

Bangor & Holyhead Methodist Circuit

Sunday Worship Sheet, 26th July 2026

Our worship for this week is written by Keith Alexander, Retired Visiting Preacher, Ordained Elder of the URC and member of Amlwch Methodist Church

You may wish to have your Bible to hand. Please note that the hymns are now at the back of the sheet for ease of printing. CCLI licence 556292

Call to worship

By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.

Hymn 466 Have faith in God my heart

Prayers of Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving:

Adoration

To you we bring our praise, gracious God, for all you have done throughout time, of which we are grateful inheritors. For your love, infinitely patient with a rebellious people; for prophets priests and kings faithfully proclaiming your word; for Jesus Christ, our saviour, your son, and the victory of the cross. For all you have done, gracious God, to you we bring our praise

Confession

When faith is weak you strengthen us; When we lose our way you rescue us; When we fall into sin you forgive us. Gracious God, remind us lest we forget, that your love is unconditional, moulding us into what we could be, blessing us that we might glorify you. For love beyond price and grace that we treasure, may our lives become a thank offering to you.

Thanksgiving

We are citizens of a heavenly Kingdom, precious beyond our ability to buy, powerful beyond human imagining, enduring beyond time to eternity. Together with the angelic host we join voices in a thanksgiving chorus to make the heavens ring, singing, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the almighty reigns! **Amen**

Hymn 286 What kind of love is this

Readings: Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Reflection

Do you suffer from impatience? Do you wish everything would come to you immediately? It has taken a lifetime for me to become calm and expectant. My early life was one of expecting immediate results. As a child I remember my parents ordering a watch for me out of a catalogue. Not just days but weeks went by before the watch was delivered. Every day as I waited, my father would arrive home from work and tease me. His first words were exclaimed "Newmark!" He drove me to distraction by this every day I waited. Newmark was the make of watch. When the watch arrived, I was overjoyed. Dad took a photo of me looking at the watch on my wrist. Children struggle with patience and I was no exception.,

One of the key points of the parables Jesus told on this occasion was that people were well used to waiting for the end of various processes. Crops were sown and they waited for harvest before

reaping. Bread was made necessitating the adding of yeast. The baker had to wait until it had fully risen before placing it in the oven. Even then it took time for the bread to bake. A mustard seed was tiny and when it was sown the sower had to wait until germination and then growth before a great plant grew.

The kingdom of Heaven was described as “worth the wait”. It was a glorious place and was the location of God who cared for all the people on his planet. How often do we hear voices say “Why doesn’t God do something?” They expect rapid results to deal with important problems. Never forget that the Israelites waited for centuries for the promised Messiah to arrive. Even then they expected a quick overthrow of the Roman occupiers of their land. But the Messiah had other ideas about establishing a community focussed on God. His way was not the way of war where death and destruction achieved the new age. He showed us how to patiently work at bring God’s love to his people.

Over the years the supposedly unchanging church has actually seen good change taking place. Sometimes it has taken us by surprise whilst on other occasions it has seemed more like a windmill slowly grinding the wheat down to a useable size. But change for the better has been happening. It is a reminder that we shall arrive at journey’s end, even when all seems lost. Prisoners of conscience have all testified to the waiting game. There is a full stop at the end of our sentence, even though it might appear invisible being so far off. Watch and pray. **Amen**

Prayer of Intercession

“But we’ve always done it like this!”
Oh God, how often have we heard that said
as though church life were ruled by laws
written on tablets of stone?
How often have we been frustrated, astonished, angered,
at hearing those words
and stared, open-mouthed, as others nodded agreement with them?

And God, forgive us: how often have we been ruled by the urge
to cling to what was known and comfortable
even when we knew, deep inside,
that it’s day was past?

How often have we wasted time and energy
thinking up apparently good reasons
for staying right where we were?
- and belittled those who wanted us to take the next step forward?

Gracious God, keep reminding us of the beauty
and peace and joy and like
of your kingdom
when, stubbornly we insist on clinging to shrouds.

Give us visions to lift our souls
and experiences that keep our feet on the ground.

Give us courage to take on new and different possibilities
and comfort our pain
as we let go of the old.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Hymn 475 O God of Bethel by whose hand

Aaronic Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen

Hymn 466

- 1 Have faith in God, my heart,
trust and be unafraid ;
God will fulfil in every part
each promise he has made.
- 2 Have faith in God, my mind,
for when your light burns low ;
God's mercy holds a wiser plan
than you can fully know.
- 3 Have faith in God, my soul ;
his cross for ever stands ;
and neither life nor death can pluck
his children from his hands.
- 4 Lord Jesus, make me whole ;
grant me no resting place,
until I rest, heart, mind, and soul,
the captive of your grace.

Bryn Rees (1911–1983)

Hymn 286

- 1 What kind of love is this
that gave itself for me ?
I am the guilty one,
yet I go free.
What kind of love is this,
a love I've never known ;
I didn't even know his name —
what kind of love is this ?
- 2 What kind of man is this,
that died in agony ?
He who had done no wrong
was crucified for me.

What kind of man is this,
who laid aside his throne
that I may know the love of God —
what kind of man is this ?

- 3 By grace I have been saved ;
it is the gift of God.
He destined me to be his own
such is his love.
No eye has ever seen,
no ear has ever heard,
nor has the human heart conceived
what kind of love is this ?

Bryn Haworth and Sally Haworth

Hymn 475

- 1 O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed ;
who through this earthly pilgrimage
hast all our forebears led.
- 2 Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace :
God of our forebears, be the God
of their succeeding race.
- 3 Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide ;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.
- 4 O spread thy covering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.
- 5 To thee as to our Covenant-God
we'll our whole selves resign ;
and this not as a tithe alone,
for all we have is thine.

Philip Doddridge (1702–1751), John Logan (1748–1788) and others (*alt.*)