



MMHS 70th Anniversary Worship Resources

**An Act of Worship
and Thanksgiving**

An act of worship and thanksgiving for 70 years of the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society



Call to Worship (Leader)

“The Lord is here. He is in this place. Let us worship him.”

*Some explanation of what MMHS is, does, whom it serves.**

HYMN : StF 470 LORD FOR THE YEARS

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley Smith (b 1926)

Tune Lord of the Years Michael Baughen (b 1930) arranged by David Iliff (b 1939)

*See Backstory and Sheet Music material.

PRAYERS

Leader

Let us rejoice in God's greatness and goodness in the words of Julian of Norwich,

'I learned that love was our Lord's meaning.
And I saw for certain, both here and elsewhere,
that before he ever made us, God loved us;
and that his love has never slackened, nor ever shall.
In this love all his works have been done,
and in this love he has made everything serve us;
and in this love our life is everlasting.
Our beginning was when we were made,
but the love in which he made us never had beginning.
In it, we have our beginning.
All this we shall see in God for ever.
May Jesus grant us this.'

Julian of Norwich (1324 - c 1416)

Loving God, you have cared for us as a parent cares for a child.
You have never wearied of us but your arms have held us close
and you have inspired us to serve you and our fellows.

As we celebrate 70 years of the Methodist Ministers' Housing
Society we give you thanks for its being and its continued caring.

For the concern and vision of those who saw the
need to house supernumerary ministers;

All **We thank you.**

For those who translated that concern into practical action and
founded the Society.

All **We thank you.**

For those who have given time and skill over the years to bring the
Society to where it is now;

All **We thank you.**

For those whose generous gifts of money and property have meant
that many ministers and their spouses have been able to be
comfortably housed in retirement.

All **We thank you.**

As we give thanks for those encouragers in the past we pray that
you will give us grace to follow their good examples.

All **Thanks be to God, who has met us in Jesus.**

A HYMN for MMHS

A travelling people with pastoral purpose,
Those preachers who speak through a smile or a frown;
Unresting, still seeking for meaning, still caring,
Yet feeling a longing to settle, sit down.

Each constant disciple still mentally moving,
Still longing to follow where Jesus had led,
Still challenged by questions, unanswered, unending,
Yet seeking a place to be nurtured and fed.

The church at its best has shown care for these carers,
Provided a shelter secure, safe and blessed,
A place where vocation still matters, has meaning
A place safely grounded to root and to rest.

A house called a home, with protection and comfort,
Brings hope, and outworking of practical grace,
And here a reward in respect for their being
Gives pause in a pilgrimage, safety and space.

Thank God for a shelter and those who provide it,
Who recognise strength in the ones who have shared
Their hopes and their visions, their challenge and future,
Who worship among us, give thanks - they have cared.

Andrew Pratt (b 1948) .Composed for the 70th anniversary of MMHS.

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This hymn must be included in CCLI returns.

Tune "Streets of Laredo" - see Backstory and Sheet Music material and StF 316



READING : Romans 12 vv 1-13 (NIV)

A Living Sacrifice - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ - For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love in Action - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality

SERMON or TALK



PRAYERS

Leader

Lord, hear us as we pray for the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society and all associated with it.

We pray for all who live in the properties of the society. May they know Your loving arms around them to help them rejoice in times of gladness and comfort in times of sorrow. May all who enter those homes find a welcome.

Lord in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Chief Executive of the Society, the Management Team and all who work in the office. May they continue to work efficiently and with compassion as they show Your love.

Lord in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who work up and down the country to maintain the properties in good condition. May they be workers who are proud of their skills.

Lord in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the members of the Board, giving thanks for their commitment and service, and ask that they may have the vision and energy to meet the needs of coming generations.

Lord in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

God of all, Your Son made His home among us.
May the homes for which the society is responsible
be places where His love abides.

All **Merciful Lord accept these our prayers for the sake
of Jesus Christ our Lord AMEN**

Our Father....

HYMN : StF 746 FOR ALL THE SAINTS WHO SHOWED YOUR LOVE

For all the saints who showed your love
in how they lived and where they moved,
for mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,
who sang your songs and shared your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord
For all the saints who named your will,
and saw your kingdom coming still
through selfless protest, prayer and praise,
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

John L Bell (b 1949) and Graham Maule (b 1958)
Tune O Waly Waly .Traditional folk melody arranged by Paul Leddington Wright (b 1951)

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine
on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with kindness
and give you peace.

All **AMEN**



70th anniversary worship resources produced by the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society and Lindisfarne Scriptorium

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The Methodist Ministers' Housing Society provides housing and promotes wellbeing for retiring Methodist presbyters and deacons. We also provide housing for their widowed partners and for ministers who retire early due to ill-health (www.mmhs.org.uk).

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