Our Story, Our Song

Every year the Methodist Church produces a Prayer Handbook with a monthly cycle of prayers, with prayers for Methodists throughout Britain and throughout the world. The theme of the handbook is chosen by the President and Vice-President who are elected to serve for a year. People are invited to submit prayers and photographs on the theme and from these a selection of prayers and images are chosen for the handbook.

For the year from September 2025, the theme has been 'Our Story, Our Song' and this is based upon Psalm 96:1-2:

'O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.'

There are two predominant themes in the handbook: living out our story and singing the song that God has called us to sing. There is a recognition that 'old' ways of doing things may not serve us as well as they did in the past – so we may need to start a new chapter, doing church differently, or sing a new song more relevant to people today.

I was not among the people who sent potential prayers for the handbook but I thought I might share something here with the emphasis on singing.

Sing to God, in true amazement,
at how life has come to be:
formed by nature and by nurture,
causing such diversity.

Cheer to God, with great thanksgiving,
for the Son who came to earth:
for his love transcending limits,
for his death and our rebirth.

Share with God a gasp of sheer joy
at the wonder of the arts:
creativity of Spirit
shaping beauty, moving hearts.

Scream a chant of revolution
against all that thwarts God's peace:
war and terror, gun and knife crime,
hate and envy – all must cease.

Shout to God a song of justice,
breaking chains which held us bound:
overturning all oppression
such that freedom may be found.

Cry to God a heart-felt lament
for those struggling to survive:
hungry, homeless, disturbed,
desp'rate –
show you care, keep hope alive!

Sing not to God – but in silence
listen to God's song for you:
one of tender, loving mercy;
one of grace to make you new.

May God bless us as we live out our story and sing new songs,

Philip