

Worship at Home

11th October 2026

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Today we invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the South West Peninsula Methodist District are sharing this act of worship with you.

Call to worship 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

STF 553: I am a new creation

I am a new creation,
No more in condemnation,
Here in the grace of God I stand.
My heart is overflowing,
My love just keeps on growing,
Here in the grace of God I stand.
And I will praise You, Lord,
Yes, I will praise You, Lord,
And I will sing of all that You have done.
A joy that knows no limit,
A lightness in my spirit,
Here in the grace of God I stand.

Dave Bilborough (b.1965)

Prayer

O Lord, you are our shepherd, and yet we want.
We lie down when we should act.
We stir the pot when we could offer peace.
We wander tempting paths instead of following you.
We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you.
We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in you, and in your grace and favour, forever. **Amen**

Lord, we praise you not only when the sun is shining, but when the rain seems endless.
May we be more fruitful, as we root ourselves in the rich soil of your love. **Amen**

STF 673: Will you come and follow me

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

John L. Bell (b.1949)
and Graham Maule (b.1958)

Bible reading: Acts 9 v 1- 19

Message

New beginnings or changes

I have very recently been on a river cruise with Saga, which my daughter and I booked in December 2025. Just five days before we were due to fly to Hungary, our travel agent contacted us to say there would have to be a change to our itinerary as the river Danube was not deep enough to take our cruise ship, so we had the choice of beginning a new cruise itinerary or having a refund. We chose to go anyway.

Many children in the last month experienced new beginnings as they maybe went to school for the first time, or a new class with a new teacher, or maybe experienced the apprehension of going to senior school, or even university.

Life for all of us holds times of new beginnings: adulthood, marriage, children, retirement; to name but a few.

The Bible also records people who experienced new beginnings, as our New Testament reading showed

us. Saul, who became Paul, had a life changing moment when he met with Jesus on the Damascus Road.

God, through Jesus, offers each one of us hope and a fresh start. He welcomes us with open arms, no matter what we have done.

Take Job for example: when everything in his life was going wrong, he turned to God and asked for help. God restored him and gave him a new beginning.

Then there was Joseph whose brothers sold him into slavery, but God used Joseph to save them when a famine came upon the land.

What about Moses? He fled Egypt as a murderer, but in later life God called to him from a burning bush to lead an entire nation out of slavery.

We could mention King David, Simon Peter, and others to whom God gave a new beginning.

But what about you and me?

Are we going through a trial? Are we feeling forsaken and forlorn? Do our circumstances bring us down? The good news is that our life can be one of new beginnings as we put our trust in God.

In Corinthians 6:2 we read, ***“I tell you NOW is the time of Gods favour, NOW is the day of salvation.”***

TODAY can be for all of us a TIME of NEW BEGINNINGS.

What will God call you and me to do in the coming week? It may come unexpectedly as it did to Saul/ Paul.

Are we ready to walk the Jesus Road?



Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the example of Paul whose life was changed completely when he met with You.

We pray that in the coming week we too may be challenged, maybe in our life's priorities.

We pray that we may be used by you to show to those with whom we come into contact, Gods love and saving grace. **Amen**

STF 440: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace - how sweet the sound - that saved a wretch like me!

**I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace
my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares I have
already come:**

**'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal
life shall cease:**

**I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.**

Let us pray

Dear God, thank you for the gift of a fresh start. As we step into this new week, please give us the courage to let go of the past, the strength to face tomorrow, and the wisdom to walk in your peace and purpose. **Amen**

Holy and marvellous God,
We thank you that you saw creation and said it is good. We thank you that you sent your Son to ensure that we, as your creations, understand how you long to include us in your church.

When we find it hard to fit in, may the counter-cultural behaviour of Jesus Christ remind us we

belong. When we feel rejected, may the scarred, resurrected body of Christ give us hope.

We thank you that you sent your Holy Spirit to connect us with one another and with you - a relationship made accessible through Christ.

Help each of us today, through your Spirit, to feel included, and to hope for a future, where all truly belong. **Amen**

(From the 2026/7 Methodist Prayer handbook;
written by Mo Onyett, presbyter and coordinator,
Solidarity Circle for Living with Disability)

Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

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