

# **The Methodist Conference 2022**

## **The Conference Service of Reception into Full Connexion**

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The live streaming will begin at 10.15

**The Assistant Secretary of the Conference offers a Welcome at 10.43am**  
The Revd Michaela Youngson

*We take a moment to be quiet – recognising God's presence among us.*

The Service begins at 10.45 as President, Vice-President and the Secretary of the Conference enter

**Call to Worship** – led by The Vice President Mr Anthony Boateng

Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God

**We will do this with all our heart**

**We will do this with all our soul**

**We will do this with all our mind**

He has told us to love our neighbours

**We will follow his commands**

In the name of Christ. **Amen**

**Hymn STF 407 Hear the call of the kingdom**

Those being Received into Full Connexion enter the Conference Hall

**1 Hear the call of the kingdom,  
lift your eyes to the King;  
let his song rise within you  
as a fragrant offering  
of how God, rich in mercy,  
came in Christ to redeem  
all who trust in his unfailing grace.**

**2 Hear the call of the kingdom  
to be children of light  
with the mercy of heaven,  
the humility of Christ;  
walking justly before him,  
loving all that is right,  
that the life of Christ may shine through us.**

**King of heaven, we will answer the call.  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name.**

**3 Hear the call of the kingdom  
to reach out to the lost**

with the Father's compassion  
in the wonder of the cross,  
bringing peace and forgiveness,  
and a hope yet to come:  
let the nations put their trust in him.

**King of heaven, we will answer the call ...**

Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)  
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**Bidding Prayer** – led by The President, The Revd Graham Thompson

Risen Christ we have gathered here and recognize that you are in our midst.  
Encircle this place and make it your own.  
You give us this day;  
a day of celebration,  
a day of commitment,  
a day to uphold one another in love.  
In return, we give you our thanks and praise  
**Amen,**

*(Please be seated)*

**Prayers of Adoration, Praise and Confession**

Holy and gracious God,  
we live in a world of wonder,  
conceived by your divine imagination.  
The universe is your creation  
born out of love and generosity.

In the garden of your creation you have called us to work with you;  
to care for all that you have made, and yet we fail you day by day.

**Hymn 428**

Oh, wash me whole in your rushing river, my Saviour.  
Take me down to die and rise again.  
Oh, wash me whole in your rushing river, my Saviour.  
Take me down to die and rise again.

1 I've come to wash my soul in the living water,  
wash my heart in your cleansing stream.  
Here is mercy and forgiveness;  
I shall be clean again,  
I shall be clean again.

We praise you living God that when we were still far off, you sent your Son Jesus to show us  
how to live our lives.

We remember today how you chose twelve ordinary people to be your disciples-  
calling them to follow you,  
entrusting them with the message of your Gospel,  
expecting them to make your love known to all people.

We recall how he told us to love you with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our  
neighbour as ourselves.

We recognise that we often struggle in the tasks to which you call us, and so we ask you,  
holy God, by your Spirit to guide our lives and your church.

**2 I've come to bathe my eyes in your word, Lord Jesus,  
cleanse my thoughts, my imaginings.  
May these eyes see as your love sees,  
light flood my being,  
light flood my being.**

**Oh, wash me whole in your rushing river, my Saviour.  
Take me down to die and rise again.  
Oh, wash me whole in your rushing river, my Saviour.  
Take me down to die and rise again.**

We thank you Lord God, that through the life, death and resurrection of your son Jesus you  
have fashioned our salvation.

For new beginnings, we thank you.

We thank you for all this new day, and for all it offers us:  
new opportunities  
things we will enjoy in it  
people we will share it with.

Forgive us for not always appreciating all that you have given us. Guide us we pray, help us  
live this day and everyday in a way that is worthy of your call.

**3 For I've been bought with the blood of Jesus,  
now my life is not my own.  
A temple holy, for you only,  
where you are loved and known,  
where you are loved and known.**

Where we have failed to love you with the whole of ourselves,  
by our restricted horizons and selfish ways, we pray forgive us and help us to forgive one  
another.

**Oh, wash me whole in your rushing river ...**

*Silence*

## THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus Christ came into the world to set us free  
from the chains of sin and death.

Let us hear his gracious words.

“Your sins are forgiven.”

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**Old Testament Reading : Isaiah 5 v 1-7a read by Trish Earlam**

**Hymn: Hymns and Psalms 11 Lord of all being, throned afar**

Lord of all being, throned afar,  
Thy glory flames from sun and star;  
Centre and soul of every sphere,  
Yet to each loving heart how near.

Sun of our life, Thy quickening ray  
Sheds on our path the glow of day;  
Star of our hope, Thy softened light  
Cheers the long watches of the night.

Our midnight is Thy smile withdrawn,  
Our noontide is Thy gracious dawn,  
Our rainbow arch Thy mercy's sign;  
All, save the clouds of sin, are Thine.

Lord of all life, below, above,  
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,  
Before Thy ever-blazing throne  
We ask no luster of our own.

Grant us Thy truth to make us free,  
And kindling hearts that burn for Thee,  
Till all Thy living altars claim  
One holy light, one heavenly flame.

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**Video Presentation**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 20 v1-16**

**Item by the Ghanaian Fellowship**

**Sermon – The Revd Graham Thompson, the President of the Conference**

**Hymn STF 663 I the Lord of Sea and Sky**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)  
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## Prayer of response

### Prayers of Intercession led by Craig Price and Deacon Lemia Nkwelah

Loving Lord, you are the source of our life: the way, the truth, and the life. You have given us a wonderful world and infused it with your grace, your love, your peace. Yet we come to you with our prayers for the world in its brokenness and pain, a world in which grace is sparse and love is too often concealed and peace is shattered.

We come, in this moment, in honesty and in faith with our concerns, fears and anger, trusting in your power and love to hear our prayers and to pray that we might hear you speaking into the silence.

**1 Be still,**  
for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in him no sin is found –  
we stand on holy ground.

**Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.**

Renew the life and faith of the Church;  
strengthen our witness;  
and make us one in Christ ...  
Grant that we and all who confess that Christ is Lord  
may be faithful in your service  
and filled with the Spirit,  
that the world may be turned to you.

*Silence*

**2 Be still,  
for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned:  
how awesome is the sight –  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still,  
for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.**

Guide the nations  
in the ways of justice, liberty and peace;  
and help us to seek  
the unity and welfare of all people ..  
Give to all in authority  
wisdom to know and strength to do what is right.

*Silence*

**3 Be still,  
for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace:  
no work too hard for him –  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still,  
for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.**

Comfort those in sorrow;  
heal the sick in body or in mind  
and deliver the oppressed ...  
Grant us compassion for all who suffer,

and help us so to carry one another's burdens  
that we may fulfil the law of Christ.

### *Silence*

**1 Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in him no sin is found –  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.**

Receive our thanks and praise  
for all who have served you faithfully here on earth,  
and specially those who have revealed to us  
your grace in Christ...

### *Silence*

Lord, God accept these the prayers of our heart, mind and soul in the name of Christ.  
Amen

David J. Evans (b. 1957)  
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## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen**

## **Hymn: Jesus At the Centre**

**Jesus at the centre of it all  
Jesus at the centre of it all  
From beginning to the end  
It will always be, it's always been You, Jesus**

Jesus

Nothing else matters  
Nothing in this world will do  
Jesus You're the centre  
And everything revolves around You  
Jesus, You

Jesus be the centre of my life  
Jesus be the centre of my life  
From beginning to the end  
It will always be, it's always been You, Jesus  
Oh, Jesus

Nothing else matters  
Nothing in this world will do  
Jesus You're the center  
And everything revolves around You  
Jesus, You

From my heart to the Heavens  
Jesus be the centre  
It's all about You  
Yes it's all about You  
From my heart to the Heavens

Jesus be the centre  
It's all about You  
Yes it's all about You  
From my heart to the Heavens  
Jesus be the centre  
It's all about You  
Yes it's all about You (it's all about you, God)  
From my heart to the Heavens  
Jesus be the centre  
It's all about You  
Yes it's all about You  
Nothing else matters  
Nothing in this world will do  
Jesus You're the centre  
And everything revolves around You  
Jesus You  
Jesus at the centre of it all  
Jesus at the centre of it all  
From beginning to the end  
It will always be  
It's always been You, Jesus



A prayer of dedication

The Ghanaian fellowship sing

## RECEPTION INTO FULL CONNEXION AS PRESBYTERS OR DEACONS

*Introduced by The Secretary of the Conference The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler*

The Vice-President addresses all those who have been received into Full Connexion

Hymn STF 658 A charge to keep have I

- 1 A charge to keep I have:  
a God to glorify;  
a never-dying soul to save,  
and fit it for the sky;
- 2 To serve the present age,  
my calling to fulfil;  
O may it all my powers engage  
to do my Master's will!
- 3 Arm me with jealous care,  
as in your sight to live;  
and O your servant, Lord, prepare  
a strict account to give!
- 4 Help me to watch and pray,  
and on yourself rely,  
so shall I not my trust betray,  
nor love within me die.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 658

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Gracious God, we give you thanks that in every generation you call people to serve you in ministry and mission.

We thank you for the obedience of the presbyters and deacons received today into Full Connexion with the Methodist Conference, who have answered your call to serve your Church as presbyters and deacons.

**We commit ourselves to pray for them.**

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you call every Christian, lay and ordained, to share in mission together.

We thank you for our calling as a church and as disciples to work together in acts of service, learning, caring and evangelism. May we bring hope and transformation into your world.

**We commit ourselves to respond to your call.**

In all things, it is on you that we depend.

By your grace, send your Holy Spirit,  
that we might be inspired to acts of love and service,  
in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**The Blessing**

**The Dismissal**

**Hymns 465 Guide me O though Great Jehovah into 41 Blessed be your name**

*The candles are sent out from the Conference to the ordination venues – a symbol of our Connexional Church*

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore;  
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open thou the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream shall flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.**

William Williams (1717-1791)  
translated by Peter Williams (1727-1796)  
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 465

**1 Blessed be your name  
in the land that is plentiful,  
where your streams of abundance flow,  
blessed be your name.  
And blessed be your name  
when I'm found in the desert place,  
though I walk through the wilderness,  
blessed be your name.**

**Every blessing you pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.**

And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be your glorious name.

2 Blessed be your name  
when the sun's shining down on me,  
when the world's 'all as it should be,'  
blessed be your name.  
And blessed be your name  
on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering,  
blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord ...

You give and take away,  
you give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
'Lord, blessed be your name.'

Blessed be the name of the Lord ...

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