



Welcome

A Time of Silence to prepare ourselves

Call to Worship:

In times of familiarity and certainty

**God's presence is with us**

When all is changed and changing

**God guides and holds us**

As we travel to the future and search for vision

**God leads us and loves us**

Let us praise God!

StF 152 This is the day

**This is the day,**

**this is the day that the Lord has made,  
that the Lord has made.**

**We will rejoice,**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it,  
and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day,**

**this is the day that the Lord has made.**

**This is the day,**

**this is the day when he rose again,  
when he rose again.**

**We will rejoice,**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it,  
and be glad in it.**

**This is the day when he rose again;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day,**

**this is the day when he rose again.**

**This is the day**

**this is the day when the Spirit came,  
when the Spirit came.**

**We will rejoice,**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it,  
and be glad in it.**

**This is the day when the Spirit came;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day,**

**this is the day when the Spirit came.**

*Methodist Church. Singing the Faith*

*Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd. Kindle Edition.*

Prayers:

O God

Loving and creative

we try to picture all that you are

and realise we can merely catch a glimpse,

a minute fragment of a reflection of your glory.

like tiny patches of light dazzling as they flare  
on rippling water

Yet you call us to imagine your glory

to catch glimpses of all that you are

and each glimpse draws us deeper into the

fulness of your life and glory

and so we praise and adore you

O God

Loving and present with us

in Jesus we see your love lived out

your life in all its abundance

in life and death,

His teaching calls us to wonder and grow

to question and discover

to challenge all that prevents your abundance

for ourselves or others

and so we praise and adore you.

O God

Loving and breathed in us

in your Spirit we feel the power of your life

and the gentleness of your breath

You prompt us to step into the unknown,

& give us the assurance that you are with us.

You challenge us and teach us your way

and so we praise and adore you.

God,

Loving, creative, present and breathing in us

as we seek to gaze at your glory, to rest in

your presence, to be moved by your Spirit,

we recognise that we are held back by past

mistakes and the guilt they cause, by our

inability to believe in possibilities or to see your  
abundance and promise.

But you are a God who transforms, restores

and heals. So take our guilt, our tiredness, our

cynicism and our lack of hope and transform

them and us for your kingdom and your glory

we pray.

may we hear your words

we are known

we are loved

we are your people

**Amen**

**Thanks be to God.**



Readings:

Exodus 14.19-31

Romans 14.1-12

Matthew 18.21-35.

'Doing All the Good We Can' - Methodist Academies and Schools Trust

Sermon: - Barbara Easton, Head of Service for the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust.

Hymn: O God, you search me

**O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
ever the maker and keeper of my days.**

**You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting you besiege me:  
in every moment of life or death, you are.**

**Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past and future, too.**

**Although your Spirit is upon me,  
still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape  
you:  
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.**

**For you created me and shaped me,  
gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:  
safe in your hands, all creation is made  
new.**

*Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) based on psalm 139 Words and Music: © 1992 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213, USA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Methodist Church. Singing the Faith (Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd. Kindle Edition.*

A Reflection on Education Sunday  
Louise Singleton

Prayers

led by Phoebe Parkin,  
National Methodist Youth President

**StF 459 Captain of Israel's host, and Guide  
Captain of Israel's host, and Guide  
of all who seek the land above,  
beneath your shadow we abide,  
the cloud of your protecting love;  
our strength, your grace; our rule, your  
word;  
our end, the glory of the Lord.**

**By your unerring Spirit led,  
we shall not in the desert stray;  
we shall not full direction need,  
nor miss our providential way;  
as far from danger as from fear,  
while love, almighty love, is near.**

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)  
Methodist Church. Singing the Faith. Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd. Kindle Edition.*

Act of Commitment and the Blessing