

SERVICE OF INDUCTION

and

WELCOME

for

The Rev'd Norman Hooks

at

Well Street Church, Buckingham

The Buckingham, Bicester & Brackley
Methodist Circuit

and Milton Keynes District of the
United Reformed Church

Sunday, 5th. September, 1999 at 6.00 pm.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome

1.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord,
To children's children and evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Prayers:

God of truth, you are worthy of higher praise than we can offer, and of purer worship than we can imagine. By your Holy Spirit, assist our prayers and draw us to yourself, so that what is lacking in our thoughts and actions and in our words and music, may be supplied by your overflowing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence

Gracious God, when we do not listen for your word in the words of others,

forgive and renew us.

When we do not use the gifts you have bestowed on us,

forgive and renew us.

When we do not love one another as sisters and brothers in Christ.

forgive and renew us.

When we do not serve our neighbours in their need,

forgive and renew us.

When we do not share the Good News with those around us,

forgive and renew us.

Silence

God calls us to serve, forgives us in Christ, and renews us by the Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

God of all grace, you call your Church to be a holy people to the praise of your name. In the power of your Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and our lives with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-3

Epistle: Ephesians 4: 1-16

2.

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.

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.

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.

Dave Evans, Thankyou Music

Gospel: John 13: 12-20

Sermon: The Rev'd Malcolm Hanson, Moderator of the East
Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church.

3.
From heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled.
Not to be served, but to serve,
And give your life, that we might live.

*This is our God,
The Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him.
To bring our lives
As a daily offering,
Of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load He chose to bear.
His heart with sorrow was torn,
"Yet not my will, but Yours", He said.

Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice.
Hands that flung stars into space,
To cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone Him.
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving

Graham Kendrick. Make Way Music

Induction and Welcome.

The Methodist Superintendent Minister, the Rev'd Ian Bowley, reads this Statement of Faith:

The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church confess the faith of the Church catholic in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They acknowledge that the life of faith to which they are called is a gift of the Holy Spirit continually received in Word and Sacrament and in the common life of God's people. They acknowledge the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as the supreme rule of faith and practice for all God's people.

The Methodist Church accepts the further undertaking now to be made concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church.

Responsive Statement, read by Mrs Shirley Watson, President of the Milton Keynes District of the United Reformed Church.

With the whole Christian Church the United Reformed Church believes in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together.

We acknowledge the gift and answer the call, giving thanks for the means of grace.

The highest authority for what we believe and do is God's Word in the Bible alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

We respond to this Word, whose servants we are with all God's people through the years.

We accept with thanksgiving to God the witness to the catholic faith in the Apostles' and Nicene creeds. We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ in which they stated the faith and sought to make its implications clear.

**Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union in which we give expression to our faith in forms which we believe contain the essential elements of the Church's life, both catholic and reformed; but we affirm our right and readiness, if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union and to make new statements of faith in ever new obedience to the living Christ.

**Our crucified and risen Lord, who leads us in our
faith and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ through the freedom of the Spirit, we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts and uphold the rights of personal conviction. For the sake of faith and fellowship it shall be for the Church to decide when differences of conviction hurt our unity and peace.

**We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love and
grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head. Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**While we ourselves are servants in the world, as
citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses, so that people and nations may be led to love and serve God and praise him more and more for ever.

**Source, Guide and Goal of all that is: to him be
eternal glory.**

Amen.

The Rev'd Ian Bowley says to the Rev'd Norman Hooks:

Norman, do you confess your faith and do you undertake to exercise your ministry in conformity with this Statement?

Answer: I do.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world
And in his Son Jesus Christ who redeemed the world
And in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

Answer: This I believe and this I will proclaim.

Are zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ and a desire for the salvation of all people, so far as you know your own heart, the chief motives which lead you to enter on the duties of ministry in this place? And will you fulfil the duties of your charge with all fidelity, leading your people in worship, preaching the Word and administering the sacraments, exercising pastoral care and oversight and giving leadership in the Church's mission to the world?

Answer: This is my promise and commitment.

Will you seek to lead a holy life, to maintain the truth of the gospel, and to seek the peace and unity of the whole church?

Answer: I will.

Will you serve both the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church by your ministry locally and in the fellowship of the churches?

Answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Rev'd Malcolm Hanson says to the congregation:

Do you recognise the calling of Norman Hooks to be a minister in these churches, and do you promise to pray for him and for one another, to share with him in seeking and doing the will of God and to give him due consideration and encouragement in the work and witness of the churches?

Answer: We do.

All standing. The Rev'd Ian Bowley says:

Lord God our Father, we thank you that in your love you call us to be your people, proclaiming the power and grace of your Son and rejoicing in his salvation. We thank you that you give varied gifts to equip your people for service and to build up the body of Christ.

As Norman Hooks now begins his ministry among us, we ask you to renew in him the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Give to him wisdom, understanding and power to allow your Word free course among your people. May your voice be heard in his preaching and your hand be seen in his administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Enable him so to care for the young, comfort the troubled and sorrowful, and listen to the needs of all that the churches may be strengthened in faith and friendship. May he so encourage the churches in witness and service that they may be caring, reconciling and prophetic communities in their neighbourhoods.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, Father, and Holy Spirit, world without end.

Amen.

The Rev'd Malcolm Hanson and the Rev'd Ian Bowley say:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and as representatives of our respective churches, we declare Norman Hooks, (appointed to this Circuit by the Methodist Conference) to be inducted to the pastoral charge of these congregations.

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in all goodness so that you may do his will; and may he make us what he would have us be through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Methodist Senior Circuit Steward, Mrs Doreen Teckoe, says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, will you welcome Norman Hooks and will you offer him your friendship, support and prayers as we

join together in the work to which God has called us?

With God's help we will.

All respond in a great shout:

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

The minister is welcomed by the United Reformed Church presiding minister, the Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church, members from the congregations, representatives of other churches and civic representatives.

They may each say:

On behalf of we welcome you and promise to work with you and to pray for you.

The minister may reply:

I thank you for your welcome. I will work with you and pray for you.

The Peace.

The Rev'd Ian Bowley says: We are the Body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The Rev'd Norman Hooks says: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

4.

Lord, Thy church on earth is seeking
Thy renewal from above;
Teach us all the art of speaking
With the accent of Thy love.
We would heed Thy great commission:
Go ye into every place -
Preach, baptize, fulfil My mission,
Serve with love and share My grace.

Freedom give to those in bondage,
Lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
Grant release from fears within:
Light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
Love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
As the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city
Where the bruised and lonely dwell,
Let us show the Saviour's pity,
Let us of His mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races
Let us serve, and seek to bring
All the world to render praises,
Christ, to Thee, Redeemer, King.

Hugh Sherlock.

Presentation of Local Preachers long service certificates.

Prayers on Intercession: led by the Rev'd Dr. Martin Wellings

The Lord's Prayer.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: The Rev'd Roy Martin

Gracious God, we thank you that in every generation you reveal your love for the world and set before your people your word of life and hope.

We thank you for Jesus Christ your Son, in whom you have made known your way of perfect love, and in whose dying and rising we see your final purpose.

We thank you for your Holy Spirit, who leads your people into all truth; for the service and witness of your Church; and for the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments, through which you renew and strengthen us.

**All honour and glory be yours, in the Church and in the world, in time and in eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Offering: for the Training Fund of the Methodist Church.

5.

O Jesus I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow
My master and my friend!

J. E. Boad

Blessing.