

easter
offering
2010

COMPANIONS IN FAITH,
HOPE AND LOVE



ORDER
OF SERVICE

Welcome

Gathering together (can be said or sung):

*As we are gathered, Jesus is here,
one with each other, Jesus is here;
joined by the Spirit, washed in his
blood,
part of the body, the Church of God.
As we are gathered, Jesus is here,
one with each other, Jesus is here.*

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Call to Worship

It is God who calls us and invites us to
worship him.

Hymn

For the beauty of the earth (HP 333)

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 34

Story

Companions (The Revd Jennifer Potter)

Hymn

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said and as he promised,
As we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
Let the sun sustain the cheer;
Let the world confirm the rumour:
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
Whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
Bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
Huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
Can't be silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen to companion
Former friends who fear the night,
Sensing loss and limitation
Where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
They expect no hopeful sign
Till Christ ends their conversation,
Breaking bread and sharing wine.

Christ has risen and forever
Lives to challenge and to change
All whose lives are messed and
mangled,
All who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
Making us what he has been –
Evidence of transformation
In which God is known and seen.

Words & music John L Bell & Graham Maule
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Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Story

Faith in Action in The Gambia
(The Revd David Gamble)

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28-34

Story

Hope in Action in Latvia

(The Revd Gita Mednis)

Hymn

What shall our greeting be (HP 806)

Address

Easter Offering Dedication

***Loving God,
we come before you with our gifts of
money,
for the work of your Church throughout
the world.***

***We offer ourselves, our gifts and
talents to serve you.***

***Through our giving may others see
something of your love in action.***

Amen.

Hymn

Jesu, Jesu (HP 145)

(Love Feast)



Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the Church throughout the world, remembering particularly today the Churches in Zimbabwe, The Gambia and Latvia.

Loving God, we think of the people of Zimbabwe and their needs, remembering those within the Church who are called to minister in very difficult circumstances.

We also ask you to give strength and determination to those with responsibility for the Methodist Church in The Gambia.

We remember before you the small but growing, vibrant, caring Church in Latvia, commending the work of the 'Hope Centers'.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Loving God, we bring before you the countries of the world and their leaders, where there is war, injustice and hardship, remembering ...

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Loving God, we pray for the churches within this circuit and our work within the communities we represent. We also

remember those who are ill, bereaved
and those whose situations at this time
need our prayers ...

May those in sorrow and despondency
feel your love and peace touching their
lives.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Loving God, we pray for Women's
Network and the World Federation of
Methodist and Uniting Church Women
as we seek to work together in this
period of transition. May we not lose
sight of our vision for the future and
our continuing support of the World
Church.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



Hymn

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

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Final Prayer
*Caring,
omnipresent,
mighty
patient God,
always loving, you offer
new life through Jesus Christ, your Son;
in you we put our trust,
so that on our journeying,
we may be aware of the needs of those
journeying alongside us,
so that together we may be companions
in faith. Amen.*

(from The Methodist Prayer Handbook 2007/2008)

The Blessing
*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.*



Love Feast Cake Recipe

This recipe was adapted from the Middlesmoor Lovefeast Bread used in the Yorkshire Dales at the time of John Wesley, and is still made now.

- 1lb (400g) plain flour
 - 1oz (25g) baking powder
 - 5oz (125g) butter
 - 8oz (200g) sugar
 - 2oz (50g) mixed peel
 - 4oz (100g) sultanas
 - 2 eggs
 - About half a pint (280ml) of milk
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- Mix the flour and baking powder together, rub in the butter, then add the sugar, sultanas and peel.
 - Beat the eggs together with a little milk and add to the dry ingredients.
 - Add the rest of the milk to make a soft consistency.
 - Pour the mixture into two loaf tins or a large cake tin. Cook at 180°C (350°F) or gas mark 4 for at least 45 minutes for the loaf tins, or 1 hour for the large cake tin.

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This service has been prepared by Pamela Turner,
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