed.*)

### ***Praying with John Wesley Wednesday Evening: Mortification (1)***

#### **Self-Examination**

##### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

##### *Questions Focusing on Mortification*

1. How have I sought to use this day to master the passions and ambitions of my human nature?
2. Have I done anything today simply for selfish pleasure?
3. Have I made up excuses to avoid opportunities for self-denial?
4. Have I been moved to some unholy thought, word, or act today by my desires or emotions?
5. Have I not only refused to indulge what my passions urged me to do, but done the contrary as a means of self-denial?
6. Have I embraced unavoidable inconveniences as opportunities provided by God for self-discipline?
7. Have I insisted on having my own way in insignificant matters?

#### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Galatians 5:13-25. [NRSV]

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

2. Contemplate the love of Jesus shown at Calvary. Renounce whatever in your life hinders you from returning God's love in full measure.

## Evening Prayer

*Scripture References:* Psalm 16:11; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Philippians 3:10-11

My Lord and God, I know that I cannot share in your resurrection without also sharing in your death. Strengthen me to take up my cross and deny myself daily, that I may crucify the drives within me that lure me away from loving you and loving my neighbor as I ought. Silence the voices within me calling me to self-indulgence, to self-service, and to self-advancement, and let me hear only the voice of your Spirit leading me into the ways of love, peace, and obedience.

Let me be dead to sin. Having died with you on the cross, help me not to indulge any sinful fantasies, not to utter words that do not serve your holy ends, not to do acts of which I shall only be ashamed later. Let me be dead to the world. I am told on every side to indulge some pleasure, to acquire some unnecessary toy, to feed my pride by improving my public image. With your help and guidance, Lord, these voices shall not be my master, but I will live in simplicity, free from all worldly encumbrances. Let me be dead to pleasure, when that pleasure does not draw me closer to the pleasures that are in your presence for eternity. Let me be dead to my own willfulness and alive only to your will in all my relationships and undertakings.

I belong to you, Lord Jesus, for you bought me at the price of your own blood. Help me to live the rest of my life in this body for you, and not for my own desires or pleasures. Make me a new creature who does your will.

You are the Great Shepherd of souls. Bring home into your fold all that have gone astray. Grant that I may remember you as I go to sleep, and that I think of you when first I wake. Let me rest under the shadow of your wings this night and rise to serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Take Time to Be Holy" or "Nothing Between" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 395 and 373).

# THURSDAY, MARCH 20

WARWICK, NOTTINGHAM

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Thursday Morning: Resignation and Meekness***

## **A. Introduction**

Paul writes that Jesus "died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them" (2 Corinthians 5:15). This is the heart of the virtue of resignation, living to serve God rather than oneself, seeking what pleases God rather than what pleases self. Self-direction is a powerful hindrance to effective discipleship. No person can serve two masters, and those who aspire to know God deeply and serve God entirely must first renounce their claim to be masters of their own destiny and commit themselves to the one aim of discovering and doing what God requires of them. In whatever context we find ourselves—family, secular employment, ecclesiastical appointment—resignation brings an integrated wholeness to life as we seek to will one thing; namely, what God wills. Resignation also liberates the Christian from anxiety about the results of our endeavors undertaken in God's service, leaving the outcome to God entirely. This virtue provides the remedy for the person who is harassed by stress and anxiety about how his or her projects will develop.

Wesley engenders a high view of divine providence: God's ordering of God's world and its destiny. Such a view of the world can produce inner peace as we enter stressful situations (change of employment, marital therapy, or some daunting endeavor) with greater serenity, trusting that God has ordained an outcome that ultimately will be good. Resignation can thus lead one to a rediscovery of the meaning of the lordship of God. On the other hand, some circumstances do not readily seem to be born of infinite wisdom and goodness. Some, in fact, seem to be the result of a cruel and malicious fate, such as the death of a young child. Wesley does not seek to minimize or trivialize the pain of such experiences; rather, he calls us to wrestle with God in such situations until we either come to a deeper sense of God's love and care or, when God's intent for good remains obscured, rest in the hope of God's ultimate victory over evil (Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 21:1-4).

Meekness or mildness in our relationships with other humans emerges as a part of resignation. In our modern context, where individual rights and assertiveness are primary cultural values, this quality may at first seem suspect. However, our tendency to see other human beings as potential hindrances to the achieving of our objectives undermines the command to love our neighbor as ourself. Wesley would have us regard our encounters with other people—even those who oppose our desires—as encounters chosen and designed for us by God, in God's infinite wisdom and goodness. We are to respond according to God's goodness, rather than the neighbor's contrariness.

## **B. Morning Devotions**

### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how can I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

## Scripture and Reflection

### 1. Read Romans 12:1-2. [NRSV]

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Thank God for the gifts of life, salvation, and all things for which you are thankful.

## Morning Prayer

*Scripture References:* Psalm 40:8; Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 10:7

Faithful God, all that I am and all that I have belongs to you. Let me be so aware of your goodness, love, and favor toward me that I will desire to return to you all possible love and obedience. You have given me so much, my health, strength, food, clothing, and other comforts and necessities of life. May I always praise your holy name and love you above all your gifts.

Please forgive my desire to be master of my own life. As Jesus came to do your will, so I am determined, with your help, to do what you decide for me; to have no more say about my life, but only to serve your pleasure with all my heart. Let me do your will in my every thought, word, and action.

I believe, all-powerful and wise Lord, that you arrange and direct all things—even the small and the unpleasant things—to the increase of your honor and to the good of those who love you. Please teach me to trust your goodness and accept your choices for me. Even when I cannot understand the choices, keep my heart fixed on you. Let me do in everything what pleases you and then, in full surrender to your wisdom, leave the outcome entirely to you.

Jesus, I give you my body, my soul, my property, my reputation, my friends, freedom, my my life. Use me, and all that is mine, as you consider best. I am not mine, but yours. Claim me as your right, keep me as your dependent, love me as your child. Be near to help me, so that whatever I do or suffer today may bring you honor. Keep me constant in my love for you and for other people. Let me not be distracted today by the world's vanities and obsessions, nor pursue any worldly activity except for your sake and as direct me.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the mission and unity of the church and its seminaries;
- those who face persecution for their commitment to Christ;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.



## II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!” *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

Lead: ...That the Lord has made!

**Response: ...That the Lord has made!**

Lead: We will rejoice...

**Response: We will rejoice...**

Lead: ...And be glad in it!

**Response: ...And be glad in it!**

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

**All: ...That the Lord has made!**

## III. GRACE FOR DESSERT AT YE OLDE TRIP TO JERUSALEM PUB

Leader: Centuries ago, crusaders gathered here in God’s name to begin their journey to the Promised Land. Whatever their motive, and whatever their affect, many believed they were doing God’s will. Down through the centuries, travelers have gathered at this pub for nourishment and rest. Today we gather here also on a journey, also seeking nourishment and rest. Let us pray for us, for our dessert, and for this establishment.

**All: God of all lands, you came in Jesus to be with your people. Thank you for all the ways you sustain us. May we discover you on our journey and crusade for justice and righteousness. God of all travelers, bless this place and all who gather here for refreshment. May the Holy Spirit rest on us all. Amen.**

## IV. PRAYER OF BLESSING ON ST. WILFRID’S PARISH CHURCH, SCROOBY

Leader: Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

Reader: In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

**All: We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.**

## V. GRACE FOR DINNER AT THE RED LION PUB, EPWORTH

The “Wesley Table Grace” (Can be sung to the tune *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)

**Be present at our table, Lord;**

**Be here and everywhere adored;**

**Thy creatures bless, and grant that we**

**May feast in paradise with Thee. Amen.**

**VI. “THE GRACE”** (*We bless one another before we retire for the day.*)

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

**VIII. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** (*On your own, before bed.*)

***Praying with John Wesle” Thursday Evening: Resignation and Meekness***

**Self-Examination**

*General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

*Questions Focusing on Resignation and Meekness*

1. How have I sought to use this day to improve in the virtue of resignation and meekness?
2. Have I tried to desire only what God desires?
3. Have I received everything that has happened to me, even what I would not have chosen for myself, with gratitude as the choice of infinite wisdom and goodness?
4. Have I, after doing what God requires me to do, left the outcomes absolutely to God's disposal and discretion?
5. Have I resumed my claim to my body, soul, friends, fame, property, or destiny after giving these things to God? If I have lost any of these as a consequence of obeying God's direction, have I regretted giving them up to God?
6. Have I treated other people with courtesy, honor, and a generous spirit?

**Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read 1 John 2:15-17. [NRSV]

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world, 16 for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God abide forever.

2. Reflect on those parts of your life or those ambitions with which you are most reluctant to part. Speak to God about them and listen for God's call.

**Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Psalm 73:26; 1 Corinthians 6:20

My Lord and my God, you see my heart and know my desires. I regret that I have for so long tried to order my own steps and live my life to please myself. Now I sincerely desire to return to you

and to give myself up entirely to you. I want to be yours, and yours only, forever. Accept my offering of myself, and teach me how to make this gift beautiful and complete in your sight. Let me serve not myself but you all the days of my life.

I give you my mind; let me use it entirely to know you, your virtues, your works, and your will. I give you my will; let me seek not what pleases me, but only what pleases and honors you. Let it give me joy both to do your will and to experience whatever you have ordained for me. Let me love what you love, hate what you hate, and do exactly as you would have me do. I give you my body; let me honor you with it and keep it holy, a dwelling suitable for you, O God. I give you all my possessions; let me value them and use them only for you. Let me faithfully give back to you, through giving to the poor and needy, all that you have entrusted to me. I give you myself and my all; govern and order me and all that is mine. I give my reputation to you; may it be used to advance your honor in the world.

When I am tempted to think again like the world and to adapt to the company and customs that surround me, let me say, "I do not belong to myself; I do not serve myself, nor the world, but my God. I will give to God what belongs to God."

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Take My Life, and Let It Be" or "I Surrender All" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 399 and 354).

# FRIDAY, MARCH 21

EPWORTH, YORK

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

## ***Praying with John Wesley Friday Morning: Mortification (2)***

### **A. Introduction**

Our focus today returns to the virtue of mortification. Friday was the second fast day in the Anglican tradition. Because Friday is associated with the death of Jesus, it is the principal of the two fast days. Therefore, it would be appropriate to combine the day's devotion with fasting of some kind, if this is medically possible for you. Abstinence from food is a readily accessible and time-honored method by which to diminish the power of natural urges and bodily desires. The regular practice of fasting (denying the body this necessary and harmless pleasure) makes denying the sinful urges easier, since we become accustomed and more able by habit to resist self-indulgence.

Fasting is best pursued when coupled with added times of prayer and meditation on Scripture. The discipline is a means by which we affirm the priority of our conversation with God as the source of our nourishment, even as Jesus did in the temptation story (Matthew 4:1-4). If you choose to fast during the daylight hours only, you may wish to spend the breakfast and lunch times in extended prayer and meditation, listening for God's word.

As the day associated with the passion of Jesus, Friday is also especially suited to meditation on Jesus' suffering and death. Seek to spend time today remembering vividly the pains Jesus bore, and take to heart the fact that he bore them for you.

In *The Imitation of Christ*, attributed to the thirteenth-century priest Thomas à Kempis, we find: "Jesus hath many lovers of his heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of his cross. He hath many seekers of comfort, but few of tribulation. He findeth many companions of his table, but few of his fasting. All desire to rejoice with him, few are willing to undergo anything for his sake. Many follow Jesus that they may eat of his loaves, but few that they may drink of the cup of his passion" (Book 2, Chapter 11).

"Christ crucified" was for Paul "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23-25). God longs to teach us the wisdom of the cross. Paul lamented over the many who "live as enemies of the cross of Christ," whose "god is the belly," whose "glory is in their shame," whose "minds are set on earthly things" (Philippians 3:18-19). Wesley invites us to become friendly toward Christ's cross and to let God imprint in our own hearts its pattern of self-renunciation, of obedience to God to the utmost, of detachment from what the world holds dear.

### **B. Morning Devotions**

#### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

## Scripture and Reflection

1. Read Romans 6:1-14 and 8:12-13. [NRSV]

6: “1 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. 13 No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments[c] of righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

8: “12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

2. Identify the drives, emotions, or worldly yearnings that have repeatedly welled up in you and moved you to act in self-indulgent ways. Lay these before God, and ask for the opportunity and aid to gain mastery over them.

## Morning Prayer

*Scripture References:* Matthew 16:25; Hebrews 12:3

Almighty and everlasting God, in your infinite goodness you have brought me safely through the night. Continue to protect me this day and watch over me with the eyes of mercy. Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit, that I may use this day and every day to your glory.

Jesus, Savior, you cast out seven demons from Mary Magdalene; cast out from me all sinful affections. You raised Lazarus from the dead; raise me from being dead in sin. You came to proclaim freedom to the captives; free me from the power my own habits, attachments, aversions, and passions have over me. You cleansed the lepers, healed the sick, and gave sight to the blind; heal the diseases of my soul. Open my eyes and fix them upon you. Cleanse my heart from everything except the desire to advance your honor and do your work.

Release me from my striving to be somebody in the eyes of the worldly minded, and let me be happy to be thought a nobody if this means obeying and following you faithfully. You were poor, without office, without connections; have mercy on me, for I have sought wealth, station, and well-placed friends. You were hated and slandered for proclaiming God's justice and love; have mercy on me, for I have sought security and respect at the expense of following you. You were sold

for an insulting price; give me a share of your patience when others underestimate my worth. You were insulted, mocked, and spat upon; let me have a portion of your endurance when I encounter the hostility of sinners. You were nailed to a cross to redeem even me; let no weakness of my flesh make me fail to show you loyalty and obedience.

Keep ever in my mind and heart the sufferings and humiliation you endured for me, so that I will be bold to follow you. As you emptied yourself for me, let me be completely emptied of myself for your sake, so that I may rejoice to take up my cross daily and follow you.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the calling and equipping of ordained and lay ministers;
- the healing of the nations;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

## **II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

Lead: ...That the Lord has made!

**Response: ...That the Lord has made!**

Lead: We will rejoice...

**Response: We will rejoice...**

Lead: ...And be glad in it!

**Response: ...And be glad in it!**

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Lead: This is the day...

**Response: This is the day...**

**All: ...That the Lord has made!**

## **III. WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW’S PARISH CHURCH** - Rev. Joel Certa-Werner, Officiant

### **Background on Epworth:**

John Wesley was born here in Epworth to Rev. Samuel and Susanna Wesley. He was the 15th of 19 children, one of 9 that survived infancy.

His father, Samuel, was the rector (pastor) of this Church, the Parish Church of St. Andrews. Samuel stressed the importance of a rigid holy life, which was not well received by all the people of this congregation. In fact, he made a number of enemies in this village who often harassed him and, on more than one occasion, set fire to their rectory (the parsonage)! One time, when John was 6, fire was set to the rectory that could not be put out. The house went up in flames while the family was removed to safety. Jackie (what John was called as a child) had been overlooked in the frenzy, and woke to a room of flames. He rushed to the window and called out for help. Samuel saw him calling from the second story window and thought him doomed. He fell on his knees and began praying to God. Two of the men around formed a human ladder (one standing on the other's shoulder) and pulled Jackie out of the room just as the blazing thatch roof collapsed. As a result his mother recognized that he had been miraculously saved for a special purpose, that he had been marked out by God and was “a brand, plucked from the burning!” (Zechariah 3:2, “Is not this man a brand plucked out of the burning?”).

Yet Samuel and Susanna were not easily routed. They continued their ministry, and a new rectory was built on the site of the old one. This one did not have a thatched roof! This is the rectory still standing today.

When Samuel died, Susanna moved to London to live near John. Yet John continued to return to Epworth to preach the Gospel here. He stayed in the Red Lion Pub, still standing in town, and is reputed to have used Room #6. In 1742, John had returned to Epworth to preach to the people there. The new vicar did not agree with Wesley's "fanatical" views and would not allow him to preach in the church. Wesley, undaunted, proclaimed that he knew of a spot from which he could not be removed. He then climbed onto the tomb of his father, which was next to the church, and preached from this make-shift "pulpit." He could not be removed, for that plot was "Wesley" land! A large crowd gathered to listen to him for a series of sermons.

Not all the people of this church were so unwelcoming to Samuel, Susanna and John Wesley. God's presence was strong here, and it continues to be!

**Worship Service:** *An Order of Worship will be handed out.*

#### **IV. BLESSING ON THE BRITISH METHODIST CHURCH OF EPWORTH**

Leader: Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

Reader: In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

**All: We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.**

#### **V. WORSHIP AT YORK MINSTER**

*We will attend Choral Evensong at York Minster.*

#### **VI. "THE GRACE"** *(We bless one another before we retire for the day.)*

**"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen."**

## VII. GRACE FOR DINNER AT WALWORTH CASTLE

The “Wesley Table Grace” (Can be sung to the tune *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)

<b>Be present at our table, Lord;</b>	<b>Be here and everywhere adored;</b>
<b>Thy creatures bless, and grant that we</b>	<b>May feast in paradise with Thee. Amen.</b>

## VIII. EVENING DEVOTIONS: (*On your own, before bed.*)

### *Praying with John Wesley Friday Evening: Mortification (2)*

#### **Self-Examination**

##### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

##### *Questions Focusing on Mortification*

1. How have I sought to use this day to master the passions and ambitions of my human nature?
2. Have I done anything today simply for pleasure?
3. Have I made up excuses to avoid opportunities for self-denial?
4. Have I been moved to some unholy thought, word, or act today by my desires or emotions?
5. Have I not only refused to indulge what my passions urged me to do, but done the contrary as a means of self-denial?
6. Have I embraced unavoidable inconveniences as opportunities provided by God for self-discipline?
7. In insignificant matters, have I insisted upon having my own way?

#### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Matthew 16:24-26. [NRSV]

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

2. Thank and praise God for his commitment to save you, his patience to forgive you, his work to sanctify you.

#### **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Galatians 6:14; Hebrews 12:15-17



Lord God, I do not ask you to give me the things of this world: more money, better jobs, fancier things, fame. Give them to whomever you desire, and just give me your mercy. Give me Jesus. Give me the gift of whole-hearted commitment to follow him and do his works in the world. I do not pretend that this is a sacrifice on my part. No, it is all to my advantage. Serving you is the best thing I can do for my own soul's well being. Serving you is the best way I can help those dear to me. Serving you brings rewards that truly endure.

Accept my incomplete repentance, have compassion on my frailty, forgive my wickedness, purge me of my uncleanness, strengthen my weakness. Above all, anchor my unstable heart and fasten my attention and my desire all on you. Let me be no longer tossed back and forth between devotion to you and pursuit of the world's toys and trifles.

As I am crucified to the world and the world to me, grant that I may come alive to the joys of heaven. Permit my heart and mind to awaken more fully to the pleasures of Jesus' company and friendship. Let my soul be filled with the delight that comes from fulfilling the purpose for my being; namely, to honor and serve you in every thought, word, and deed. I die to worldly ambitions not to be lifeless but to be vibrant and vital to discover those desires and ambitions that you long to satisfy in me. Give me the joy of uninterrupted conversation with your Holy Spirit.

Be gracious to all who remember me in their prayers or desire to be remembered in mine. Strengthen the hearts of your servants against temptations. Grant that we may encourage one another to love and serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Take Up Thy Cross" or "O For a Heart to Praise My God" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 415 and 417).

## SATURDAY, MARCH 22

### DURHAM, LINDISFARNE, EDINBURGH

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

#### ***Praying with John Wesley Saturday Morning: Gratitude***

##### **A. Introduction**

Gratitude was a central value of the world in which the New Testament was written. Those who received gifts or favors also accepted an obligation to the giver, to make a fair return. The Greek word *charis*, used prominently in the New Testament, means "grace" or "favor," but the same word was used for "gratitude." A visual image captured the ideal for the giving and receiving of favors—the three "Graces," goddesses who danced in a circle, joining their hands. There was one Grace for giving a favor, one for receiving a favor well, and one for returning the favor. As long as the circle remained unbroken, the dance remained graceful; if the circle was broken, something beautiful was marred and disgraced. It was a beautiful act to show favor or give a gift; it was also a noble thing to allow oneself to feel thankful and appreciate fully the favor given; it completed the beauty of the circle to make a generous return. Response was to be according to one's means; even the poorest recipient of favors could show honor and render services with a glad and grateful heart.

This dance of grace applies also to the gifts received from God. Greek and Jew alike knew that, since God gave the gift of life itself, it was impossible to repay the favor. All one could do was render to God all the honor and service one could. This debt is intensified in the Christian gospel. Jesus' death was specifically a death for us, a gift that brought us back to God and restored us to God's family. Although utterly unable to repay the favor, we are called to show our gratitude as fully as possible by our worship, our loyalty, and our service. Paul quite plainly indicates what would make for a suitable response: to "live no longer for [ourselves], but for him who died and was raised for [us]" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

Our society impels us to seek more, making us feel that our lives are empty. Gratitude calls us to take stock of what we have received, making us realize how full our life already is. God showers so many gifts on us, but we are in such haste to acquire more that we miss the enjoyment of what he has given; we do not receive his gifts well. We therefore close out the week with an invitation to allow thankfulness to fill our hearts. Only if we ponder how much we have been given by God will we realize how rich we are and how full God's generosity toward us has been. As we ponder God's favor and kindness toward us, we will also understand the depths and breadth of our indebtedness to God. Gratitude moves us to honor God by wholehearted worship and by telling others about God's goodness and generosity. Gratitude moves us to firm loyalty, standing for Jesus and his desires, whatever the cost to us. Gratitude moves us to service, offering our whole selves and lives to the work of him who lived and died for us.

##### **B. Morning Devotions**

##### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

## Scripture and Reflection

### 1. Read Psalm 116:12-19. [NRSV]

12 What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?  
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord;  
14 I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.  
15 Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.  
16 O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.  
18 I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
19 in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!

2. Reflect on the kindnesses God has shown you during the past week. Thank God for spiritual gifts, progress in virtue and in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, material provisions, blessings in relationships, or whatever blessings you have received from God.

## Morning Prayer

*Scripture References:* Psalm 50:23; 145:10; Hebrews 13:15

Giver of all life and protector of your creatures, accept my morning prayer of praise and thanksgiving. You are praised, Lord, by all your works. The sun, moon, and stars speak of your greatness; the animals of air, sea, and land testify to your wisdom and skill; the forests and flowers reflect your majesty and the intricacies of your beauty. In the midst of the chorus of all creation, I also give thanks and praise to you, my Lord.

Fill my heart with gratitude, Lord, that I may from a full heart pour forth praise worthy of you. Help me to know the value and the variety of your gifts, that I will never forget my debt to you. Let my awareness of your generosity prompt me this day to be generous in witness to you and in services that please you. And let me never love any of your gifts apart from loving you, the Giver.

You have created me and sent me into the world to do your work. Help me to fulfill the purpose of my creation and to honor you as you deserve by giving myself completely over to your service. Let me prosper in every work that will bring glory to your name, good to my neighbor, and wholeness to my own soul. Keep me from all those traps and temptations that continually coax me to offend you. Do not let my engagement with the world this day dilute my awareness of your nearness or make me lukewarm in your service. Rather, keep me mindful that I walk always in your sight and that in this short life I sow an eternal harvest.

Hear my prayers for all of humankind. Guide their feet into the way of peace. O gracious Comforter, behold all that are in affliction; let the sighings of the prisoners, the groans of the sick, the prayers of the oppressed, the desire of the poor and needy come before you.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the awakening of all people to give God gratitude, honor, and service;
- those who face persecution for their commitment to Christ;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

## **II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

### **III. BLESSING ON DURHAM CATHEDRAL**

Leader: Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

Reader: In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

**All: We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.**

### **IV. BLESSING AT LINDISFARNE PRIORY**

Reader: St. Aidan, an Irish monk at the monastery in Iona, Scotland, felt that God called him to share the Gospel with the Britons to the south. So in 635 he traveled to this place and established a monastery, which served as a base for missions in this area. St. Cuthbert (died 687 AD), the Island’s most venerated saint, became bishop and organized the monastery and Christianity in the North under the authority of the Rome. Lindisfarne Priory became one of the most important centers of early Christianity in England. Later on, the monastery became a pilgrimage place after miracles were reported at the shrine of St. Cuthbert. It was also a site of great scholarship, study and learning. The monks at Lindisfarne produced the world-renowned Lindisfarne Gospels, copied and illustrated in 698AD. They are one of the earliest complete copies of the Gospels in Western Europe, and are now on display in the British Museum in London. Their amazing beauty has made them one of the most prized art pieces of early medieval Christianity. The earliest monks were driven out by the Vikings but Lindisfarne was re-established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is at that time that the buildings were constructed, the remains of which we see today. The famous “rainbow arch” has become a

celebrated landmark. Lindisfarne was destroyed under King Henry VIII when he dissolved the monasteries and placed the church under his control. Yet this place remains a place for worshipping God.

Leader: Here, on this hallowed ground, saints of old gathered to create a base for spreading the Gospel among the British. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Celtic saints, like Aidan, Cuthbert, Finan, Colman and Eata, prayed and worked for God's Kingdom to spread. Countless disciples followed Jesus in their footsteps. Today we acknowledge that our faith heritage also includes the "cloud of witnesses" who once lived here. We give God thanks for their lives and ministry and that their voices continue to spur us on in our faith journeys. Here and now we commit to carry on the work of the Gospel. We pray the prayer of St. Aidan on this island.

**People: "Leave me alone with God as much as may be. As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore, make me an island, set apart, alone with You, God, holy to You. Then, with the turning of the tide, prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond, the world that rushes in on me, until the waters return and enfold me back to you." Amen.**

**V. "THE GRACE"** (*We bless one another before we retire for the day.*)

**"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen."**

**VI. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** (*On your own, before bed.*)

***Praying with John Wesley Saturday Evening: Gratitude***

### **Self-Examination**

#### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

#### *Questions Focusing on Gratitude*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in gratitude toward God?
2. Have I set apart time to thank God for the blessings of the past week?
3. Have I given attention to those blessings, not just listing them but pondering each one so as to have a full appreciation of them?
4. Have I considered each of them as an obligation to greater love and stricter holiness?
5. How have I used this week to live out a grateful response to God?

## Scripture and Reflection

### 1. Read Hebrews 12:28-29 and 13:13-16. [NRSV]

12: “28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, 29 for indeed our God is a consuming fire.”

13: “13 Let us then go to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. 15 Through Him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

### 2. Sing or proclaim “Maker, in Whom We Live” (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 88).

1. Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move,  
the glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love.  
Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high,  
while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.
2. Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race  
render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace.  
The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choirs proclaim,  
and cry, "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!"
3. Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore  
thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart-renewing power.  
No angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height,  
the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.
4. Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,  
let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love.  
When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face,  
sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

## Evening Prayer

*Scripture References:* Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:8-11

Great and glorious God, you are wonderful in all your doings toward humanity. Accept my heartfelt thanks and praise for giving me life, for redeeming me when I was still an enemy, for preserving me to this day, for guiding me into your ways by your Holy Spirit, and for all the various kindnesses you have showered upon me. All that I have has come from you, Lord; all that I can give you came from you already. How can I ever love you enough or praise your name sufficiently for these and all your favors? My mind is unable to conceive of the thanks due you, even for this gift of coming into your presence and speaking with you.

I wish I had the flaming heart of the seraphim, that I might burn with love for you as they do! But since I am on the earth, I will praise you as fully as I can. I will join my song with the immortal armies of angels and archangels, who forever sing with shouts of praise: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory!" Keep me ever watchful for opportunities to do you service, to bear witness to your great kindness, to show my gratitude with my life and loyalty as well as with my lips.

Continue your favor toward me, and take me into your protection this night. Let your holy angels watch over me to defend me from the attempts of evil people and from the suggestions of evil spirits. Let me rest in peace and not sleep in sin, and grant that I may rise more fit to serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Ye Servants of God" or "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 181 and 286).

# SUNDAY, MARCH 23

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Sunday Morning: Love for God***

## **A. Introduction**

Love for God is at the heart of the Torah (the Law). Pious Jews of the first century affirmed this twice daily as they recited the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). When asked which law was the greatest, Jesus replied with a verse from the *Shema*: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). Love for God is not a feeling we manufacture. It is awakened in our hearts by glimpses we receive of God's goodness and by a heartfelt recollection of the way God first showed his love for us in calling us into existence, in delivering us through the death of Jesus, and in providing us with what is needed for life and for faith (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10). As we seek to grow in love for God, the place to begin and to which to return is recalling the signs of God's love for us.

Love for God is not merely a feeling. Love means showing our loyalty to God in our choices and actions, obeying God's commands, and serving God's desires for his church and his world. Joshua highlights the active dimensions of this love: "Take good care...to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul" (Joshua 22:5). Jesus repeats this understanding of love: "Those who love me will keep my word" (John 14:23). God calls us to love him not only with our lips and in our affections, but also in our deeds—deeds that frequently move us into the second core value: love for neighbor (1 John 4:20-21).

As the first and greatest commandment, love for God becomes the center and focusing lens for our lives. If we cannot do something for the love of God, we are instructed thereby not to do it. Positively, love for God invites us to bring integrity and wholeness to every aspect of our life. The illness of idolatry is a divided heart, being pulled between love of God and love of possessions, recognition, or control over others. Such a heart is self-condemned to be full of stress, stirred up by anxiety over a great many trifles, tempest-tossed in the waves of life. If we take to heart the commandment to pour our whole being and strength into love for God, we are already rewarded in this life with the gift of having a centered soul in the midst of a restless world.

## **B. MORNING DEVOTIONS: LOVE FOR GOD**

### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?



## Scripture and Reflection

### 1. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. 7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” [NRSV]

### 2. Think about the acts of prayer, worship, and study you will pursue this day, and prepare yourself to engage each act with your whole being, energy, and attention.

### 3. Sing or read "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 64).

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty. Early in the morning Our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty God in three persons Blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see. Only Thou art holy, There is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love and purity.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty. All Thy works shall praise Thy name In earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty. God in three persons Blessed Trinity.

## Morning Prayer

*Scripture References:* Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:36-38; 1 John 2:15-17

Thank you, God, for setting this day apart from the concerns of this world. Thank you for the privilege of spending this day in praising you and in remembering your acts of love in creating us, redeeming us by the death of Jesus, and giving us eternal hope by Jesus' resurrection and ascension to your right hand. Let your Holy Spirit guide and help me this day to worship you as deserve. Let your Spirit keep my thoughts from wandering from you, fan the flames of my love for you, and arouse my desire to worship and obey you.

I know, Lord, that you have commanded me to love you with all my heart and all my strength. This is the level of devotion that you deserve in every way. I am drawn to love you by the virtue and goodness of your own nature. I am drawn to love you even more by the kindness you have shown me: giving me life, ransoming my soul, and leading me to the eternal joys you have prepared for those who serve you. Loving you is the goal for which I was created; therefore, I can have no happiness apart from loving you.

So fill my heart with love for you, that it will become the motive for all the use I make of my mind, my feelings, my senses, my health, my time, my property, and the skills I have received from you. Let me love nothing in this world except as love for you guides me, and so keep me from idolatry. Enable me to be more faithful in love for you during what remains of my life than I have been up to now. Make my resolve firm to love you not merely in words or emotions, but through loyal obedience to your commandments and to your work in the world this day and every day.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the hearts and devotion of the worshipers of God throughout the church this day;
- the faithfulness of ministers throughout the church to the teaching of the apostles;

- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- those limited in their ability to leave home, prisoners, and others who are disconnected from the local church;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need reconciliation.

## **II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

### **III. SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST. GILES’ CATHEDRAL**

We will attend Sunday worship with the congregation at St. Giles’ Cathedral. This was the church of John Knox, the influential Scottish and Presbyterian reformer. Their website states, “St Giles’ Cathedral, founded in 1124 by King David I, has been a working church for over 900 years. A backdrop to Scotland’s turbulent religious history, it has seen the seeds of civil war sown and been John Knox’s parish church during the Reformation. It is still an important centre for civic services such as the Kirking of the Parliament and services for Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.”

The site also says that John Knox was born about 1515 near Edinburgh. He became a priest and was converted to Protestantism under Reformer George Wishart (who was burned at the stake in 1546 for his Protestant reforms). Knox joined a group retaliating against this, and was arrested. After his release he traveled to England and became pastor of Berwick-on-Tweed. He rose in acclaim as a powerful preacher, but when Mary Tudor became queen, Knox fled to Geneva, Switzerland. He became the friend and disciple of Presbyterian Reformer John Calvin. The Scottish Lords, determined to make Scotland a Protestant country, invited him back to lead them. In 1560 Scotland became an officially Protestant country. The following year Mary, Queen of Scots came back from France. Knox, convinced that she intended to make the country Catholic once more, preached against her. In 1568 Queen Mary fled to England after her defeat by her Scottish enemies. Knox continued to serve as minister of St Giles’, leading the Scottish Protestant Reformation until his death in 1572.

## **IV. “THE GRACE”** *(We bless one another before we retire for the day.)*

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

## **VI. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before bed.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Sunday Evening: Love for God***

**Self-Examination**

### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

### *Questions Focusing on Love for God*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in love for God?
2. Have I spent time today reflecting on God's kindness and God's character?
3. How have I sought to make this day holy to God through worship and resting in God's love?
4. How did I spend the time that was not occupied with prayer, reading, and meditation? Did I honor God and promote spiritual refreshment throughout the day's activity?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read John 14:23-24 and 1 John 5:3.

John 14: "23 Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.'"

1 John 5:3 "In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome."

2. Reflect on the spiritual refreshment you received this day in your worship, study, and meditation.

### **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Luke 22:42; Revelation 4-5

I praise you, Lord, for washing me in baptism, teaching me your truth and your ways, preserving me by your gifts and kindness, guiding me by your Spirit, and permitting me and all Christians to worship you and feast at your holy table. Be gracious to all of us and strengthen our hearts against all temptation.

Deliver me from everything that keeps me from loving you fully and completely. Deliver me from the desires, ambitions, and emotions that draw me away from serving you and pleasing you in all parts of my life. Deliver me from being so involved in the necessary affairs of work and home that I lose sight of you standing by my side, or that I seek in the affairs of daily life to please myself or others rather than striving to please you in everything. Keep me sufficiently detached from the busyness of life, that I may see you and know your fellowship throughout the day. Deliver me from being halfhearted in my devotion to you, in my prayers and reading of your Word, and in my service to you. Keep my desire for you and for serving you ever growing, ever burning. Give me a lively, zealous, active, and cheerful spirit, that I might do whatever you command.

Deliver me, Lord, from idolatrous love of created things or beings. Keep me from loving anything of this world except in service to my love for you, and only as far as love for you will allow. Above all, my God, deliver me from an idolatrous love of self. I know that you made me to do your will, not mine, and to love myself, as all other created things, only as it serves love for you.

Let my love for you make my soul steadfast and reliable toward you; let love for you bring wholeness and integrity to all parts of my life. Open me up to taste ever more of your goodness and your love, that my desire will always be for you and that I may give you the cheerful, constant, and wholehearted love, praise, and service that is your due. Make it ever my ambition to give you such constant honor and service as you receive from the angels in heaven.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "More Love to Thee, O Christ" or "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 453 and 298).

# MONDAY, MARCH 24

## MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM

### I. FIRST DEVOTIONS: *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

#### ***Praying with John Wesley Monday Morning: Love for Neighbor***

##### **A. Introduction**

In explaining which law is the greatest, Jesus joined love for neighbor to love for God (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37-39). The command to “love your neighbor as yourself” is underscored by James as “the royal law” (James 2:8), and by Paul as “the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:8-10). Love is not a matter of words or emotions, but of deeds. Considered negatively, love for the neighbor includes doing no harm to the neighbor (Romans 13:8-10), whether by direct action or by participation in a system that inflicts such harm on others. Considered positively, love means laying down our lives for our fellow Christians and human beings by devoting ourselves to acts of kindness toward those in any kind of need (1 John 3:16-18).

Love for neighbor stands at the core of Wesley's own spiritual revival. The General Rules he developed for the Methodist societies focus on these two aspects of love for neighbor quite directly: “It is therefore expected of all who continue [in these societies] that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, First: By doing no harm...; Secondly: By...doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all [people].” (From *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church—2000*; ¶101, page 48. Copyright 2000 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.) The serious Christian must care for the bodies of the needy with food, shelter, and clothing, and for their souls with the sharing of God's word.

The motivation and model for love of neighbor is God's love for all people. Just as God loves and forgives, so God's servants are to “live in love” (Ephesians 4:31–5:2); because God has set such value on each and every human, God's servants are to do likewise (1 John 4:11). James singles out one particular enemy to love for neighbor—namely, prejudice, whether based on race, regionalism, or economic class (James 2:9). Again, God's example leads us past such barriers, urging us to love as he loves and to cut off from our active expressions of love no one whom God would include in his love.

Love for neighbor includes the love that believers are to show toward one another. By calling Christians to love one another specifically as brothers and sisters, the New Testament writers tap into the standards for natural kin to develop an ethic for the church. Siblings were to set aside all competition and seek to cooperate in all things; they were to preserve harmony and agreement at all costs; they were to share without a second thought as any had need. This is the level of love for neighbor set for the church to embody.

##### **B. MORNING DEVOTIONS: LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR**

##### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

## Scripture and Reflection

1. Read 1 John 3:16-18 and 4:20-21.

“3:16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. 17 How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? 18 Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”

“4:20 Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

2. Consider the people you will encounter today. How can you bring them encouragement, a word of grace, a needed kindness? Consider people with whom you have a strained relationship. How can you arm yourself to do no harm, and even to show love, to these?

## Morning Prayer

*Scripture References:* Genesis 1:26-27; John 15:12-13; Romans 15:7; Ephesians 4:31–5:2; James 3:5-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19

O God, the giver of all good gifts, thank you for giving me this day in which to renew my commitment to walk in your ways. Help me perceive the in which I may improve my obedience this day. Be present at all times, in every task, in whatever company I will keep this day; let your love be my compass throughout today's journey.

You have made all people in your own image, and each person is capable of knowing and loving you. Do not permit me to exclude any person from my loving care, but let me treat each person with that tender love and respect that is due all your children. You have commanded me to show love to others as proof of my love for you. Let no person's words or actions tempt me away from giving you the service you command; rather, let me love for your sake even those who are unkind and hostile to me.

Open my eyes to see the opportunities you will give me to help those in any kind of need. Make me diligent and bold to provide for the hungry and homeless, comfort the disheartened, and protect the oppressed. Grant me the wisdom and courage to teach those who are unmindful of you, strengthen the weak in faith, encourage my sisters and brothers, and warn the wicked, always with gentleness and compassion. Move me to pray for those whom I cannot reach directly with my service.

Let your love for me, blessed Savior, be the pattern for my love for others. You gave your life for my salvation. Let no possession be so important to me that I am not willing to give it up for the everlasting good of my fellow Christians. They are members of your body; therefore, I will cherish them.

Extend your mercy to all people, and let them become your faithful servants. Let all Christians live up to the holy name that they profess. You established the worth of all humans by giving your precious blood for them. Set the value you place on each person I shall meet today firmly before my eyes, and let me love as you have loved.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the awakening of the church in every corner to its great calling;
- racial reconciliation and peace with justice throughout the world;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

## **II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

## **III. PRAYER FOR DENNIS PURVIS - TODAY IS HIS BIRTHDAY!**

We sing the traditional “Happy Birthday Song,” but we make it a blessing:

**“Happy birthday, to you. Happy birthday, to you. Happy birthday, God bless you!  
Happy birthday, too you!”**

## **IV. GRACE FOR “FULL ENGLISH” BREAKFAST AT LOWTHER CASTLE, LAKE DISTRICT**

**The “Wesley Table Grace”** (Can be sung to the tune *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)

**Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and everywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
May feast in paradise with Thee. Amen.**

## **V. PRAYER OF BLESSING AT FRANCIS ASBURY BIRTH HOME, BIRMINGHAM**

*Leader: Shares about the life, ministry and significance of Francis Asbury.*

**All: Holy God, you inspired Francis Asbury with evangelical zeal and he faithfully proclaimed the Gospel, changing the lives of many. Inspire us, we pray, by your Holy Spirit, that we, like him, may be eager to share your Good News and lead people to Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**VI. “THE GRACE”** (*We bless one another before we retire for the day.*)

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

**VII. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** (*On your own, before bed.*)

***Praying with John Wesley Monday Evening: Love for Neighbor***

**Self-Examination**

*General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

*Questions Focusing on Love for Neighbor*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in love for my neighbor?
2. Have I allowed myself to feel and share my neighbor's joy or sorrow?
3. Have I responded to my neighbor's weaknesses with understanding rather than with irritation?
4. Have I yielded to my neighbor the right to have the last word in a disagreement?

**Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Romans 12:9-21 and Galatians 6:7-10. [NRSV]

Romans 12, “9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

“14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.’ 20 Instead, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Galatians 6, “7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. 8 If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.”



2. Confess your failures and sins to God, and receive God's forgiveness and assurance of love.

### **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Matthew 5:43-48; 6:14-15; Luke 6:35-36; Romans 12:17-21; 1 Timothy 2:4

Thank you, dear Lord, for your love and care for me evidenced in so many ways. Thank you for pardoning the sins I have committed this day; thank you for the opportunities to show love that were well used this day; thank you also for sins avoided on account of your guidance and restraint. Let it be my single ambition, my God, to honor you in every thought, word, and deed; and make me bold to invite all people around me to honor and love you as well.

Your love toward me is so patient, so tender, even when I provoke you with my disobedience. Give me such an appreciation of your love for me that I may show the same patient and tender love to my neighbor, especially when he or she opposes me. Stir up within me a zeal to do all in my power, whether in prayer or deed, to promote the safety and happiness of my neighbor; make me active to comfort and relieve all those whom you entrust to my care by bringing me into contact with them. Lord, help me to be peaceful rather than argumentative; help me to be quick to forget an injury and be reconciled to my neighbor, mindful of how many times you have forgiven my provocations. After your own example, make me glad to give good in return for evil, and thus share in the triumph of your love. In all my dealings with my fellow human beings, let me reflect your love, your generous spirit, your desire to do good both to the just and to the unjust. You have so valued each person that you sent your Son for each and every one. Implant, therefore, such a compassion in my heart for people that I will eagerly seek out how I may win them to your love.

Take me, my family, my friends, and my enemies into your protection this night. Refresh me with rest, that I may rise ready to serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Jesu, Jesu" or "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 432 and 581).

# TUESDAY, MARCH 25

## WALES

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

### ***Praying with John Wesley Tuesday Morning: Humility***

#### **A. Introduction**

Jeremy Taylor was an Anglican bishop whose devotional writings profoundly influenced Wesley. In *Rule and Exercises of Holy Living*, Taylor wrote that humility was the virtue that distinguished Christianity from worldly wisdom, being taught first not by the ancient moralists but by Jesus. Jesus' example is the heart of humility. In sharp contrast to a culture in which people zealously defended their honor and challenged the honor of others, Jesus voluntarily set aside all worldly honor—indeed, set aside the honor he had at God's right hand—in order to serve the will of God (Philippians 2:5-11). When reviled, he did not answer with insults (1 Peter 2:21-25). Rather than seeking to advance his prestige and power, he made himself a servant to all and spent time with people of low status (Mark 10:45).

Jesus calls his followers to follow him, especially in his humility. He warned his first disciples that a disciple is not above the teacher, and that the kind of treatment that would befall Jesus would befall them as well (Matthew 10:24; John 15:20). Desire for advancing one's status and defending one's honor in worldly terms is not compatible with the desire to follow Jesus. Indeed, one must be free from the craving to be somebody in the world's eyes if one is ever to be somebody in the kingdom of God (Mark 10:35-46; John 5:44). Spiritual leaders throughout history call us to heed Jesus' words: "Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

Humility is not a denial of one's own worth so much as it is an adequate appreciation of the worth of every other human being. Humility with regard to one's neighbor, therefore, calls us to act toward others with a full awareness of their equal worth. Achieving this attitude, however, requires that we "do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than [ourselves]" (Philippians 2:3). We are to yield to others the courtesies we would otherwise demand for ourselves. We are to keep their dignity in view in all disagreements, rather than insist on winning every argument. We are to allow others to have their way in our life together as much as we would wish to have our way. Such attitudes apply, of course, in matters indifferent to our standing before God; humility does not allow others to have their way where that way means sin, injustice, or oppression.

Humility also calls us to know our place in relationship to God. When we realize that, being God's creatures, we owe it to God to pour our full strength and life into God's service; when we realize that we belong to God to use as pleases him, not as pleases us; when we realize that, however much we grow in patience and acceptance toward others, in service to our neighbor, and in witness to God's salvation, "we have done only what we ought to have done" (Luke 17:10)—then we will have a realistic appraisal of our place under God and that humility of heart that brings rest to our souls and an end to all our strivings.

## B. MORNING DEVOTIONS: HUMILITY

### Self-Examination

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

### Scripture and Reflection

1. Read Philippians 2:3-11.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, 10 so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [NRSV]

2. Thank God for all the blessings given to you. Pray for God's help in all the situations you are facing.

### Morning Prayer

Dear Jesus, give me the mind that was you. Put in my heart that spirit of meekness and humility that you showed as you served the poor and the outcast and as you poured yourself out for others. Keep me this day from seeking the praise and affirmation of people; keep me from longing to be thought of as somebody in terms of wealth, fame, influence, and all the other empty toys of the world. Make it my whole and single desire to be somebody in your eyes.

Lord, I see the faults and scorn the failures of others quickly enough. Let me have such a keen eye when it comes to my own ignorance, weakness, and sinfulness. Then I will think of myself as I ought to think, rather than focusing on the weaknesses of others. In all my encounters with other people today, let me serve them and serve you in them. Free me from having to have my own way in everything; deliver me from having to win every argument. Place before my eyes the dignity and

value of each person I will come across, so that I shall not injure them by haughty words or insensitive actions. Help me to show them respect and love, and treat each one as someone greater than myself. Help me also to be content that other people should think of me as I truly am: weak, ignorant, and sinful. Deliver me from the need to show a veneer of perfection to others.

As you allow me and equip me to grow into the virtues that please you, remind me always that I am only a beginner in discipleship. However far you permit me to progress, and however many opportunities you give me to serve you, I am still making a beginning. Use me this day as pleases you, not as pleases me, for I am your servant.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the church and its leaders (both clergy and lay);
- the spiritual awakening of our country and the end of violence and hate;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

**II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** (*When we depart on the bus for the day.*)

**III. GRACE FOR DINNER AT THE ANCHOR INN**

The “Wesley Table Grace” (verse 2) (Can be sung to the tune *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)

**We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,  
For life and health and every good;  
By Thine own hand may we be fed;  
Give us each day our daily bread. Amen.**

**IV. “THE GRACE”** (*We bless one another before we retire for the day.*)

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

## **V. EVENING DEVOTIONS: (*On your own, before bed.*)**

### ***Praying with John Wesley Tuesday Evening: Humility***

#### **Self-Examination**

##### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

##### *Questions Focusing on Humility*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in my humility?
2. Have I sought to put myself entirely at God's disposal this day?
3. Have I done anything today in order to gain human praise or taken pleasure in such praise?
4. Have I entertained fantasies or desires for moving up in the world, or have my desires focused only on how to serve God and others?
5. Have I given myself credit for things God has accomplished through me?
6. Have I admitted when I was in the wrong?
7. Did my treatment of other people today show honor and respect, or haughtiness?
8. Have I refrained from justifying myself where God's honor was not at stake?

#### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Romans 15:1-3.

1 We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

2. Confess the day's sins and shortcomings, receiving God's forgiveness and love.

3. Read Psalm 51:1-17.

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. A prayer for Cleansing and Pardon.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. 5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right[b] spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 25:21

Jesus, Lamb of God, enable me to imitate your humility and meekness throughout my whole life, in my every thought, conversation, desire, and act. Preserve me from thinking too much of myself, demanding all that I think I deserve, or expecting that people treat me as if I were the center of their universe. Keep me from seeking to please myself and to increase my fame or power, and let me desire only to advance your honor and your pleasure in the world. Let my ears be closed to human praise and alert only for your word: "Well done."

You, Lord, are the source of every good gift and every good work. If in any way you work through me, teach me to give all credit and praise to you. Let me be as a clear window, allowing your light to pass through me into the world without claiming as my own what belongs only to you.

You were despised and rejected by people. When I am snubbed by a friend, passed over by an employer, ridiculed by my peers, or treated with disrespect by others, remind me of the insults and disrespect you encountered—you who are Lord of all. If it is for your sake that I am slighted, then let me be glad rather than dejected. If it is for some other cause, then let me embrace the slight as an opportunity to heal me of pride and vanity and ask your mercy for those who have slighted me. I am beginning to be a disciple of Christ, just beginning. Keep my heart humble before you.

You have preserved me from all the dangers of this day. Let me pass this night in comfort and peace under the shadow of your wings.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine" or "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 166 and 402).

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

## BRISTOL AND BATH

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

### ***Praying with John Wesley Wednesday Morning: Mortification (1)***

#### **A. Introduction**

We have completed a full week of Wesley's "A Collection of Forms of Prayer for Every Day of the Week." David deSilva, recommends using this prayer schedule for a minimum of two weeks. We now begin week two and will pray these daily prayers through for our second week on the tour. deSilva notes that the introductions may be skipped after the initial prayer week. Therefore they will not be included during this week's devotionals. If you want to review the spiritual discipline, simply go back to last week's devotions for the same day and read the introduction there.

#### **B. Morning Devotions: Mortification (1)**

##### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

##### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Colossians 3:1-10. [NRSV]

1 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, 3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.[b] 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. 8 But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

2. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the day, and for the Spirit's aid in resisting and disciplining your urges for self-indulgence.

##### **Morning Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Mark 10:45; John 5:30; 6:38; Romans 15:3

Lord Jesus—my way, my truth, and my life—you have said that I can follow you only by denying myself. You have diagnosed my disease; namely, self-love, a self-serving heart, and slavery

to my own ambitions, desires, and emotions. This has been my idolatry: to serve myself as my god, to please myself, to do my own will.

Your own example is my cure. Although you made all things for your pleasure, you did not please yourself but made yourself a servant of all. You allowed yourself to be insulted, ridiculed, and nailed to a cross for me. How can I hesitate to renounce myself for you? Let me not presume to set myself above my master, to do not my will but the will of God. I am too much addicted to preserving physical comfort, to indulging myself, to insulating myself from any unpleasantness. Free me from this addiction so that I can serve you with my whole being, and not merely give you what is left over after I have served my ease and excess. Give me the grace to walk in your steps and to take up my cross daily.

Help me this day to set aside any pleasure or desire that does not have you as its ultimate goal. Let me abstain from any pleasure that will not prepare me better to take pleasure in you. Keep me from being distracted by the pleasures that the world entices me to pursue, which would only entangle me and keep me from drawing closer to you. Cause me to be aware of where my senses, appetites, and emotions would carry me, and let me resist every movement that will not honor you or advance your good in this world. Let me have a small victory over these impulses today, that I may hope for a greater victory tomorrow. Strengthen me to practice fasting, prayer vigils, and other spiritual disciplines. Let me accustom myself to small deprivations, so that no deprivation will ever cause me to be disloyal or disobedient to you.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the conversion of the self-centered and of those who live by violence;
- God's leading of this nation and its leaders into the paths of justice and peace;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

## **II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

## **III. WORSHIP AT JOHN WESLEY’S NEW ROOM (“JWNR”) -Rev. Thanael Certa-Werner**

### **Background:**

It is difficult to separate John Wesley from his brother, Charles, since they were very close. Both were students at Oxford Christ Church College. Soon after graduating from Oxford University, both sailed together to America, the New World, where they tried to minister to the rough colonists of Georgia and to evangelize the Native Americans. They became disillusioned, however, and both returned to England. Both were ordained clergy in the Anglican Church and both became Methodist leaders and preachers.

After their experiences of assurance in spring of 1739, John took a trip to Germany to visit the main Moravian headquarters and their leader, Count Zinzendorf. Wesley wanted to stay among such a wonderful faith community, but he felt that God was calling him back to England to spread the Gospel there. When he returned, he met again George Whitefield, whose strong preaching of the same evangelical Gospel was drawing thousands and making him a national celebrity. Nevertheless,



his strong Christian message about a personal faith in Christ was very unpopular with the local churches and he was banned from entering most of them. Undaunted, Whitefield preached in the open air, whenever people would listen. And listen they did—by the thousands. Whitefield, who was at the time preaching among the poor near Bristol, was eager to return to America and continue preaching there, however. So he invited his good Methodist friend John Wesley to come and take over his ministry. Wesley was very skeptic of any religious gathering outside of the established church, but went to Bristol and was reluctantly persuaded to attend one of Whitefield's services. During the service, Wesley saw how God was using and greatly blessing this ministry, and so agreed to try preaching in the outdoors as well. Whitefield then scheduled Wesley's first outdoor service, and on April 2, 1739 John preached his first sermon in to open air to a crowd of about 3,000. Wesley was convinced of God's presence and, feeling the need to spread the Gospel to England, agreed to take over the revival begun under Whitefield. Whitefield, in turn, returned to America and began the revival that has been known in American history as The Great Awakening, which also included the leadership of the legendary Rev. Jonathan Edwards.

Methodism grew quickly in Bristol, so much so that a preaching house was needed almost overnight. So in 1739, the same year as his first outdoor sermon (in Bristol), Wesley had the New Room in the Horse Fare built. Thus it is the oldest Methodist building in the world.

Bristol eventually became the center of Methodism in the west, and it became the headquarters for Charles' ministry. When Charles married and began his family, he made it clear to his brother that he would not be itinerant and wanted to settle down. He settled down in Bristol, and the New Room became his "local church." He served as the leader of Methodism in this area for many years until he finally retired and moved to London. The New Room, then, has great history with Charles as well as John Wesley.

**Worship Service:** *An Order of Worship will be handed out.*

#### IV. GRACE FOR LUNCH AT JWNR

The "Wesley Table Grace"

(Written by John Cennick in 1741, applied to a tea set by Josiah Wedgwood and presented to John Wesley in 1761) (Can be sung to the tune *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)

**Be present at our table, Lord;**

**Be here and everywhere adored;**

**Thy creatures bless, and grant that we**

**May feast in paradise with Thee.**

**We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,**

**For life and health and every good;**

**By Thine own hand may we be fed;**

**Give us each day our daily bread.**

**We thank Thee, Lord, for this our good,**

**But more because of Jesus' blood;**

**Let manna to our souls be giv'n,**

**The Bread of Life sent down from Heav'n.**

**[Amen.]**

**V. HYMN SING AT CHARLES WESLEY’S HOUSE** of hymns written by Charles Wesley

*A handout will be provided.*

**VI. BLESSING AT PILL HARBOR:** Where John Wesley sent preachers for America.

*Sing “Soldiers of Christ, Arise” from the Charles Wesley Hymns handout.*

**VII. BLESSING AT HANHAM MOUNT:** Site of outdoor preaching by Whitfield & Wesley

*Sing “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” from the Charles Wesley Hymns handout.*

**VIII. CHORAL EVENSONG AT BATH ABBEY:** We will attend worship at the Abbey.

There is a very famous account of John Wesley and the Methodists in Bath. Wesley tells the story in his journal, on Tuesday, June 5, 1739.

“There was great expectation at Bath of what a noted man was to do to me there; and I was much entreated not to preach; because no one knew what might happen. By this report I also gained a much larger audience, among whom were many of the rich and great. I told them plainly, the Scripture had concluded them all under sin; — high and low, rich and poor, one with another. Many of them seemed to be a little surprised, and were sinking apace into seriousness, when their champion appeared, and coming close to me, asked by what authority I did these things. I replied, “By the authority of Jesus Christ, conveyed to me by the (now) Archbishop of Canterbury, when he laid hands upon me, and said, ‘Take thou authority to preach the Gospel.’” He said, “This is contrary to Act of Parliament: This is a conventicle.” I answered, “Sir, the conventicles mentioned in that Act (as the preamble shows) are seditious meetings. But this is not such; here is no shadow of sedition; therefore it is not contrary to that Act.” He replied, “I say it is: And, beside, your preaching frightens people out of their wits.” “Sir, did you ever hear me preach?” “No.” “How then can you judge of what you never heard?” “Sir, by common report.” “Common report is not enough. Give me leave, Sir, to ask, is not your name Nash?” “My name is Nash.” “Sir, I dare not judge of you by common report: I think it not enough to judge by.” Here he paused awhile, and, having recovered himself, said, “I desire to know what this people comes here for:” On which one replied, “Sir, leave him to me: Let an old woman answer him. You, Mr. Nash, take care of your body; we take care of our souls; and for the food of our souls we come here.” He replied not a word, but walked away.

Bath Abbey was the church for many of these Bath Methodists. This was the last of the great medieval churches built in Great Britain. Its style is Gothic Perpendicular, and it’s most striking feature is the beautiful fan vaulted ceiling. At one time, it vied with Wells (20 miles south west of here) to be the seat of the cathedral. The seat flipped back and forth between the two, but finally resided in Wells.

Be sure to open your heart in worship in this grand edifice built to the glory of God!

**IX. “THE GRACE”** (*We bless one another before we retire for the day.*)

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

**X. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** (*On your own, before bed.*)

***Praying with John Wesley Wednesday Evening: Mortification (1)***

**Self-Examination**

*General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

*Questions Focusing on Mortification*

1. How have I sought to use this day to master the passions and ambitions of my human nature?
2. Have I done anything today simply for selfish pleasure?
3. Have I made up excuses to avoid opportunities for self-denial?
4. Have I been moved to some unholy thought, word, or act today by my desires or emotions?
5. Have I not only refused to indulge what my passions urged me to do, but done the contrary as a means of self-denial?
6. Have I embraced unavoidable inconveniences as opportunities provided by God for self-discipline?
7. Have I insisted on having my own way in insignificant matters?

**Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Galatians 5:13-25. [NRSV]

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

2. Contemplate the love of Jesus shown at Calvary. Renounce whatever in your life hinders you from returning God's love in full measure.

### **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Psalm 16:11; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Philippians 3:10-11

My Lord and God, I know that I cannot share in your resurrection without also sharing in your death. Strengthen me to take up my cross and deny myself daily, that I may crucify the drives within me that lure me away from loving you and loving my neighbor as I ought. Silence the voices within me calling me to self-indulgence, to self-service, and to self-advancement, and let me hear only the voice of your Spirit leading me into the ways of love, peace, and obedience.

Let me be dead to sin. Having died with you on the cross, help me not to indulge any sinful fantasies, not to utter words that do not serve your holy ends, not to do acts of which I shall only be ashamed later. Let me be dead to the world. I am told on every side to indulge some pleasure, to acquire some unnecessary toy, to feed my pride by improving my public image. With your help and guidance, Lord, these voices shall not be my master, but I will live in simplicity, free from all worldly encumbrances. Let me be dead to pleasure, when that pleasure does not draw me closer to the pleasures that are in your presence for eternity. Let me be dead to my own willfulness and alive only to your will in all my relationships and undertakings.

I belong to you, Lord Jesus, for you bought me at the price of your own blood. Help me to live the rest of my life in this body for you, and not for my own desires or pleasures. Make me a new creature who does your will.

You are the Great Shepherd of souls. Bring home into your fold all that have gone astray. Grant that I may remember you as I go to sleep, and that I think of you when first I wake. Let me rest under the shadow of your wings this night and rise to serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Take Time to Be Holy" or "Nothing Between" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 395 and 373).

## THURSDAY, MARCH 27

### STONEHENGE, WINDSOR CASTLE

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Thursday Morning: Resignation and Meekness***

#### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how can I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

#### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Romans 12:1-2. [NRSV]

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. Thank God for the gifts of life, salvation, and all things for which you are thankful.

#### **Morning Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Psalm 40:8; Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 10:7

Faithful God, all that I am and all that I have belongs to you. Let me be so aware of your goodness, love, and favor toward me that I will desire to return to you all possible love and obedience. You have given me so much, my health, strength, food, clothing, and other comforts and necessities of life. May I always praise your holy name and love you above all your gifts.

Please forgive my desire to be master of my own life. As Jesus came to do your will, so I am determined, with your help, to do what you decide for me; to have no more say about my life, but only to serve your pleasure with all my heart. Let me do your will in my every thought, word, and action.

I believe, all-powerful and wise Lord, that you arrange and direct all things—even the small and the unpleasant things—to the increase of your honor and to the good of those who love you. Please teach me to trust your goodness and accept your choices for me. Even when I cannot understand the choices, keep my heart fixed on you. Let me do in everything what pleases you and then, in full surrender to your wisdom, leave the outcome entirely to you.

Jesus, I give you my body, my soul, my property, my reputation, my friends, freedom, my my life. Use me, and all that is mine, as you consider best. I am not mine, but yours. Claim me as your right, keep me as your dependent, love me as your child. Be near to help me, so that whatever I do or suffer today may bring you honor. Keep me constant in my love for you and for other people. Let me not be distracted today by the world's vanities and obsessions, nor pursue any worldly activity except for your sake and as direct me.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the mission and unity of the church and its seminaries;
- those who face persecution for their commitment to Christ;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

**II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

**III. WORSHIP AT ST. GEORGE’S CHAPEL, WINDSOR CASTLE**

*We will attend Evensong at the chapel.*

**IV. “THE GRACE”** *(We bless one another before we retire for the day.)*

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

**V. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before bed.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Thursday Evening: Resignation and Meekness***

**Self-Examination**

*General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

*Questions Focusing on Resignation and Meekness*

1. How have I sought to use this day to improve in the virtue of resignation and meekness?
2. Have I tried to desire only what God desires?
3. Have I received everything that has happened to me, even what I would not have chosen for myself, with gratitude as the choice of infinite wisdom and goodness?
4. Have I, after doing what God requires me to do, left the outcomes absolutely to God's disposal and discretion?

5. Have I resumed my claim to my body, soul, friends, fame, property, or destiny after giving these things to God? If I have lost any of these as a consequence of obeying God's direction, have I regretted giving them up to God?
6. Have I treated other people with courtesy, honor, and a generous spirit?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read 1 John 2:15-17. [NRSV]

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world, 16 for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God abide forever.

2. Reflect on those parts of your life or those ambitions with which you are most reluctant to part. Speak to God about them and listen for God's call.

### **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Psalm 73:26; 1 Corinthians 6:20

My Lord and my God, you see my heart and know my desires. I regret that I have for so long tried to order my own steps and live my life to please myself. Now I sincerely desire to return to you and to give myself up entirely to you. I want to be yours, and yours only, forever. Accept my offering of myself, and teach me how to make this gift beautiful and complete in your sight. Let me serve not myself but you all the days of my life.

I give you my mind; let me use it entirely to know you, your virtues, your works, and your will. I give you my will; let me seek not what pleases me, but only what pleases and honors you. Let it give me joy both to do your will and to experience whatever you have ordained for me. Let me love what you love, hate what you hate, and do exactly as you would have me do. I give you my body; let me honor you with it and keep it holy, a dwelling suitable for you, O God. I give you all my possessions; let me value them and use them only for you. Let me faithfully give back to you, through giving to the poor and needy, all that you have entrusted to me. I give you myself and my all; govern and order me and all that is mine. I give my reputation to you; may it be used to advance your honor in the world.

When I am tempted to think again like the world and to adapt to the company and customs that surround me, let me say, "I do not belong to myself; I do not serve myself, nor the world, but my God. I will give to God what belongs to God."

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Take My Life, and Let It Be" or "I Surrender All" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 399 and 354).

## FRIDAY, MARCH 28

LONDON: BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON EYE, BRITISH MUSEUM

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Friday Morning: Mortification (2)***

### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Romans 6:1-14 and 8:12-13. [NRSV]

6: “1 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. 13 No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments[c] of righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

8: “12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

2. Identify the drives, emotions, or worldly yearnings that have repeatedly welled up in you and moved you to act in self-indulgent ways. Lay these before God, and ask for the opportunity and aid to gain mastery over them.

### **Morning Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Matthew 16:25; Hebrews 12:3



Almighty and everlasting God, in your infinite goodness you have brought me safely through the night. Continue to protect me this day and watch over me with the eyes of mercy. Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit, that I may use this day and every day to your glory.

Jesus, Savior, you cast out seven demons from Mary Magdalene; cast out from me all sinful affections. You raised Lazarus from the dead; raise me from being dead in sin. You came to proclaim freedom to the captives; free me from the power my own habits, attachments, aversions, and passions have over me. You cleansed the lepers, healed the sick, and gave sight to the blind; heal the diseases of my soul. Open my eyes and fix them upon you. Cleanse my heart from everything except the desire to advance your honor and do your work.

Release me from my striving to be somebody in the eyes of the worldly minded, and let me be happy to be thought a nobody if this means obeying and following you faithfully. You were poor, without office, without connections; have mercy on me, for I have sought wealth, station, and well-placed friends. You were hated and slandered for proclaiming God's justice and love; have mercy on me, for I have sought security and respect at the expense of following you. You were sold for an insulting price; give me a share of your patience when others underestimate my worth. You were insulted, mocked, and spat upon; let me have a portion of your endurance when I encounter the hostility of sinners. You were nailed to a cross to redeem even me; let no weakness of my flesh make me fail to show you loyalty and obedience.

Keep ever in my mind and heart the sufferings and humiliation you endured for me, so that I will be bold to follow you. As you emptied yourself for me, let me be completely emptied of myself for your sake, so that I may rejoice to take up my cross daily and follow you.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the calling and equipping of ordained and lay ministers;
- the healing of the nations;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

**II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

**III. “THE GRACE”** *(We bless one another before we retire for the day.)*

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

#### **IV. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before bed.)*

##### ***Praying with John Wesley Friday Evening: Mortification (2)***

##### **Self-Examination**

###### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

###### *Questions Focusing on Mortification*

1. How have I sought to use this day to master the passions and ambitions of my human nature?
2. Have I done anything today simply for pleasure?
3. Have I made up excuses to avoid opportunities for self-denial?
4. Have I been moved to some unholy thought, word, or act today by my desires or emotions?
5. Have I not only refused to indulge what my passions urged me to do, but done the contrary as a means of self-denial?
6. Have I embraced unavoidable inconveniences as opportunities provided by God for self-discipline?
7. In insignificant matters, have I insisted upon having my own way?

##### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Matthew 16:24-26. [NRSV]

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

2. Thank and praise God for his commitment to save you, his patience to forgive you, his work to sanctify you.

##### **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Galatians 6:14; Hebrews 12:15-17

Lord God, I do not ask you to give me the things of this world: more money, better jobs, fancier things, fame. Give them to whomever you desire, and just give me your mercy. Give me Jesus. Give me the gift of whole-hearted commitment to follow him and do his works in the world. I do not pretend that this is a sacrifice on my part. No, it is all to my advantage. Serving you is the best thing I can do for my own soul's well being. Serving you is the best way I can help those dear to me. Serving you brings rewards that truly endure.

Accept my incomplete repentance, have compassion on my frailty, forgive my wickedness, purge me of my uncleanness, strengthen my weakness. Above all, anchor my unstable heart and

fasten my attention and my desire all on you. Let me be no longer tossed back and forth between devotion to you and pursuit of the world's toys and trifles.

As I am crucified to the world and the world to me, grant that I may come alive to the joys of heaven. Permit my heart and mind to awaken more fully to the pleasures of Jesus' company and friendship. Let my soul be filled with the delight that comes from fulfilling the purpose for my being; namely, to honor and serve you in every thought, word, and deed. I die to worldly ambitions not to be lifeless but to be vibrant and vital to discover those desires and ambitions that you long to satisfy in me. Give me the joy of uninterrupted conversation with your Holy Spirit.

Be gracious to all who remember me in their prayers or desire to be remembered in mine. Strengthen the hearts of your servants against temptations. Grant that we may encourage one another to love and serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Take Up Thy Cross" or "O For a Heart to Praise My God" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 415 and 417).

## SATURDAY, MARCH 29

LONDON: TOWER, WESTMINSTER, ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Saturday Morning: Gratitude***

### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Psalm 116:12-19. [NRSV]
  - 12 What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?
  - 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord;
  - 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.
  - 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.
  - 16 O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.
  - 17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.
  - 18 I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,
  - 19 in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!
2. Reflect on the kindnesses God has shown you during the past week. Thank God for spiritual gifts, progress in virtue and in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, material provisions, blessings in relationships, or what- ever blessings you have received from God.

### **Morning Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Psalm 50:23; 145:10; Hebrews 13:15

Giver of all life and protector of your creatures, accept my morning prayer of praise and thanksgiving. You are praised, Lord, by all your works. The sun, moon, and stars speak of your greatness; the animals of air, sea, and land testify to your wisdom and skill; the forests and flowers

reflect your majesty and the intricacies of your beauty. In the midst of the chorus of all creation, I also give thanks and praise to you, my Lord.

Fill my heart with gratitude, Lord, that I may from a full heart pour forth praise worthy of you. Help me to know the value and the variety of your gifts, that I will never forget my debt to you. Let my awareness of your generosity prompt me this day to be generous in witness to you and in services that please you. And let me never love any of your gifts apart from loving you, the Giver.

You have created me and sent me into the world to do your work. Help me to fulfill the purpose of my creation and to honor you as you deserve by giving myself completely over to your service. Let me prosper in every work that will bring glory to your name, good to my neighbor, and wholeness to my own soul. Keep me from all those traps and temptations that continually coax me to offend you. Do not let my engagement with the world this day dilute my awareness of your nearness or make me lukewarm in your service. Rather, keep me mindful that I walk always in your sight and that in this short life I sow an eternal harvest.

Hear my prayers for all of humankind. Guide their feet into the way of peace. O gracious Comforter, behold all that are in affliction; let the sighings of the prisoners, the groans of the sick, the prayers of the oppressed, the desire of the poor and needy come before you.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the awakening of all people to give God gratitude, honor, and service;
- those who face persecution for their commitment to Christ;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

## **II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

### **III. BLESSING AT WESTMINSTER ABBY**

Leader: Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

Reader: In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

**All: We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.**

### **IV. BLESSING AT ALDERSGATE PLAQUE MEMORIAL**

Leader: It was during their travels to America that both John and Charles Wesley were influenced by a devout group of German Moravians, and both agreed to learn German so to better

understand them. After returning to London, they met regularly with a group of these Moravians in the Aldersgate Hall, which used to stand where we now stand. It was because of this group and these meetings that in May, 1738 both brothers had a spiritual "heart-warming experience" realizing that in spite of their religious activity neither had ever known God's forgiveness deep in their hearts or experienced real joy. They both shared the same burning faith kindled by a special experience of assurance.

From this point on their ministry displayed a new dimension of spiritual power, the same power of the Holy Spirit that was the life-force of the Methodist Movement.

Charles experienced the blessing first. On Pentecost, May 21, 1738, just a couple of blocks north of here in Little Britain, while at the house of John Bray just north of St. Botolph's Church, Charles suddenly felt filled by a feeling of assurance that God loved him and that Jesus had died for his sins. He went running to tell his brother John. As John wrote in his journal, "Towards ten, my brother was brought in triumph by a troop of our friends, and declared, 'I believe.' We sang the hymn with great joy and parted with prayer."

John's turn was soon to come. Three days later, on May 24, 1738, John received the same blessing right here on this very spot. He wrote in his journal: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a Society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading [Martin] Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart thro' faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warm'd. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation: and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away *my* sins, even *mine*, and saved *me* from the Law of Sin and Death."

Soon after his conversion, Charles wrote the hymn, "Where Shall My Wondering Soul Begin" to express his experience. We pray this hymn as we ask the Holy Spirit to warm our hearts in love and holiness.

**All:** (Spoken. *"Where Shall My Wondering Soul Begin?"* by Charles Wesley)

**One Half:** "Where shall my wondering soul begin? How shall I all to heaven aspire? A slave redeemed from death and sin, a brand plucked from eternal fire, how shall I equal triumphs raise, and sing my great deliverer's praise?"

**Other Half.** *"O how shall I the goodness tell, Father, which thou to me hast showed? That I, a child of wrath and hell, I should be called a child of God! Should know, should feel my sins forgiven, blest with this antepast of heaven!"*

**One Half.** "Come, O my guilty brethren, come, groaning beneath your load of sin; his bleeding heart shall make you room, his open side shall take you in. He calls you now, invites you home: come, O my guilty brethren come.

**Other Half:** *"For you the purple current flowed in pardon from his wounded side, languished for you the eternal God, for you the Prince of Glory died. Believe, and all your guilt's forgiven, only believe—and yours is heaven."*

**All:** Amen!

#### IV. BLESSING AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, BY WESLEY STATUE

Leader: Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

Reader: In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

**All: We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.**

#### V. "THE GRACE" (*We bless one another before we retire for the day.*)

**"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen."**

#### VI. EVENING DEVOTIONS: (*On your own, before bed.*)

##### *Praying with John Wesley Saturday Evening: Gratitude*

##### **Self-Examination**

##### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

##### *Questions Focusing on Gratitude*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in gratitude toward God?
2. Have I set apart time to thank God for the blessings of the past week?
3. Have I given attention to those blessings, not just listing them but pondering each one so as to have a full appreciation of them?
4. Have I considered each of them as an obligation to greater love and stricter holiness?
5. How have I used this week to live out a grateful response to God?

##### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Hebrews 12:28-29 and 13:13-16. [NRSV]

12: "28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, 29 for indeed our God is a consuming fire."

13: "13 Let us then go to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. 15 Through Him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that

confess His name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

2. Sing or proclaim “Maker, in Whom We Live” (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 88).

1. Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move,  
the glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love.  
Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high,  
while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.
2. Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race  
render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace.  
The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choirs proclaim,  
and cry, "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!"
3. Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore  
thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart-renewing power.  
No angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height,  
the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.
4. Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,  
let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love.  
When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face,  
sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

### Evening Prayer

*Scripture References:* Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:8-11

Great and glorious God, you are wonderful in all your doings toward humanity. Accept my heartfelt thanks and praise for giving me life, for redeeming me when I was still an enemy, for preserving me to this day, for guiding me into your ways by your Holy Spirit, and for all the various kindnesses you have showered upon me. All that I have has come from you, Lord; all that I can give you came from you already. How can I ever love you enough or praise your name sufficiently for these and all your favors? My mind is unable to conceive of the thanks due you, even for this gift of coming into your presence and speaking with you.

I wish I had the flaming heart of the seraphim, that I might burn with love for you as they do! But since I am on the earth, I will praise you as fully as I can. I will join my song with the immortal armies of angels and archangels, who forever sing with shouts of praise: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory!" Keep me ever watchful for opportunities to do you service, to bear witness to your great kindness, to show my gratitude with my life and loyalty as well as with my lips.

Continue your favor toward me, and take me into your protection this night. Let your holy angels watch over me to defend me from the attempts of evil people and from the suggestions of evil spirits. Let me rest in peace and not sleep in sin, and grant that I may rise more fit to serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Ye Servants of God" or "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 181 and 286).



## SUNDAY, MARCH 30

LONDON: JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL, AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Sunday Morning: Love for God***

### Self-Examination

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

### Scripture and Reflection

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
 

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. 7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." [NRSV]
2. Think about the acts of prayer, worship, and study you will pursue this day, and prepare yourself to engage each act with your whole being, energy, and attention.
3. Sing or read "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 64).
  1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty. Early in the morning Our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty God in three persons Blessed Trinity!
  2. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see. Only Thou art holy, There is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love and purity.
  3. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty. All Thy works shall praise Thy name In earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty. God in three persons Blessed Trinity.

### Morning Prayer

*Scripture References:* Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:36-38; 1 John 2:15-17

Thank you, God, for setting this day apart from the concerns of this world. Thank you for the privilege of spending this day in praising you and in remembering your acts of love in creating us, redeeming us by the death of Jesus, and giving us eternal hope by Jesus' resurrection and ascension to your right hand. Let your Holy Spirit guide and help me this day to worship you as deserve. Let your Spirit keep my thoughts from wandering from you, fan the flames of my love for you, and arouse my desire to worship and obey you.

I know, Lord, that you have commanded me to love you with all my heart and all my strength. This is the level of devotion that you deserve in every way. I am drawn to love you by the virtue and goodness of your own nature. I am drawn to love you even more by the kindness you have shown me: giving me life, ransoming my soul, and leading me to the eternal joys you have prepared

for those who serve you. Loving you is the goal for which I was created; therefore, I can have no happiness apart from loving you.

So fill my heart with love for you, that it will become the motive for all the use I make of my mind, my feelings, my senses, my health, my time, my property, and the skills I have received from you. Let me love nothing in this world except as love for you guides me, and so keep me from idolatry. Enable me to be more faithful in love for you during what remains of my life than I have been up to now. Make my resolve firm to love you not merely in words or emotions, but through loyal obedience to your commandments and to your work in the world this day and every day.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the hearts and devotion of the worshipers of God throughout the church this day;
- the faithfulness of ministers throughout the church to the teaching of the apostles;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- those limited in their ability to leave home, prisoners, and others who are disconnected from the local church;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need reconciliation.

*Note: Today we will be worshipping at John Wesley's Chapel, The Mother Church of Methodism. Consider reading through the Background Supplements below now to prepare for the day.*

## **II. MORNING SONG: "This Is the Day!"** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

### **III. WORSHIP AT JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL:** *Holy Communion and Sunday Worship*

#### **A. Background Supplement** for John Wesley's City Road Chapel

Psalm 150:6 "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."

Psalm 92:1 "It is good to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High."

Hymn: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

On the 11th anniversary of his Aldersgate experience, Charles wrote the hymn, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." In Charles' first hymnal published in 1740, he gave this hymn the title, "For the Anniversary Day of One's Conversion." The hymn was inspired by the Moravian leader Peter Böhler who expressed spiritual joy in this way: "Oh, Brother Wesley, the Lord has done so much for my life. Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ Jesus with every one of them!"

Verse 1: O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemers praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Verse 2: My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Verse 3: 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.

Verse 4: He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free; his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

Verse 5: He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful,  
broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Verse 6: In Christ, your head, your then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

#### Historical Setting:

In the 1770s, the needs of the Methodists far outgrew the Old Foundry. Wesley then had a plot of land purchased here on City Road for a chapel and his residence. In 1778, the chapel was complete and this site became the new headquarters for Methodism in London and in all of Britain. On the day of its dedication, Sunday, November 1, 1778, Wesley wrote in his journal.

“The new chapel in the City-Road. It is perfectly neat, but not fine; and contains far more people than the Foundry: I believe, together with the morning chapel, as many as the Tabernacle. Many were afraid that the multitudes, crowding from all parts, would have occasioned much disturbance. But they were happily disappointed: There was none at all: All was quietness, decency, and order. I preached on part of Solomon's Prayer at the Dedication of the Temple; and both in the morning and afternoon, (when I preached on the hundred forty and four thousand standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion,) God was eminently present in the midst of the congregation.”

Ever since its opening, this church has been considered the “Mother Church of Methodism.”

### **B. Background Supplement for The Foundry Chapel**

#### Hymn: “Love Divine All Love Excelling”

The organ in the chapel was Charles’ personal organ. It was from this organ that Charles composed many of his hymns, including this one!

1. Love Divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breath, O Breathe they loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

#### Historical Setting:

The Old Foundry, which used to be located a couple of blocks from here, served as the headquarters for John Wesley’s ministry in London, and so served as the headquarters for Methodism for over 40 years. At first, Wesley had been part of the Fetter Lane Society. Yet a rift developed over “quitism” between Wesley and the other leaders at Fetter Lane, which eventually led to a division. The society at Fetter Lane had acquired a chapel for their use, and in July 1740, led by James Hutton, they promptly voted not to let Wesley preach there. Wesley, along with a few supporters, held fast to their objection against “quitism” or “stillness.” The following Sunday, after a love-feast in Fetter Lane, Wesley read a paper to the group reasserting his position against their views, which he felt were “flatly contrary to the Word of God.” He concluded by saying, “I have borne with you long, hoping you would return. But as I find you more and more confirmed in the error of your ways, nothing now remains but that I should give you up to God. You that are of the same judgement, follow me.” He then withdrew, followed by eighteen or nineteen of the society, including his mother.

Wesley and those who had separated themselves met in an old war munitions foundry that Wesley had purchased not long before. The Foundry had been in a sad state of disrepair, but Wesley had been committed to making it work. He had put a great deal of money into fixing it up for his use. In November of 1738, Wesley writes about how some of those who followed him decided to help with the cost of fixing up the Old Foundry:

“In a few days some of them said, ‘Sir, we will not sit under you for nothing; we will subscribe quarterly.’ I said, ‘I will have nothing; for I want nothing. My Fellowship supplies me with all I want.’ One replied, ‘Nay, but you want a hundred and fifteen pounds to pay for the lease of the Foundry; and likewise a large sum of money to put it into repair.’ On this consideration, I suffered them to subscribe. And when the society met, I asked, ‘Who will take the trouble of receiving this money, and paying it where it is needful?’ One said, ‘I will do it, and keep the account for you.’ So here was the first Steward. Afterwards, I desired one or two more to help me, as Stewards, and, in process of time, a greater number.”

Wesley’s Foundry became the headquarters for Methodism in London, including Wesley’s own apartments, his study, a preaching house seating 1,500 people, a dwelling home for family, preachers, etc, a school, stables and a coach house and yard. Wesley would stay here for the three winter months but would be on the circuit for the other nine.

In the 1770s, the Foundry became far too inadequate and needed much repair. Thus the society pursued purchasing land on City Road for a new structure to be built. In 1778, the new chapel was finished, and on August 8 Wesley wrote in his journal, “This was the last night which I spent at the Foundry. What hath God wrought there in one-and-forty years!”

### C. Background Supplement for John Wesley’s Grave

Hebrews 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

Historical Setting:

At the time of Wesley’s death, things had changed considerably since the early days of Methodism in the 1740s when Wesley was rejected, cast out, barred from preaching in local pulpits, attacked by mobs and treated with disrespect and distrust. By his death, Wesley had gained the respect and approval of most of the people of his day, including those within the established church. Indeed, Wesley had simply outlived many of his opponents and enemies! Yet over the length of his life, he had proven to be a man of honesty, integrity, selflessness and deep faith. As his obituary in the *Gentleman’s Magazine* put it, he was “one of the few characters who outlived enmity and prejudice, and received, in his latter years, every mark of respect from every denomination” (*EMW*, 2:154).

A week after his death, Wesley’s close friends became nervous as they prepared for his funeral on March 9, 1791. Large numbers of people arrived in the area the day before, and this prompted the leaders, late at night, to make arrangements for the burial to occur in private the next morning at 5:00 a.m. in the grounds behind the chapel on City Road. About 20 close friends knew the plan and were at grave side. Wesley’s will followed a long-standing tradition and specified that six poor people should carry his body to the grave, each to be given a pound.

Wesley requested a simple funeral ceremony with “no pomp, except the tears of them that loved me, and are following me to Abraham’s bosom” (*JWJ*, 8:343). The public service in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m. was accompanied by an outdoor throng that was quiet and

peaceful. Dr. John Whitehead, Wesley's personal physician and a local preacher in London, delivered the funeral sermon. The sermon and account of the funeral were printed within hours and were read from Methodist pulpits throughout British Isles within days. The black drapings from the Chapel were remade into dresses and distributed to poor women (*Rack*, 533).

#### **D. Background Supplement for John Wesley's House**

Hymn: "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath" by Isaac Watts

(*Note: Watts is buried in Bunhills Cemetery, across the road from John Wesley's City Road Methodist Chapel, along with Susanna Wesley and John Bunyan.*)

1. I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; And when my voice is lost in death,  
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
2. My days of praise shall ne'er be past, While life, and thought, and being last,  
Or immortality endures.

Historical Setting:

Advancing in years and health declining, Wesley pressed on with a grueling schedule. In mid-February 1791, he caught a cold, and on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> he was unable to preach. He improved enough to preach on the following Wednesday, the day of his last diary entry. That day, he also finished reading *Gustavus Vasa*, the life of a former Barbados slave, Olaudah Equiano. This book inspired Wesley to write, the following day, a word of encouragement to William Wilberforce, member of Parliament, in his fight against the slave trade: "Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the son) shall vanish away before it" (JL, 8:265). Yet it was not until 1807 that Wilberforce's work finally brought about the abolition of slavery in England, and the eradication of the slave trade in the 1830s.

The next day, Wesley took a fever and began to decline rapidly. His housekeeper and companion, Elizabeth Ritchie, was at his side throughout the following week and recorded the events in some detail. On March 1, the feeble Wesley gathered his strength and began singing Isaac Watt's hymn, "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath," which astonished those attending him. Further attempts to sing or speak were quite unsuccessful; "those lips which used to feed many were no longer able to convey their accustomed sounds." He was able to gather up his strength for one of his last utterances, "The best of all is, God is with us." On the following morning, March 2, 1791, he uttered his feeble last, "Farewell" (*JWJ*, 8:138-144). John Wesley, at the age of 87, finally was granted his greatest desire. He went to be with His Lord forever.

### **IV. RESOURCES FOR OUR "LAST SUPPER" AT THE SWAN**

#### **A. Grace for the Dinner:**

The "Wesley Table Grace"

**Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and everywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
May feast in paradise with Thee.**

**B. Sharing Time:** Each person shares:

1. A trip “high”
2. A trip “low”
3. A God sighting on the trip, a key spiritual insight or learning, or some way that you have grown spiritually

**C. We bless one another** with “The Grace” used among British Methodists (2 Cor. 13:14):

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

**V. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** (*On your own, before bed.*)***Praying with John Wesley Sunday Evening: Love for God*****Self-Examination***General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

*Questions Focusing on Love for God*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in love for God?
2. Have I spent time today reflecting on God's kindness and God's character?
3. How have I sought to make this day holy to God through worship and resting in God's love?
4. How did I spend the time that was not occupied with prayer, reading, and meditation? Did I honor God and promote spiritual refreshment throughout the day's activity?

**Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read John 14:23-24 and 1 John 5:3.

John 14: “23 Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.’”

1 John 5:3 “In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.”

2. Reflect on the spiritual refreshment you received this day in your worship, study, and meditation.

**Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Luke 22:42; Revelation 4-5

I praise you, Lord, for washing me in baptism, teaching me your truth and your ways, preserving me by your gifts and kindness, guiding me by your Spirit, and permitting me and all Christians to worship you and feast at your holy table. Be gracious to all of us and strengthen our hearts against all temptation.

Deliver me from everything that keeps me from loving you fully and completely. Deliver me from the desires, ambitions, and emotions that draw me away from serving you and pleasing you in all parts of my life. Deliver me from being so involved in the necessary affairs of work and home that I lose sight of you standing by my side, or that I seek in the affairs of daily life to please myself or others rather than striving to please you in everything. Keep me sufficiently detached from the busyness of life, that I may see you and know your fellowship throughout the day. Deliver me from being halfhearted in my devotion to you, in my prayers and reading of your Word, and in my service to you. Keep my desire for you and for serving you ever growing, ever burning. Give me a lively, zealous, active, and cheerful spirit, that I might do whatever you command.

Deliver me, Lord, from idolatrous love of created things or beings. Keep me from loving anything of this world except in service to my love for you, and only as far as love for you will allow. Above all, my God, deliver me from an idolatrous love of self. I know that you made me to do your will, not mine, and to love myself, as all other created things, only as it serves love for you.

Let my love for you make my soul steadfast and reliable toward you; let love for you bring wholeness and integrity to all parts of my life. Open me up to taste ever more of your goodness and your love, that my desire will always be for you and that I may give you the cheerful, constant, and wholehearted love, praise, and service that is your due. Make it ever my ambition to give you such constant honor and service as you receive from the angels in heaven.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "More Love to Thee, O Christ" or "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 453 and 298).

# MONDAY, MARCH 31

## RETURN FLIGHT

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Monday Morning: Love for Neighbor***

### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read 1 John 3:16-18 and 4:20-21.

“3:16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. 17 How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? 18 Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”

“4:20 Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

2. Consider the people you will encounter today. How can you bring them encouragement, a word of grace, a needed kindness? Consider people with whom you have a strained relationship. How can you arm yourself to do no harm, and even to show love, to these?

### **Morning Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Genesis 1:26-27; John 15:12-13; Romans 15:7; Ephesians 4:31–5:2; James 3:5-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19

O God, the giver of all good gifts, thank you for giving me this day in which to renew my commitment to walk in your ways. Help me perceive the in which I may improve my obedience this day. Be present at all times, in every task, in whatever company I will keep this day; let your love be my compass throughout today's journey.

You have made all people in your own image, and each person is capable of knowing and loving you. Do not permit me to exclude any person from my loving care, but let me treat each person with that tender love and respect that is due all your children. You have commanded me to show love to others as proof of my love for you. Let no person's words or actions tempt me away from giving you the service you command; rather, let me love for your sake even those who are unkind and hostile to me.

Open my eyes to see the opportunities you will give me to help those in any kind of need. Make me diligent and bold to provide for the hungry and homeless, comfort the disheartened, and



protect the oppressed. Grant me the wisdom and courage to teach those who are unmindful of you, strengthen the weak in faith, encourage my sisters and brothers, and warn the wicked, always with gentleness and compassion. Move me to pray for those whom I cannot reach directly with my service.

Let your love for me, blessed Savior, be the pattern for my love for others. You gave your life for my salvation. Let no possession be so important to me that I am not willing to give it up for the everlasting good of my fellow Christians. They are members of your body; therefore, I will cherish them.

Extend your mercy to all people, and let them become your faithful servants. Let all Christians live up to the holy name that they profess. You established the worth of all humans by giving your precious blood for them. Set the value you place on each person I shall meet today firmly before my eyes, and let me love as you have loved.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the awakening of the church in every corner to its great calling;
- racial reconciliation and peace with justice throughout the world;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

## **II. MORNING SONG: “This Is the Day!”** *(When we depart on the bus for the day.)*

### **III. PRAYERS FOR FLIGHT** *(At the gate, before departure.)*

Leader: Here we are! God has brought us through our tour around Great Britain and has faithfully brought us to this gate.

**All: Our travel has been a witness to God’s faithfulness!**

Leader: But we do not stop praying! Now we pray for a safe and restful flight home.

**All: Faithful God, we thank you for bringing us here to this point. Now we ask for your protection and peace as we fly. Give wisdom and skill to the pilots, crew and staff of this flight. We pray for the health and well-being of all the passengers. Take us home and land us safely back on American soil. We trust in your care and love. Amen.**

### **III. PERSONAL DEVOTIONS:** *(During the flight.)*

#### **A. Opening Prayer:**

Remember three different people (not from our group) that you met or noticed during your

trip. What brought them to mind? Pray for each of them individually.

**B. Reflections:**

1. As you sort through your reflections on the trip, consider in what ways you will serve as a living Ebenezer (witness to God)—a voice of witness—for God as you return to your regular life.
2. Record some of the most treasured memories of the trip.
3. Think of two people you met, but whose names you don't know. What made you remember them?
4. Consider, in what ways will this trip affect your life and how you live?
5. When on this tour did you experience God most closely?
6. In what ways will you be able to share them with others?
7. Experiencing God in the special way on the trip is intended to enrich your life and walk with Christ. In what areas do you need to grow closer to Christ? What are some of the things you need to work on? How could you be a better disciple?

**C. Prayers:** Ask God to refresh your life and help you live for Him more earnestly. Pray for by name each of the people you traveled with. Lift up a specific concern or blessing for each one. Ask for help in getting back into the normal routine of life, including catching up on all your mail, chores, duties. Ask God for opportunities to share with others in the days ahead the faith-enriching experiences of the trip. Close with the prayer below.

**D. Closing Prayer:**

O great and glorious God, thank you for answering our prayers at the beginning of our adventure together. Thank you for granting us a wonderful trip, a safe journey, and the joy of our return. Our trip together is now over, yet our true adventure is just beginning. We are new people, we have been changed. Help us to live our lives faithfully in Your service and we again return to our normal routines. Let us not lose the closeness we have experienced with You these last two weeks. Let us join our voices with the witnesses to you that we have encountered. Enable us to be living Ebenezer for you! In His name we pray. Amen.

#### **IV. FINAL BLESSING** *(At arrival gate or baggage claim.)*

Leader: We have arrived! God has been so faithful, so gracious!

**All: Thank you, God!**

Leader: Two weeks ago we met one another, some for the first time.

**All: Now we are friends!**

Leader: But the time has come to separate and head home.

**All: Continue to bless us, God!**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O great and glorious God, thank you for answering our prayers at the beginning of our adventure together. Thank you for granting us a wonderful trip, a safe journey, and the joy of our return. Our trip together now draws to a close, yet our true adventure is just beginning. We are new people, we have been changed. Help us to live our lives faithfully in Your service and we again return to our normal routines. Let us not lose the closeness we have experienced with You these last two weeks. Bless each and every one of us, and help us to be followers of John Wesley, as still today he teaches us to be disciples of Christ. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Leader: One more time we bless each other with The Grace:

**All: "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."**

#### **V. EVENING DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, back home!)*

##### ***Praying with John Wesley Sunday Evening: Love for Neighbor***

##### **Self-Examination**

##### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

##### *Questions Focusing on Love for Neighbor*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in love for my neighbor?
2. Have I allowed myself to feel and share my neighbor's joy or sorrow?

3. Have I responded to my neighbor's weaknesses with understanding rather than with irritation?
4. Have I yielded to my neighbor the right to have the last word in a disagreement?

### Scripture and Reflection

1. Read Romans 12:9-21 and Galatians 6:7-10. [NRSV}

Romans 12, “9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

“14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.’ 20 Instead, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Galatians 6, “7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. 8 If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.”

2. Confess your failures and sins to God, and receive God's forgiveness and assurance of love.

### Evening Prayer

*Scripture References:* Matthew 5:43-48; 6:14-15; Luke 6:35-36; Romans 12:17-21; 1 Timothy 2:4

Thank you, dear Lord, for your love and care for me evidenced in so many ways. Thank you for pardoning the sins I have committed this day; thank you for the opportunities to show love that were well used this day; thank you also for sins avoided on account of your guidance and restraint. Let it be my single ambition, my God, to honor you in every thought, word, and deed; and make me bold to invite all people around me to honor and love you as well.

Your love toward me is so patient, so tender, even when I provoke you with my disobedience. Give me such an appreciation of your love for me that I may show the same patient and tender love to my neighbor, especially when he or she opposes me. Stir up within me a zeal to do all in my power, whether in prayer or deed, to promote the safety and happiness of my neighbor; make me active to comfort and relieve all those whom you entrust to my care by bringing me into contact with them. Lord, help me to be peaceful rather than argumentative; help me to be quick to forget an injury and be reconciled to my neighbor, mindful of how many times you have forgiven my provocations.

After your own example, make me glad to give good in return for evil, and thus share in the triumph of your love. In all my dealings with my fellow human beings, let me reflect your love, your generous spirit, your desire to do good both to the just and to the unjust. You have so valued each person that you sent your Son for each and every one. Implant, therefore, such a compassion in my heart for people that I will eagerly seek out how I may win them to your love.

Take me, my family, my friends, and my enemies into your protection this night. Refresh me with rest, that I may rise ready to serve you.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "Jesu, Jesu" or "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 432 and 581).

*Note: In order to complete a full two cycles of John Wesley's "A Collection of Forms of Prayer for Every Day of the Week," morning and evening devotions are included on the following pages for Tues., April 1.*

# TUESDAY, APRIL 1

## BACK HOME

**I. FIRST DEVOTIONS:** *(On your own, before breakfast.)*

***Praying with John Wesley Monday Morning: Humility***

### **Self-Examination**

1. Was God my last thought before sleeping and my first thought upon waking?
2. What tasks and encounters will I face today, and how may I prepare myself to bring honor and pleasure to God in them?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Philippians 2:3-11.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

8 he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,

10 so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. [NRSV]

2. Thank God for all the blessings given to you. Pray for God's help in all the situations you are facing.

### **Morning Prayer**

Dear Jesus, give me the mind that was you. Put in my heart that spirit of meekness and humility that you showed as you served the poor and the outcast and as you poured yourself out for others. Keep me this day from seeking the praise and affirmation of people; keep me from longing

to be thought of as somebody in terms of wealth, fame, influence, and all the other empty toys of the world. Make it my whole and single desire to be somebody in your eyes.

Lord, I see the faults and scorn the failures of others quickly enough. Let me have such a keen eye when it comes to my own ignorance, weakness, and sinfulness. Then I will think of myself as I ought to think, rather than focusing on the weaknesses of others. In all my encounters with other people today, let me serve them and serve you in them. Free me from having to have my own way in everything; deliver me from having to win every argument. Place before my eyes the dignity and value of each person I will come across, so that I shall not injure them by haughty words or insensitive actions. Help me to show them respect and love, and treat each one as someone greater than myself. Help me also to be content that other people should think of me as I truly am: weak, ignorant, and sinful. Deliver me from the need to show a veneer of perfection to others.

As you allow me and equip me to grow into the virtues that please you, remind me always that I am only a beginner in discipleship. However far you permit me to progress, and however many opportunities you give me to serve you, I am still making a beginning. Use me this day as pleases you, not as pleases me, for I am your servant.

*Prayers may be offered for*

- the church and its leaders (both clergy and lay);
- the spiritual awakening of our country and the end of violence and hate;
- those in need of God's protection, deliverance, healing, and guidance;
- family members, friends, and those with whom we need to be reconciled.

**II. MORNING SONG: "This Is the Day!"**     *Sing this song as you travel to your first destination.*

**III. THE "WESLEY TABLE GRACE"**     *Use this grace for a meal time today.*

**Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and everywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
May feast in paradise with Thee.**

**We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,  
For life and health and every good;  
By Thine own hand may we be fed;  
Give us each day our daily bread.**

**We thank Thee, Lord, for this our good,  
But more because of Jesus' blood;  
Let manna to our souls be giv'n,  
The Bread of Life sent down from Heav'n. Amen.**

#### IV. BLESSING OF YOUR HOME AND LOCAL CHURCH

*Bless both your home (sometime today) and your local church (next time you go there) using the blessing we used in Great Britain.*

Jesus taught His followers to build their lives on His words.

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

We bless this house of God, built on the Rock who is Jesus, and we pray it will continue to fortify disciples of Jesus to stand firm in the storms of life. Amen.

#### V. “THE GRACE”

*At some point during the day, call to mind the travelers from our trip and pray this for them.*

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”**

#### VI. EVENING DEVOTIONS: *(Before bed.)*

##### ***Praying with John Wesley Sunday Evening: Humility***

##### **Self-Examination**

##### *General Questions*

1. Have I done anything today without considering how it might advance God's purposes, whether in small or large ways?
2. Have I been quick and eager to do what good I could do this day?
3. Have I sought God's purposes in all my interactions with other people today?

##### *Questions Focusing on Humility*

1. How have I sought to use this day to grow in my humility?
2. Have I sought to put myself entirely at God's disposal this day?
3. Have I done anything today in order to gain human praise or taken pleasure in such praise?
4. Have I entertained fantasies or desires for moving up in the world, or have my desires focused only on how to serve God and others?
5. Have I given myself credit for things God has accomplished through me?
6. Have I admitted when I was in the wrong?



7. Did my treatment of other people today show honor and respect, or haughtiness?
8. Have I refrained from justifying myself where God's honor was not at stake?

### **Scripture and Reflection**

1. Read Romans 15:1-3.

1 We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

2. Confess the day's sins and shortcomings, receiving God's forgiveness and love.

3. Read Psalm 51:1-17.

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. 5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right[b] spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

### **Evening Prayer**

*Scripture References:* Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 25:21

Jesus, Lamb of God, enable me to imitate your humility and meekness throughout my whole life, in my every thought, conversation, desire, and act. Preserve me from thinking too much of myself, demanding all that I think I deserve, or expecting that people treat me as if I were the center of their universe. Keep me from seeking to please myself and to increase my fame or power, and let me desire only to advance your honor and your pleasure in the world. Let my ears be closed to human praise and alert only for your word: "Well done."

You, Lord, are the source of every good gift and every good work. If in any way you work through me, teach me to give all credit and praise to you. Let me be as a clear window, allowing your light to pass through me into the world without claiming as my own what belongs only to you.

You were despised and rejected by people. When I am snubbed by a friend, passed over by an employer, ridiculed by my peers, or treated with disrespect by others, remind me of the insults and disrespect you encountered—you who are Lord of all. If it is for your sake that I am slighted, then let me be glad rather than dejected. If it is for some other cause, then let me embrace the slight as an opportunity to heal me of pride and vanity and ask your mercy for those who have slighted me. I am beginning to be a disciple of Christ, just beginning. Keep my heart humble before you.

You have preserved me from all the dangers of this day. Let me pass this night in comfort and peace under the shadow of your wings.

*Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

You may read or sing "All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine" or "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (*The United Methodist Hymnal*, 166 and 402).

### ***Congratulations!***

***You have successfully completed two full cycles of John Wesley's "A Collection of Forms of Prayer for Every Day of the Week" for morning and evening devotions!***

***Consider keeping up this practice, using this outline, going forward.  
God bless!***

# The Wesley Community Daily Office

Invocation: Leader: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**People: Amen.**

Sentence: L: The grace of the Lord has come this day upon the world with healing for all mankind.

Response: L: O Lord, open our lips;  
**P: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
L: O God make speed to save us;  
**P: O Lord make haste to help us.**  
L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**P: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

Act of Praise: Hymn: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Vs. 1: **O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

Vs. 2: **My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, the spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**

Vs. 3: **In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven; anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.**

Lesson: Hebrews 12:1-6

[1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. [2] Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

[4] In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. [5] And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, [6] because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Lesson: Philippians 3:12-14

[12] Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. [13] Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Silence.

Canticle: The Benedictus (The words of Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, recorded in Luke 1:68-79. He first talks about Jesus and then his own son.)

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he has visited and redeemed his people; and has raised up a mighty salvation for us: in the house of his servant David; as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets: which have been since the world began; that we should be saved from our enemies: and from the hands of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our forefathers: and to remember his holy covenant; to perform the oath: which he swore to our forefather Abraham; that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies: might serve him without fear; in holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life.

“And you, my child, shall go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people: for the remission of their sins; through the tender mercy of our God: whereby the day-spring from on high has visited us; to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

**P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

L: Lord of all power and might, we praise you for your work of creation; for sending your Son to be the Savior of the world; we thank you for his ministry: his death on the cross: his resurrection, ascension, and heavenly reign: and for the promise of his coming in his kingdom. We bless you for the gift of the Holy Spirit: for our life together in your Church: for our calling to serve you in the world: and for the assurance of eternal life in Christ. Strengthen us by your Spirit to do your will and to bring us all to share in the fullness of your eternal joy: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**P: Amen.**

The Wesley Community Collect:

**P: Almighty Father, you have called this community to share in the work of your kingdom; so empower us by the Holy Spirit, that in faith and holiness we may proclaim to all the good news of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

**P: “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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

“The Grace” (2 Cor. 13:14):

**P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**

# BLESSING OF PILGRIMS

We are embarking on a tourist trip, but also a spiritual pilgrimage. Protestants Christians don't emphasize formal spiritual pilgrimages very much, but they are a very significant among Roman Catholics. Many of the sights we are going to visit have been visited by Roman Catholic pilgrims for hundreds of years, and still are today. Therefore, we incorporate into our devotions an "Order for the Blessing of Pilgrims on Their Departure," adapted from the Roman Catholic ritual book (the numbers indicate the listing in the prayer book). I hope you will find it spiritually meaningful.

590 *Whether in a traditional or a modern form, a pilgrimage to a holy place, to the tomb of a saint, or to a shrine should be regarded as having pastoral value. Pilgrimages are occasions for conversion, spiritual growth, and the advance of the apostolate.*

591 *The proper, that is, spiritual, character of the Christian pilgrimage must be carefully explained and inculcated ahead of time, so that the pilgrims will truly be "traveling heralds of Christ" and will experience fully the good effects of their pilgrimage.*

## Introductory Rites

595 When the group of pilgrims has gathered, Psalm 122 may be sung.

Psalm 122, A song of ascents. Of David.

1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

2 Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.

3. Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

4 That is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.

5 There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.

7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."

8 For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."

9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

596 Celebrant: May God, our strength and salvation, be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

597 Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, as we set out, we should remind ourselves of the reasons for our resolve to go on this holy pilgrimage. The place we intend to visit is a monument to the devotion of the people of God. They have gone there in great numbers to be strengthened in the Christian way of life and to become more determined to devote themselves to the works of charity. We must also try to bring something to the faithful who live there: our example of faith, hope, and love. In this way both they and we will be enriched by the help we give each other.

## Reading of the Word of God

598 Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5:6-10: "We are away from the Lord. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

600 Responsorial psalm: Psalm 24:

*Response:* **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. *Response.*

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD or who may stand in his holy place? He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. *Response.*

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. *Response.*

### **Intercessions**

602 Celebrant: God is the beginning and the end of life's pilgrimage. Let us call on him with confidence, saying:

*Response:* **Lord, be the companion of our journey.**

Father all-holy, of old you made yourself the guide and the way for your people as they wandered in the desert; be our protection as we begin this journey, so that we may return home again in safety. *Response.*

You have given us your only Son to be our way to you; make us follow him faithfully and unswervingly. *Response.*

You gave us Mary as the image and model for following Christ; grant that through her example we may live a new life. *Response.*

You guide your pilgrim Church on earth through the Holy Spirit; may we seek you in all things and walk always in the way of your commandments. *Response.*

You lead us along right and peaceful paths; grant that we may one day see you face to face in heaven. *Response.*

### **Prayer of Blessing**

603 Celebrant: All-powerful God, you always show mercy toward those who love you and you are never far away for those who seek you. Remain with your servants on this holy pilgrimage and guide their way in accord with your will. Shelter them with your protection by day, give them the light of your grace by night, and, as their companion on the journey, bring them to their destination in safety. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **Concluding Rite**

604 Celebrant: May the Lord guide us and direct our journey in safety.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: May the Lord be our companion along the way.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: May the Lord grant that the journey we begin, relying on Him, will end happily through His protection.

**All: Amen.**

# The Order of Administration of the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion from

*The Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church according to the use of The Church of England: Together with the Psalter or Psalms of David (A.D. 1662)*

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## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Some elements have been modified, such as adding hymn singing, others removed, such as the collection of offerings.
- The Priest leads the entire service, unless otherwise noted.
- Anglican rule: sit to listen, stand to praise, kneel to pray, and bow at creed.
- There will be a LOT of kneeling. Feel free to kneel in spirit.

## GREETING (with the Sign of the Cross)

Minister: The Lord be with you

**People: and also with you.**

## \*HYMN

“Come, We that Love the Lord”

(Isaac Watts, 1707)

**1. Come, we that love the Lord,  
and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
and thus surround the throne.**

**2. Let those refuse to sing  
who never knew our God;  
but children of the Heav'nly King  
may speak their joys abroad.**

## LORD'S PRAYER *(Priest at north side of the Communion Table; people kneeling.)*

Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## THE COLLECT *(In traditional Anglican worship, a "collect" is a brief, structured prayer that "collects" the intentions of the people and focuses them on a particular aspect of God's work or a specific need, often used as the opening prayer of a service.)*

Almighty God, unto Whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS

Minister: GOD spake these words, and said; I am the Lord thy God: Thou shalt have none other gods but Me.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Minister: Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and shew mercy unto thousands in them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless, that taketh His Name in vain.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath-day. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt do no manner of work, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-servant, and thy maid-servant, thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and ail that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Thou shalt do no murder.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Thou shalt not commit adultery.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Thou shalt not steal.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

**Minister:** Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.**

**COLLECT FOR THE KING** *(by Priest, at north side of the Communion Table; people kneeling)*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, we are taught by Thy Holy Word, that the hearts of Kings are in Thy rule and governance, and that Thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to Thy Godly wisdom: we humbly beseech Thee so to dispose and govern the heart of CHARLES, Thy Servant, [England's] King and Governor, that, in all his thoughts, words, and works, he may ever seek Thy honour and glory, and study to preserve Thy people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace, and Godliness. Grant this, O merciful Father, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

WE beseech Thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of Thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of Thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CREED** *(by Priest, people standing, heads bowed)*

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:



And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the prophets. And I believe one catholick and apostolick Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE SERMON: “Collision With Jesus”      John 3:1-21

HOLY COMMUNION      *(by Priest, people kneeling)*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

Almighty and everliving God, Who by Thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; we humbly beseech Thee most mercifully to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto Thy Divine Majesty; beseeching Thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant, that all they who do confess Thy holy Name may agree in the truth of Thy holy Word, and live in unity, and godly love. We beseech Thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governours; and specially Thy servant, CHARLES [England's] King; that [those] under him may be Godly and quietly governed: and grant unto Christ's whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under Him, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of Thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O Heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth Thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer Thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give Thy Heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive Thy holy Word; truly serving Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech Thee, of Thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless Thy holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear; beseeching Thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of Thy Heavenly Kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

EXHORTATION      *(by Priest, people sitting)*

DEARLY beloved in the Lord, ye that mind to come to the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ, must consider how Saint Paul exhorteth all persons diligently to try and examine themselves, before they presume to eat of that

Bread, and drink of that Cup. For as the benefit is great, if with a true penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy Sacrament; (for then we spiritually eat the flesh of Christ, and drink His blood; then we dwell in Christ, and Christ in us; we are one with Christ, and Christ with us;) so is the danger great, if we receive the same unworthily. For then we are guilty of the Body and Blood of Christ our Saviour; we eat and drink our own damnation, not considering the Lord's Body; we kindle God's wrath against us; we provoke Him to plague us with divers diseases, and sundry kinds of death. Judge therefore yourselves, brethren, that ye be not judged of the Lord; repent you truly for your sins past; have a lively and stedfast faith in Christ our Saviour; amend your lives, and be in perfect charity with all men; so shall ye be meet partakers of those holy mysteries. And above all things ye must give most humble and hearty thanks to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, both God and man; Who did humble Himself, even to the death upon the Cross, for us, miserable sinners, who lay in darkness and the shadow of death; that He might make us the children of God, and exalt us to everlasting life. And to the end that we should alway remember the exceeding great love of our Master, and only Saviour, Jesus Christ, thus dying for us, and the innumerable benefits which by His precious blood-shedding He hath obtained to us; He hath instituted and ordained holy mysteries, as pledges of His love, and for a continual remembrance of His death, to our great and endless comfort. To Him therefore, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, let us give (as we are most bounden) continual thanks; submitting ourselves wholly to His holy will and pleasure, and studying to serve Him in true holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. Amen.

#### INVITATION

YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

#### CONFESSION *(by all, kneeling)*

All: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against Thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of Thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION (*Announced by Priest, who is standing and facing the people who are kneeling.*)

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, Who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him; have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to Him. "Come unto Me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you" St. Matth. xi. 28.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith. "This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" 1 Tim. i. 15.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People: It is meet and right so to do.**

(*Then shall the Priest turn to the Lord's Table, and say:*)

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name; evermore praising Thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: glory be to Thee, O Lord most High. Amen.

(*Then shall the Priest, kneeling down at the Lord's Table, say in the name of all them that shall receive the Communion this Prayer following:*)

We do not presume to come to this Thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy table. But Thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body, and our souls washed through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (*by Priest, standing, holding bread and chalice*)

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, Who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; Who made there (by His one oblation of Himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in His holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that His precious death, until His coming again; Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech Thee; and grant that we receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of

His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed Body and Blood: Who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is My Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper He took the cup; and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me. Amen.

*(Priest lays hands on all to be concentrated)*

*Then shall the Minister first receive the Communion in both kinds himself, and after that to the people also in order, into their hands, all meekly kneeling*

*And, when he delivereth the Bread to any one, he shall say,*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on Him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*And the Minister that delivereth the Cup to any one shall say,*

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

*After shall be said as followeth.*

O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire Thy Fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant, that by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and all Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of His passion. And here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with Thy grace and Heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by Whom, and with Whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

*Then shall be said or sung (all standing),*

All: **Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION BLESSING** *(standing)*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

Thanael's worship service for Bristol New Room

## HYMN SING AT CHARLES WESLEY'S HOUSE

of hymns written by Charles Wesley

### “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.
- 3 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.
- 4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free; his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.
- 5 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

### “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down, Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art; Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast; Let us all in thee inherit, Let us find thy promised rest; Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; End of faith as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver; Let us all thy grace receive; Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy host above, Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.
4. 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 Heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

### “And Can It Be”

- 1 And can it be that I should gain An int'rest in the Savior'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, should die for me?  
*Refrain:* Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!
- 2 'Tis mystery all! Th'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 inquire no more. [*Refrain*]
- 3 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. [*Refrain*]
- 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [*Refrain*]
- 5 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 th'eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own. [*Refrain*]

### **“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”**

1. Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly, while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past; safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.
2. Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee; leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring; cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in thee I find; raise the fallen, cheer the faint, help the sick, and lead the blind. Just and holy is thy name, I am all unrighteousness; false and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.
4. Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin; let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee; spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

### **“Hark, How All the Welkin Rings!”**

1. Hark, how all the welkin rings, “Glory to the King of kings; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconcil’d!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; Universal nature say, “Christ the Lord is born to-day!”
2. Christ, by highest Heaven ador’d, Christ, the everlasting Lord: Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb! Veil’d in flesh, the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity! Pleas’d as man with men to appear, Jesus, our Immanuel here!
3. Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace, Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die; Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.
4. Come, desire of nations, come, Fix in us thy humble home; Rise, the woman’s conquering seed, Bruise in us the serpent’s head. Now display thy saving power, Ruin’d nature now restore; Now in mystic union join Thine to ours, and ours to thine.
5. Adam’s likeness, Lord, efface, Stamp thy image in its place. Second Adam from above, Reinstate us in thy love. Let us thee, though lost, regain, Thee, the life, the inner man: O, to all thyself impart, Form’d in each believing heart.

### **“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”**

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

### **“Soldiers of Christ, Arise”**

- 1 Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on, strong in the strength which God supplies  
thro' His eternal Son; strong in the Lord of hosts and in His mighty pow'r, who in the strength  
of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.
- 2 Stand then in His great might, with all His strength endued, and take, to aid you in the fight,  
the panoply of God. From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray; tread all the  
pow'rs of darkness down and win the well-fought day.
- 3 Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul; take every virtue, every grace,  
and fortify the whole. That, having all things done and all your conflicts past, ye may  
o'ercome thro' Christ alone and stand complete at last.

*Note:* This hymn, “Soldiers of Christ, Arise” was in its original form an extensive meditation on the importance of prayer. Lines in the original version include:

“Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul,  
take every virtue, every grace, and fortify the whole...  
Arm yourselves with all the mind that was in Christ, your Head...  
To keep your armour bright, attend with constant care,  
still walking in your Captain’s sight, and watching unto prayer...  
To God your every want in instant prayer display,  
pray always; pray and never faint; pray, without ceasing, pray!”