

Global Relationships

Worship Resource

This is an outline for a world Church service, designed to be used flexibly for your congregation and context.

We have provided options for the *Thinking with the World Church* section of the service, so that you can choose a theme or story that will best fit your situation.

The framework itself can also be adapted for use with any given congregation.

All hymns suggested here are taken from *Singing the Faith (StF)*. Your congregation may know suitable alternatives.

Call to Worship

Praise and Halleluiahs for the things God has made

A contemporary psalm of praise and challenge to be read aloud by five voices.

ALL: Praise and Halleluiahs for the things God has made!

A: "Ever since the creation of the world

B: God's eternal power and divine nature,

C: invisible though they are,

D: have been understood and seen

E: through the things God has made."

A: The things God has made are almost out of this world!

B and **E:** Praise and Halleluiahs for mountains and rivers.

C: I prefer beaches and lakes, thank you very much.

D: And I – the Sun, the moon and the stars.

B: Cosmic soul; but, surely the Africans, and Latinos,

C: the Europeans and Americans,

D: Asians, Kiwis and the whole of humanity,

E: are the most spectacular things God has made.

A and **B:** Things? No, they are more than things.

C and **D:** They are almost Gods themselves, though sinners

A: for them all, Christ died and was risen again.

B: "Pure, universal Love Thou art;

E: To me, to all, Thy mercies move;

C and **D:** Thy nature and Thy name is Love."

A: What about when they are afflicted by poverty or war or famine?
B: Are they still the most spectacular thing God has made?
C: Do you mean those living in the developing world?
D: That is not the only place where bad circumstances take hold,
E: here and there too, but we can make a difference.

B, C and D: Let's not get too political now.

A: Oi, praise and halleluiahs only will not cut it.

E: You've got to start somewhere at least to want:

B and C: "The poor and helpless to relieve,

A and D: (Yes) My life, my all, for them to give."

E: Protest comes into it too,

D: and campaigning. Join the march and shout out loud!

C: Yes, let's cry out to God and to the powers of the day!

B: "God of the poor; friend of the weak

A: Give us compassion we pray."

C: When things down here are improved,

D: then the divine image above will be more clearly shown;

E: in mountains and rivers,

A: don't forget beaches and lakes,

B: beyond the divisions of this world.

C: Like God above and also down here with us,

D: one God,

E: one love,

A: one humanity,

B: one world.

A: "Ever since the creation of the world

B: God's eternal power and divine nature,

C: invisible though they are,

D: have been understood and seen

E: through the things God has made."

ALL: Praise and halleluiahs for the things God has made.

Suggested Hymns

StF 136 *Morning has broken*

StF 83 *Praise my soul the king of heaven*

StF 334 *Praise to the holiest in the height*

Prayers

Choose from the Prayers of Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving on pages 4-6 of the *Prayer Handbook 2024/2025*

Psalm

Psalm 146 (*StF* 837) or 148 (*StF* 838)

Read by a single voice, two voices, or responsively with the congregation.

Psalm 150

Read by a single voice, or create your own all-age variation by asking people to say what instruments they play or would like to play and substituting them into the structure of the psalm, and having the person who suggested it say that line.

Scripture

Luke 1:46-55

Suggested Hymns

StF 186 *Tell out my soul*

StF 701 *Heaven shall not wait*

Thinking with the World Church

Choose from the following six options.

Scripts and PowerPoints for each option are available at methodist.org.uk/GlobalRelationshipsResources

Those most suitable for all-age worship are indicated.

Combinations are suggested by theme, but choices can be made for the specific congregation. How many items are used will depend on how fully the suggestions in each are incorporated.

If discussion questions are included, consider whether time is given for the congregation to consider them, or whether they are used by the minister or local preacher as the basis for reflections.

PRAISE AND PROTEST

Let us Praise God Together! Together? (Suitable for all-age worship)

A story from Sri Lanka, with an optional singing activity

Suggested hymn *StF 477 Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart*

Where Two or Three Are Gathered (Suitable for all-age worship)

Examples from Africa, with questions to consider

Suggested hymn *StF 571 As your family, Lord, see us here*

PRAISING AND PROTESTING FOR AND AS REFUGEES

Singing Praises in a Refugee Camp (With an all-age worship option)

A story from Namibia, with a prayer and questions to consider

Suggested hymn *StF 41 Blessed be your name*

How Are You Demonstrating?

A reflection from Germany, with questions to consider

Suggested hymn *StF 699 God of justice, Saviour to all*

PROTESTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Protesting for the Environment

A story from Panama, with a prayer and link to further stories

Suggested hymn *StF 82 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder*

Praise and Protest in the Pacific (Suitable for all-age worship)

Introducing people taking action in the Pacific, with a prayer and questions to consider

Suggested hymn *StF 239 Sent by the Lord am I*

Global Relationships Video

A short animation explaining the work of the World Mission Fund, which supports projects and individuals around the world via the Methodist Church's Partner Churches and organisations.

Available at methodist.org.uk/for-churches/global-relationships

Offering for the World Church Fund

Dedication

Dedicating our gifts, however we bring them, and ourselves

Loving God,
Everything we have and are is your gift, and we praise you.
We thank you for the privilege of being part of the World Church,
and of being able to support others around the world by prayer and giving.
We ask you to accept our gifts and our prayers, and to use them and us in your service.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for ourselves and the world.

After each bidding there will be a short time of silence, and then after the words, "The Lord hears our prayers," please respond with, "We praise and thank the Lord."

We give thanks for those in every age who have served the church outside their own countries and cultures. We pray for those who do so today. We ask for your blessing on those who have gone as mission partners from the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland, on those who have come from overseas to serve the church in Britain, and on the Fellowship Groups and language diverse congregations.

(Silence)

The Lord hears our prayers ... **We praise and thank the Lord.**

We give thanks for the diversity across Methodism worldwide which is mirrored in many local congregations. We ask for open minds to be willing to learn from each other and for tolerance to see difference as blessing, in the confidence that although we may have different ways of thinking and acting, we are one in you.

(Silence)

The Lord hears our prayers ... **We praise and thank the Lord.**

We give thanks for the Church in every place, and especially today we pray with and for...
(Please mention the church(es) and district mentioned on the relevant day in the *Prayer Handbook*, and use prayers from those pages as appropriate.)

(Silence)

The Lord hears our prayers ... **We praise and thank the Lord.**

We give thanks for those who work for peace, and pray that the peacemakers may know themselves blessed and supported in your love. We pray for the situations of conflict in

the news... the situations that have dropped out of the news, but not out of your sight... and for all those whose lives are in turmoil, caught up in situations over which they have no control.

(Silence)

The Lord hears our prayers ... **We praise and thank the Lord.**

We give thanks for those who protest against injustice. We pray for prophetic voices to be raised and for others to join. We pray for those who are in danger because they have spoken out. We pray for leaders with the integrity to struggle for justice and peace. And we pray that we, too, will have the courage to speak out and not to let our silence imply that we accept the situation as it is.

(Silence)

The Lord hears our prayers ... **We praise and thank the Lord.**

We pray for those who are especially on our minds and hearts today.

(Silence)

The Lord hears our prayers. **We praise and thank the Lord. Amen.**

Prayer

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

Suggested Hymns

StF 407 *Hear the call of the kingdom*

StF 410 *Lord, your church on earth is seeking*

Dismissal

Let us go and raise our voices in praise to the Lord.

Let us go and raise our voices to protest when we see injustice.

Let us go and raise our voices to cry out with those whose voices aren't heard.

Let us go and raise our voices to speak words of love,
always listening for the prompting of the Spirit who gives us
the right words at the right time. **Amen.**

If you would like to request this resource in an alternative format,
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