

The Psalms of Oakham  
Methodist Church  
2020-2021



Friends,

We are approaching the one-year anniversary of Oakham Methodist Church having been closed due to Covid. Originally, we had thought that we would be closed for 12 weeks so this anniversary is not one of celebration for us. However, it felt important to mark the past year and our current situation and what better way to do it than to share with each other the words that have encouraged us.

We are indebted to those who have shared their words and also to Adrian Arnold for the photographs throughout this booklet. Together they have formed a book of Psalms which speak of the emotions we have felt during the past year but also point to the continued hope we hold which keeps us going.

I hope that you find words which speak to you, connecting with how you are feeling but also offering encouragement to keep going. There will be a time when we can return to worshipping together, until then this booklet gives us our communal voice.

Blessings to you all.  
Rev'd Bekkie Wright  
February 2021

Loving Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you promise to be with us always. No matter what we are going through, no matter how we feel about you, no matter that we have forgotten your nearness, you are always walking alongside, you know without a word from us what we need, and you promise your love, your strength, your courage, your comfort, and your peace. You hold us in the palm of your hand. Thank you. Amen

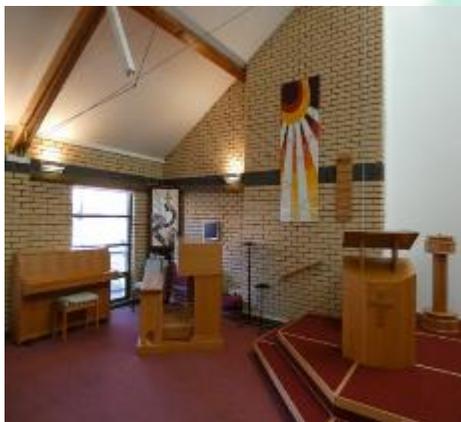
*Shared by Angela Saunders*

### **Hymn 624 from Singing the Faith**

Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;  
Still me, Lord, keep me from harm,  
Let all the tumult within me cease;  
Enfold me, Lord, in your peace

*Joyce Terrett*

# Hymns of Peace



**From the song “My Lighthouse” which is a favourite in Sunday Club.**

In the silence, You won't let go  
In the questions, Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea,

My Lighthouse, my lighthouse, Shining in the  
darkness,  
You will carry me safe to shore.

The entire song can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwfylqWo4Rs>



Now if I believe in God's Son and remember that He became man, all creatures will appear a hundred times more beautiful to me than before. Then I will properly appreciate the sun, the moon, the stars, trees, apples, as I reflect that he is Lord over all things ... God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

- Martin Luther

The quote above is special to me.

As a Member of the Flower Team here in Oakham it has been a blessing and privilege to arrange the flowers in our Church, whether for a big occasion such as Christmas, Easter or Harvest Festival or in memory of a much loved relative or friend.

Each beautiful flower is perfect and the variety of colours, shapes and sizes is endless..

I give you thanks for your amazing, abundant creation, Lord of all.

Val G



# Words of Wisdom

"Lord help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that You and I together can't handle!"

*Ruth Rowell*

"We may not see eye to eye, but we can walk side by side."

*Joyce Hearn*

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" Peter 5:7

*Pat Ellis*

"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

*Angela Saunders*

"God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we must, and the wisdom to know the difference" *Ruth Rowell*

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD and shun evil.  
This will bring health to your body  
and nourishment to your bones"

Proverbs 3: 5,6

*Gus Christie*





## A Prayer for this Time by Vanessa Turner

O Lord, creator of this world, bring us together in our love for you.

Support us through the dark days of winter and find enjoyment from the changing seasons and weather. The snow we've had has lifted the spirits of children building snowmen and riding on sledges. We need to embrace the days of sun that we have experienced, through your power.

Help those who need support through depression and mental health issues. We need to talk with them so that they can share their problems and anxieties. Care and friendship can make such a difference. Thank you, Lord, for the love and peace you can bring to them at this time and the volunteers who work with them.

Remember the patients suffering with the new strains of Covid and the hospital workers that are daily working to help as many people as possible. Bring joy to each patient that survives this illness. May they each bring their hearts to you Lord so that you may show them the Glory that they can share.

Let us pray for those who are homeless around the world and may we find ways to help them, from charities and donations and those who work in refugee camps or by supplying food or health care. Even in this country we have people who fall through the gaps in benefits and housing. Keep them safe whenever you meet them and show your love and care for each one.



At last, the days are getting longer, we can look forward to seeing new life for Farmers as the lambs start to appear in the fields. The leaves will start to bud and bulbs will begin to flower. We have to thank God for each beauty of the creation.

The younger generation are supporting the change in the climate and the changing temperatures around the world. We are blessed that people like David Attenborough are working hard to help us cure the mess mankind has made of this wonderful world.

Let us hope that they can make a better place for those to follow on.

We need to pray and thank you God each day for the wonders that exist in this world that you created for us. We need to care, support and love one another through your amazing patience and try to improve our selves each day.

With your love we can grow in your ways and follow the road that Jesus walked to lead us to salvation. **Amen**

# Words of Encouragement

The following poem/prayer is offered by Adrian Arnold with these words:

This poem/prayer was written “by William Blake and is in a book called *Short Prayers for the Long Day* which was given to me nearly thirty years ago by friends and members at the Methodist Church in a village in Cambridgeshire which I went to for 30 years. The book meant a lot to me then and it has ever since.

At the time I was about to take part in a round the world yacht race and the book went with me. This particular poem/prayer often brought comfort when we were faced with the unknown or difficult circumstances.

I feel it’s appropriate too to the times we are living in now and I would hope that it might bring comfort, meaning and purpose to friends at OMC.”



Hold on in the darkness though no gleam of light breaks through  
Keep on dreaming dreams though they never quite come true.  
Keep on moving forward though you don't know what's ahead.  
Keep on keeping on though it's a lonely road ahead.

Keep on looking up towards the goal you have in view.  
Keep on at the task God has given you to do.  
Keep on in the hope that there are better times in store.  
Keep on praying for the thing that you are waiting for.

Blessings come to those who in the turmoil of events  
Seek to see the goodness of the Will of Providence.  
Hold to this and never doubt. Keep head and spirits high.  
You'll discover that the storm was only passing by.

See Love in the pity of another's woe,  
In the gentle relief of another's care,  
In the darkness of the night and the winter's snow,  
In the naked and the outcast – seek love there.

*William Blake*



# Words of Trust

I do not know what lies ahead,  
The way I cannot see;  
Yet one stands here to be my Guide,  
He'll show the way to me.

I know who holds the future  
And He'll guide me with His hand;  
With God things don't just happen,  
Everything by Him is planned.

So, as I face tomorrow  
With its problems large and small,  
I'll trust the God of miracles,  
Give to him my all.

*Author Unknown*

*Shared by Pauline Collett*





## Words of Blessing

May the road rise to meet you  
may the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your  
face,  
the rain falls soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in your palm of his  
hand.

*Shared by Trish Blanchard*

