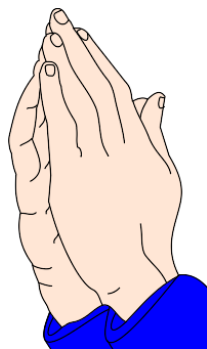


Churches, groups or individuals can 'pledge to pray' on the Thy Kingdom Come website www.thykingdomcome.global

Pray for Five

Jesus encouraged us to pray for God's Kingdom to come. Every year for the 11 days from Ascension to Pentecost, Christians across the world do just that. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to invite all Christians in every worshipping community to pray and specifically ask everyone to pray by name for 5 people to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Who will your five be?



May/June 2022 Ascension to Pentecost

On May 26th - June 5th 2022, join the global wave of prayer calling Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

If you're considering how to live out the commitment "to pray daily" in *A Methodist Way of Life*, Thy Kingdom Come is an opportunity to pledge ten days of daily prayer.

This year, Thy Kingdom Come corresponds with the extended bank holiday weekend for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To mark the occasion, we are encouraging all Methodist churches to get involved with street parties in their community, and to pray before, during and after the event.

Here is a link to the resources page:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/thy-kingdom-come/thy-kingdom-come-resources/>

Pentecost 1738 was the season of John & Charles Wesley

Conversions

In 1735 the brothers Wesley sailed with General Oglethorpe on his second expedition to Georgia, but even in this missionary service, the old doubts about their experience of salvation surfaced. Neither John nor Charles could find assurance that he was indeed the child of God by grace. They returned to England believing their lives and ministry had failed. John Wesley wrote of his experience in Georgia, "I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?"

Hearts "Strangely Warmed"

The answer to his question came shortly after his return from America. Both he and Charles were influenced by Moravian friends who bore witness to salvation by grace through faith in Christ.

Charles Wesley was the first of the two to be justified by faith, and on Whitsunday, May 21, 1738, he experienced Pentecost. He wrote in his journal that the Spirit of God "chased away the darkness of my unbelief." The prolific hymnist (eventually he wrote six to seven-thousand hymns) wrote a hymn to commemorate his day of salvation. While scholars debate which of three possibilities was this conversion hymn, one likely candidate is the hymn that asks, "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?" The last verse triumphantly proclaims:

No condemnation now I dread, Jesus, and all in Him, is mine:

Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness
Divine,

Bold I approach th' eternal throne, And claim the crown,
through Christ, my own.

Three days later, on May 24, 1738, John's seeking for the grace of God ended in a meeting house on Aldersgate Street in London. He wrote in his journal that now-famous account of his conversion: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed."

John immediately shared the good news with Charles. Charles wrote that "Towards ten, my brother was brought in triumph by a troop of our friends, and declared, 'I believe.' We sang the hymn with great joy, and parted with prayer."

Until their conversions the Wesleys had what John described as "a fair summer religion." They were both ordained. They both preached, taught, wrote, composed hymns, and even gave themselves to missionary work—all to no avail. They had not Christ, or rather, Christ did not have them. They lived by good works, but not by faith. From an article by Roger J. Green