

# twelvebaskets

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## BIG CHURCH SING

In Collaboration with:



## BIG CHURCH SING AT HOME

14th June 2020

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes  
while churches are closed.

A free resource funded by **twelvebaskets**.

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

## Big Church Sing at Home<sup>1</sup>

**Call to worship** We come to the table, grateful for your welcome. We gather in your presence, sharing together in fellowship. We are here to receive, bless us by your Spirit, O God. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

**Hymn** – StF 409 – Let us build a house – [YouTube](#)

Let us build a house  
Where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where  
Saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And a symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground,  
Where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
Is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

### Opening prayers

God our Generous Host, we recognise as we pray that we have received so much from your hand:

you have given us breath to live and praise your name,  
you have given us food to strengthen us and water to refresh us,  
you have given us Jesus to be our friend, companion and Saviour,  
we are glad to be your guests today.

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<sup>1</sup> The Big Church Sing is a monthly online act of worship hosted by The Methodist Church and put together in a collaboration of All We Can and The National Methodist Choir, with other guest contributors. Twelve Baskets is pleased to be a part of this collaboration and bring you The Big Church Sing at Home, enabling individuals and congregations to join this worship during lockdown. Watch the whole service: [youtube.com/watch?v=eJR6EiO0pSk](https://youtube.com/watch?v=eJR6EiO0pSk)

<sup>2</sup> Call to worship by Tim Baker

God our Gracious Guest, we recognise as we pray that you come to us in so many ways:  
you whisper to us deep within our spirits when we feel alone,  
you show your love for us in the kindness of friends and strangers,  
you sit with us in our homes and walk with us on our streets,  
we are glad to welcome you today.

God, you are both the ground of our being and the gift of life within us:  
thank you for your gift of love which has surrounded us all our lives,  
thank you for your gift of grace which accepts us as we are, right now,  
thank you for your gift of hope which holds us now and for eternity.

So triune God, as we gather in your name this day, we ask for your forgiveness. We acknowledge all within us that is less than it could or should be.

This day through your grace, may we know we are truly forgiven.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

### **We now say the Lord's prayer**

**Reading** - Matthew 9:35-10:8 - [Click for Reading](#)

### **Reflection**

"Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news...When he looked out over the crowds, his heart was broken..."What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!" The Prayer was no sooner prayed than it was answered. Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields...Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighbourhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here..."

These selected verses form our reading from Matthew, and when read from The Message, help us to really focus in on Jesus' words and actions. He shared words of love and grace where people gathered, wherever he met them. He went to them. He talked of the creator, of how it might be, of how it could be.

Jesus was full of compassion as he looked out amongst the people. The task was huge, yet he had hope. He saw the need, so he prayed and then responded.

He didn't stay on his knees. He didn't call a meeting, to arrange to pray some more, although constant prayer was a vital component to his life on earth. He called his followers. They gathered, they prayed and they set about meeting the needs. They didn't wait for a complete plan with all the "t's" crossed and the "l's" dotted, they went and sat, they went and listened, they went and trusted, they went and ministered to those in need.

As we look around us today, as we watch the news, like Jesus we need to have compassion. Today's harvest is huge. But how will we respond?

Like the disciples in our reading Jesus is calling us near, calling us to pray. But how will you respond?<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Opening prayers by Jill Baker

<sup>4</sup> Reflection by Wayne Grewcock

**Reading:** Isaiah 40: 28-31 - [Click for Reading](#)

## Reflection

In the Big Church Sing Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal offered us some reflections on what hope means for him today: "I am not an optimist, but I am always hopeful, I keep hope alive and encourage others to do so too. Optimism is an attitude that says, relax, everything will be ok, leave everything to God, all shall be well. Hope is an attitude that says, whatever situation we find ourselves, we will say "right, now come on, roll up your sleeves, we will work together with others around us."

Optimism is individualistic and passive. Hope is solidarity and pro-active. This hope is in me, for me it is rooted in faith, and solidarity with others. I see it around me and I find it in others.

This hope has inspired and sustained me in the midst of the current coronavirus pandemic. I see this hope in the incredible expressions of solidarity in people, that within all our vast differences we are all one human race, every person is precious, every person is vulnerable, no one is immune, our sickness and our health, our existence and our survival, rests in each other. I see this hope in the incredible solidarity in people, in that attitudes and acts of grace and generosity, in people of all faiths and ethnicities and nationalities.

We have also realised that though people say "we are all in the same boat together", that we are not all in the same boat. There are different boats, with different levels of protection. We are all in the same storm, but in different boats. Some people are not even in boats, they are in the water, and looking for life belts.

We have all experienced fear and anxiety about the wellbeing of ourselves, our families, and friends. We have realised others are in a similar situation to us. We have a solidarity in our humanity, and frailty, and desire to be safe. We all seek safety, sanctuary and refuge.

We have realised that while some of us have good protective people and provision around us, and have homes and gardens, others don't, and live in danger, in streets and refugee camps. Thousands have lost their homes through wars and violence and extreme weather, and are as refugees seeking refuge and sanctuary.

This coronavirus storm will pass. But as we take sanctuary ourselves we keep in our hearts and minds those in their own sanctuaries now, with all the surrounding concerns, those without homes, those away from homes, and refugees who continue to be "the least important" internationally, and uphold them in our work and prayers. I give thanks for and find hope in the work of organisations like All We Can, through whom we can maintain our solidarity with those who feel most excluded and vulnerable."<sup>5</sup>

## Putting hope into action

The kind of hope Inderjit describes is not passive – it is not how we feel about the world, but rather how we are a part of it.

All We Can, the official relief and development agency of the Methodist Church, has been putting hope into action for over 80 years now, responding to the greatest challenges faced by the world, on behalf of the church. Today, the biggest challenge is Coronavirus, and its wide-ranging effects around our world. In particular, the way refugee camps and settlements are left exposed to the dangers of a highly-contagious, lethal disease.

Thanks to the support of their recent appeal, All We Can is already able to make a dramatic difference in some of these places. For example local partners in Cox's Bazar refugee camp

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<sup>5</sup> Reflection written by Inderjit Bhogal

(home to 850,000 Rohingya refugees) have been able to set up triaging centres and a 1,000 bed isolation unit to help isolate and test anyone with suspected symptoms of Coronavirus.

In addition, around the world, All We Can has been supporting local partners and churches to build handwashing stations in rural communities, make and supply their own hand-sanitiser and supply sanitised bicycles to enable people to make essential journeys for food supplies or healthcare. Local partners have also been using their creativity and the trust they have built up in the local communities to spread important messages around social distancing and containing the virus.

You can find out more about the appeal, and you can join All We Can by praying, giving and saving lives together, at [allwecan.org.uk/globalresponse](http://allwecan.org.uk/globalresponse).<sup>6</sup>

### **Let us pray.**

Holy God, you are our refuge and our hope.  
You live in heaven, on earth, and in our hearts.  
Your majesty surrounds us in all your creation.  
In Christ you are revealed as One who pitches a tent and lives among us.  
You take sanctuary in us and make your home in the core of our being.  
Holy is your name. Holy are your ways.

We bless you for the honour you give us  
By making us all in your image,  
By calling us all to share in your mission,  
And by inviting us all to eat at your Table.

We thank you for Jesus Christ,  
In Him You have given the whole world  
New patterns of living, loving, learning, serving and suffering,  
And the promise of the fullness of life,  
Wholesome life on earth,  
And life that is not extinguished by death.

We bless you for giving us the gift of your Holy Spirit,  
The breath of life.  
The strength to live by each day.

We hold before you  
All those who are struggling today, and those who bring care, help and support.  
Those who are taking their last breaths, and those who watch and wait and pray with them;  
Those who have died, and all who are bereaved.  
Grant to all your sanctuary and strength,  
And bring us all where you want us to be.

In the Name of Christ.  
Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Update from All We Can – [allwecan.org.uk](http://allwecan.org.uk)

<sup>7</sup> Prayer written by Inderjit Bhogal

**Hymn** - Everlasting Arms – Lou Fellingham – [YouTube](#)

He lavishes grace as our burdens grow greater  
He sends us more strength as our labours increase  
To added afflictions He offers more mercy  
To multiplied trials He multiplies peace

When we have exhausted our store of endurance  
When our strength has failed and the day is half done  
When we've reached the end of our earthly resources  
Our Father's full giving is only begun  
Our Father's full giving is only begun

*So lean hard*  
*Lean hard*  
*Lean on the everlasting arms*  
*Lean hard*  
*Lean hard*  
*Lean on the everlasting arms*  
*Lean on the everlasting arms*

His love has no limits, His grace has no measure  
His power has no boundary that's known unto men  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth and giveth and giveth again  
He giveth and giveth and giveth again

You lead me beside still waters  
Your goodness restores my soul  
I know that you'll never leave me  
I know that you won't let go  
You lead me beside still waters  
Your goodness restores my soul  
I know that you'll never leave me  
I know that you won't let go

Your mercy flows like a river  
Your mercy flows like a river  
Your mercy flows like a river on us

**Blessing**

As we continue with our day, as we face this coming week, as we move from this focused moment into a lifetime of worship, show us how to love one another dear Lord, as you have loved us.

Through the power of your Holy spirit we pray. Amen<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Blessing by Tim Baker