

To commemorate the Union of
The Wesleyan Methodist Church,
The Primitive Methodist Church,
The United Methodist Church

and
the formation of

The Methodist Church

Special Form of Service
for use in Sunday Schools

on

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th
1932

SOUVENIR COPY

To be carefully kept for the
years to come

CALL TO WORSHIP :

Leader : Let us stand and listen with reverence and understanding to the words of one of God's Servants of old.

(All stand).

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory unto their children.

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us : and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us ; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

(All to sit).

BRIEF STATEMENT

carefully prepared so as not to exceed three minutes, by some well-qualified friend, as to the historic event in the Albert Hall on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 20th ; compiled from newspaper reports.

Leader : Let us add our Doxology to the thanks of those thousands of people who sang it in the Royal Albert Hall last Tuesday.

(All stand and sing.)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow ;
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

(All remain standing to join in the following responsive act of praise and prayer.)

Leader : Let us pray.

PRAYER SIGNAL :

A few suitable chords played softly by organist or pianist.

Leader : O God, Who hearest all alike, the many or the few, accept *our* praise and answer *our* prayers as we come before Thee this day with happy hearts and high hopes. Give to us to be worthy inheritors from the past and worthy builders for the future for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Leader : For the wonderful world in which we live,
Response : We thank Thee, our Father.

Leader : For the gift of life to us and to all Thy children
Response : We thank Thee, our Father.

Leader : For the coming of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ ;
Response : We thank Thee, our Father.

Leader : For all who have loved Him and served Him ;
Response : We thank Thee, our Father.

Leader : For those who have taught us of Him, and led us to know Him as our Saviour ;
Response : We thank Thee, our Father.

Leader : That we may be brave enough to follow in His footsteps.
Response : We pray Thee, our Father.

Leader : That we may train ourselves to be worthy servants of such a Master.
Response : We pray Thee, our Father.

Leader : That our Church and School, may be used by Him to bring in His Kingdom.
Response : We pray Thee, our Father.

Leader : That to all our fellow-Methodists in all lands and to each one of us there may be given more of the mind of our Master Jesus Christ
Response : We pray Thee, our Father.

Leader : That our Church, and all other branches of the Christian Church, may give glory to God, and be mightily used to bring peace and goodwill among men.*

Response We pray Thee, our Father

Leader : Hear our Prayer, O Lord.

Response : And grant us Thy peace.

(All sit.)

Amen.

Leader : The hymns of John and Charles Wesley are an inheritance greatly prized by all Methodists. Charles Wesley has been described as "one of the immortal hymn-writers of the Christian religion," and most Protestant hymn-books contain more hymns by him than by any other contributor. He wrote many different kinds of hymns. The one we are now to sing has been described as being "as inspiring as the blast of a bugle."

"SOLDIERS OF CHRIST ARISE."

Tune : "Ascension"

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armour on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through His eternal Son ;
Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
And in His mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

Stand then in His great might,
With all His strength endued ;
But take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God ;
That, having all things done,
And all your conflicts passed,
You may o'ercome through Christ alone
And stand entire at last.

Leave no unguarded place,
No weakness of the soul ;
Take every virtue, every grace,
And fortify the whole:
Indissolubly joined,
To battle all proceed ;
But arm yourselves with all the mind
That was in Christ, your Head.

Amen.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788.

Leader opens the School Bible and utters the words :

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

1st Scripture portion. (Part of Psalm 46) by a Senior Friend.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
The Lord of hosts is with us ; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord.
He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth ; He
breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder ;
He burneth the chariot in the fire.
Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among
the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us ; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

2nd Scripture portion. (Part of Psalm 67) by a Teacher.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us ; and cause His face
to shine upon us.
Let the people praise Thee, O God ; let all the people praise
Thee.
O let the nations be glad and sing for joy ; for Thou shalt
judge the people righteously, and govern the nations
upon earth.
Let the people praise Thee, O God ; let all the people praise
Thee.
Then shall the earth yield her increase ; and God, even
our own God, shall bless us.
God shall bless us ; and all the ends of the earth shall fear
Him.

3rd Scripture portion. (Part of Psalm 27) by a Scholar.

The Lord is my light and my Salvation ; whom shall I fear ?
the Lord is the strength of my life ; of whom shall I be
afraid ?
When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face ; my heart said unto
Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.
Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path.
Wait on the Lord : be of good courage, and He shall
strengthen thine heart : wait, I say, on the Lord.

Leader : Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory. We will bless the Lord from this time forth and for evermore.

Now let us sing a hymn which is a prayer and which has been used on great occasions for nearly two hundred years.

(All rise).

"O GOD OF BETHEL."

Tune: "St. Ann."

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led:

Our vows, our prayers, we now present,
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life,
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide.

Such blessings from Thy gracious hand
Our humble prayers implore;
And Thou shalt be our chosen God,
And portion evermore.

Amen.

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

(All sit).

Leader: Let us sit quietly for a few moments before we listen to the message to be given from the Committee in London to all the Sunday Schools of what is now The Methodist Church.

Pianist may play over very softly and slowly the hymn tune "O God of Bethel."

At 3 p.m. the Broadcast Message is to be expected in the National Programme of the B.B.C.

Leader: And now having received that message and that challenge to the Youth of Methodism, let us make our response, meaning every word we say.

(All rise and with bowed heads slowly repeat with the Leader).

O God....who didst call....and convert....and mightily use Thy servants....young and old....in the Methodist Churches during the past two centuries....help us to hear Thy call to us....NOW....help us to yield our lives to Thee....NOW....and grant us grace....to serve Thee....humbly....faithfully... courageously....utterly....to our life's end....Amen.

(All sit).

Leader: We will finish our service by singing to a well-known tune a hymn by a living hymn-writer.

"FORTH RODE THE KNIGHTS OF OLD."

Tune: "Diademata."

Forth rode the Knights of old,
With armour gleaming bright,
By noble deeds and actions bold
To fight for God and right.
To lay the tyrant low,
To set the captive free,
The hosts of evil to o'erthrow
By might of purity.

A vision flamed above,
A voice within spoke clear,
The symbol of Christ's mighty love
Shone radiant and near.
Then, burning with desire,
By zeal and love possessed,
The Knights of old with hearts afire
Rode out upon the Quest.

Still, still the vision glows,
Still calls the voice divine;
Still sink the weak, oppressed by foes,
And still the captives pine;
Still loyal to their Lord,
With zeal and patience shod,
With shield of faith and mystic sword
Go forth the Knights of God.

Amen.

Vera E. Walker.

(All remain standing with bowed heads in perfect silence).

Leader (with outstretched hand):

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

Vesper. (All sing softly with bowed heads).

Tune "Vesper."

Thus with quickened footsteps
We'll pursue our way,
Watching for the dawning
Of eternal day. Amen.

Pianist plays the tune again very softly as a postlude.



JOHN WESLEY

“ Wesley, John Wesley, was one of our company,
Prophet untiring and fearless of tongue ;
Down the long years he went,
Spending, yet never spent,
Serving his God with a heart ever young.”

Charterhouse School Song.

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