



Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

September to November 2025

Our Story Our Song

This is the theme adopted by the Methodist Conference 2025.

**O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

**² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Psalm 96: 1-2 NRSVA

In his address to Conference in June its President, Revd. Richard Andrew, used a quote from Irish theologian and poet Pádraig Ó Tuama "Hope is a song sung when everything else says you shouldn't be singing."

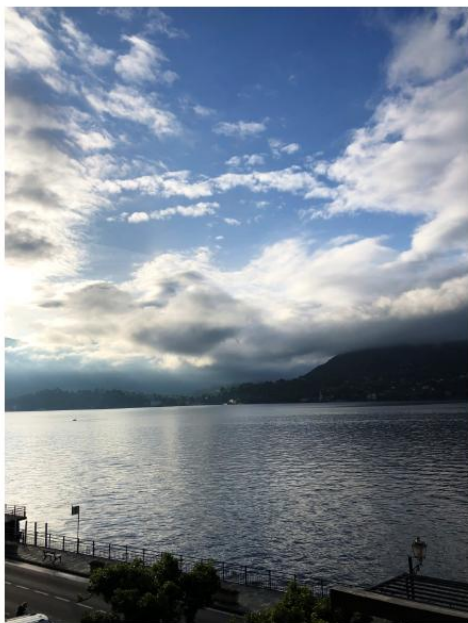
(In the Shelter: Finding a Home in the World)

Let us pray to the Eternal God
With our songs and music
we praise you in our worship services.
We thank you for the music that moves us
and the words that edify us;
the hymns that accompany us into everyday life.
Inspire the musicians when they play in worship,
fill our hearts with beautiful hymns
and give new composers heavenly melodies and gospel words.
So our praises join those of your heavenly court
and sing of your greatness, your love and your faithfulness.
Alleluia, amen!

Ulrich Rusen Weinhold, Secretary for International Relationships, United Protestant Church of France. Methodist Prayer Handbook 2025/26

*A hymn tune may unite nations even when the words are different;
this was seen in WW1 with the music of "Silent Night".*

Sing a new song when dawn breaks, not a song of selfish ambition, of what we might achieve this day to improve our own situation, but a new song of care for those we shall meet, of sharing our resources and serving the needs of others, a song of enlightenment and generosity, as we seek to follow Jesus, and his way of justice, truth and love.



Dawn on Lake Como

Sing a new song when night falls, not a song of proud human attainments, of having been building up our own treasures on earth, but a new song of friendship for peoples round the world, a song of the changes needed to bring an end to hardship and hunger, a song of thankfulness for this beautiful planet, our home, and of the love and care needed to protect it now and for generations to come.

Amen



Sunset by the bridges at Berwick-upon-Tweed

The preface to The Methodist Hymnbook 1933 starts "Methodism was born in song". Charles Wesley started writing hymns in 1738. After various collections had been published, John Wesley's definitive "Large Hymnbook" was published in 1780.

Singing is good for your health, but listening can have many benefits too; providing peace of mind and a relaxing atmosphere.

Our circuit is made up of various churches: Andover, Bradfield, Burghfield Common, Caversham, Christ Church Chineham, Christ Church Woodley, Church of the Living Stream, Emmanuel, Hungerford, Kingsclere, Mortimer, Newbury, Oakley, Oakridge, Old Basing, Silchester, St. Andrews Trinity, Tadley Common, Tadley Main Road, Thatcham, Tilehurst, Trinity Lower Earley, Wesley, Whitchurch.

Some are big, some are small. We don't all own a building. We may be in an urban area or rural, with different opportunities for outreach in the community. Some provide a haven for older people, some a lively centre for young people.

Some have opportunities to worship and outreach ecumenically.

Gracious God, help us to hear the melody of the future, and work in harmony to create a new song. We ask you to give inspiration to any church whose future is unclear. We pray for the churches in areas that are unknown to us, "give them joy in their hearts, keep them singing".

Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn before going into the Garden of Gethsemane, likewise in times of crisis we can often remember the words of hymns. Thank you Father that you give us strength in times of weakness.

In the name of Jesus, Amen

Psalm 150 Praise for God's Surpassing Greatness

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament!

² Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³ Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

(NRSVA)