

ORDINATION



Order of Service

St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham
Sunday 27 June 2021 • 4.00pm

About this service

This is one of the supreme moments in the life of the Church and an act of the Conference. The Conference alone has the authority to ordain on behalf of the whole Methodist Church in Britain. All ordinations therefore take place at the Conference. We are all here as part of the Church, taking part in an act to ordain these people to the presbyterate in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We are here because these people have answered a call. It came to them by various means – words from the Bible, words in the mind, words of another person – and took root in their hearts as a call from God. We are here because the Church answered that call from God, testing repeatedly whether it judged the person's sense of call to be well-grounded and supported by the qualities (the 'gifts and graces') needed to fill the office of a presbyter. Without knowing all the ordinands individually we can confidently say that they are worthy to be ordained, taking on trust the judgement that the Church has made on our behalf.

Three people take part in the actual laying on of hands at a Methodist service of ordination to the presbyterate. This action represents the real personal and spiritual connections that are both remembered and made anew.

- The Assisting Minister, chosen by the ordinand, has been personally significant to them in their journey to this point.
- The President (either the current or a former President of the Conference) embodies the Conference's authority to ordain.
- The World Church Representative (a presbyter from another country) represents the global Communion of which our Connexion is a part.

This is a solemn but deeply joyful service. Its words and music are largely traditional in nature, affirming our links with two thousand years of spiritual continuity. It culminates in the celebration of Holy Communion, that most profoundly joyous act when we rejoice in what Jesus Christ has done and does for us. Christians of any tradition are welcome to share communion and receive the bread and wine.

President: The Revd Dr Inderjit S Bhogal
Preacher: The Revd E. Jill Baker
Vice-President: Deacon Myrtle Poxon
Secretary: The Revd Catherine Dixon
Connexional Representatives: The Revd D Paul Wood
The Revd Dr Nicola V Price-Tebbutt
World Church Representative: The Revd Shannon DeLaureal
(United Methodist Church)

Ordinands

Stuart John Dyer
Karen E James
Ken Kingston
Rachel Leather
Phil Osborne

Assisting Ministers

The Revd Andrew Brazier
The Revd Antony J Cavanagh
The Revd Stephen J Poxon
The Revd Mary C Austin
The Revd Paul J Donnison

THE ORDINATION OF PRESBYTERS
THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

1 *Silence*

2 *All stand as those who are leading worship enter the church.*

The President says:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
and his mercy endures for ever.

I welcome you all on this joyful occasion and greet you in the name of God.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

3 *Hymn*

**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**

**‘Salvation to God who sits on the throne!’
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore, and give him his right:
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

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4 *All sit. The President says:*

Let us pray.

Silence

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.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

5 *Old Testament reading: Isaiah 6:1-8*

(read by the Secretary)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

6 *Epistle: Romans 12:1-18*

*(read by the World Church Representative
in their own language)*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

7 Hymn

**The Saviour, when to heaven he rose,
in splendid triumph o'er his foes,
scattered his gifts on us below,
and wide his royal bounties flow.**

**Hence sprung the apostles' honoured name,
sacred beyond heroic fame;
in lowlier forms, to bless our eyes,
pastors from hence, and teachers rise.**

**From Christ their varied gifts derive,
and, fed by Christ, their graces live;
while, guarded by his mighty hand,
midst all the rage of hell they stand.**

continued . . .

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**So shall the bright succession run
through the last courses of the sun;
while unborn Churches by their care
shall rise and flourish large and fair.**

**Jesus our Lord their hearts shall know –
the Spring whence all these blessings flow;
pastors and people shout his praise
through all the round of endless days.**

Amen.

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

8 *All remain standing.*

A reading from the Gospel according to John. *(read by the Vice-President)*

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The Gospel, John 20:19-29, is read.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

9 *All sit.*

Sermon

10 *The Nicene Creed*

All stand.

Let us profess the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE ORDINATION THE PRESENTATION

11 *All sit.*

The Secretary presents the candidates to the President.

Mr President, I present to you these persons to be ordained presbyters. The Conference has received them into Full Connexion and resolved that they be ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands.

The Secretary reads the names of those to be ordained. Each candidate rises as their name is called, and remains standing.

12 *The people stand and the President says:*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, these are the persons whom we intend, in God's name, to ordain to the Ministry of Christ's holy Church in the Order of Presbyters.

Their call has been tested in preparation for this ministry and they have been found to be of sound learning and faithful to their vocation.

We ask you to declare your assent to their ordination.

Do you believe and trust that they are, by God's grace, worthy to be ordained?

The people acclaim:

They are worthy.

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

The people answer:

We will uphold them.

THE EXAMINATION

13 *The people sit. The ordinands remain standing and the President says to them:*

Beloved in Christ, the Church is God's holy people, the Body of Christ, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

All who are received into the Church by Baptism are called to proclaim the mighty acts of God in Jesus Christ our Saviour, and to serve him in the Church and in the world.

God has called you into the Order of Presbyters among his people.

In his name you are

to preach by word and deed the Gospel of God's grace;
to declare God's forgiveness of sins to all who are
penitent;
to baptize, to confirm
and to preside at the celebration of the sacrament of
Christ's body and blood;
to lead God's people in worship, prayer and service;
to minister Christ's love and compassion;
to serve others, in whom you serve the Lord himself.

These things are your common duty and delight.
In them you are to watch over one another in love.

In all things, give counsel and encouragement
to those whom Christ entrusts to your care.

Pray without ceasing.

Work with joy in the Lord's service.

Let no one suffer hurt through your neglect.

This ministry will make great demands upon you and upon those close to you, yet in all this, the Holy Spirit will sustain you by his grace.

I now ask you to declare your lifelong commitment to this ministry:

Do you believe that God has called you to be a Minister of the Word and Sacraments in the universal Church?

Answer: I do.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord?

Answer: I do.

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Do you believe the doctrines of the Christian faith as this Church has received them?

Answer: I do.

Will you accept our discipline, and work together with your sisters and brothers in the Church?

Answer: I will.

Will you be faithful in worship, in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in those studies which will equip you for your ministry?

Answer: I will.

May God who has called you to this ministry give you grace and power to do his will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LITANY

14 *The ordinands sit.*

Let us pray.

All pray in silence.

The Vice-President leads the litany

On the peoples of the world
and the leaders of the nations,
gracious God,
pour out your Spirit.

On your holy Church throughout the world,
gracious God,
pour out your Spirit.

On all whom you have called to be ordained,
gracious God,
pour out your Spirit.

On all whom they serve in their ministry,
gracious God,
pour out your Spirit.

On their families and friends
and all who have helped and encouraged them,
gracious God,
pour out your Spirit.

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us,
and not what we deserve;
and as you have called us to your service,
make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE ORDINATION

15 Hymn

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:**

**Thy blessèd unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight:**

**Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.**

**Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:**

**'Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.'**

9th century tr. John Cosin (1594-1672)

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16 *The people sit. The ordinands kneel and the President, standing, says:*

Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.
You are the light and life of your people in every age,
calling us to declare your acts of mercy and love.

You sent your Son Jesus Christ
to be our Saviour.
He called the apostles
to witness to his words and deeds,
his life, death and resurrection.
Through him you have made your Church
a royal priesthood for the glory of your name.
In the power of the Holy Spirit
you strengthen and shepherd your people,
by sending apostles and prophets,
pastors, evangelists and teachers,
in a succession of truth and grace.

By the same Spirit
you have called these your servants
to be Ministers in your Church.

Increase in them the gifts of your grace
for their life and ministry.

The prayer continues as the President lays his hands upon the head of each ordinand in turn, other ministers also laying their right hands on the ordinand.

The President says over each one:

Father, send the Holy Spirit upon N for the office and work of a Presbyter in your Church.

Each time the President says these words, all answer:

Amen.

When hands have been laid on all of them, the President continues:

Gracious God,
as you call and ordain these your servants to this ministry,
we ask you to fulfil in them the work you have begun.

Grant them unfailing love for those people among whom
you appoint them as pastors and teachers.

May they boldly proclaim your truth
and faithfully celebrate your sacraments.

Give them wisdom and patience
in their witness and service.
Sustain and strengthen them at all times,
giving faith and perseverance to all who believe in you
through their word.

May they be counted worthy at the last
to enter into the joy of their Lord.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

17 *The Lord's Prayer*

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the
power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**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 who
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.**

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THE GIVING OF THE BIBLE

18 *The newly-ordained Ministers stand.*

The Vice-President presents a Bible to each of them, saying:

N, receive this Bible
as a sign of the authority committed to you this day
to preach the word of God
and to celebrate the sacraments.

THE DECLARATION

19 *All stand.*

The President says:

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I declare that you have been ordained
as Presbyters of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church of Christ.

Remember your call.

Declare the Good News.
Celebrate the sacraments.
Serve the needy.
Minister to the sick.
Welcome the stranger.
Seek the lost.

Be shepherds to the flock of Christ.
As you exercise mercy, do not forget justice;
as you minister discipline, do not forget mercy;
that when Christ the Chief Shepherd comes in glory
he may count you among his faithful servants.

To God be the glory for ever. Amen.

20 *The people may welcome the newly-ordained Ministers with applause.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

21 *The Peace*

All stand. The President says:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

22 *Hymn*

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesus, true and living Bread.**

**Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou art here, we ask not how.**

**Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We in worship join with them.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Life-imparting, heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

G H Bourne (1840-1925)

23 *Bread and wine are brought to the table (or if already on the table are uncovered).
The President takes the bread and wine and prepares them for use.*

THE THANKSGIVING

24 *All stand.*

The President leads the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord our God, gracious and holy,
your power sustains all creation.

In love you create all things

and in mercy you redeem them.

From age to age you gather a people to serve you,
to proclaim your glory

and to reveal your presence in all the world.

In the fullness of time

you sent your Son, Jesus Christ,
the true Shepherd of your people;

in him we see your face and hear your word.

In compassion he restored us and made us whole,
laying down his life upon the cross
and freely offering himself for all.

You did not leave him in death
but raised him by your mighty power
to make all things new.

Through him you sent the Holy Spirit,

to lead your people into all truth,
calling from among us pastors and preachers
and teachers of your word.

With them and all your people on earth and in heaven
we join the ceaseless song of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Father, we give you praise
as we call to mind
how, at supper with his disciples,
your Son Jesus Christ took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying,
“Take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.
He gave you thanks and gave it to them, saying,
“Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, recalling Christ's offering of himself
and celebrating this feast of our redemption,
we offer ourselves to you
through Christ our great High Priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Remember, Lord, your Church throughout the world.
Send your Spirit upon us;
gather us into unity,
strengthen our faith
and sustain our hope.

Bring us, with all who place their hope in you,
to the promised feast in your kingdom,
where for ever we may offer you our praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

**through whom, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

- 25 *The President breaks the bread in the sight of the people in silence, or saying:*

Christ is the true bread from heaven.

Christ gives life to the world.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

- 26 *All sit. The President, those assisting with the distribution, and the people receive.*

The President may say these or other words of invitation:

Christ welcomes you to his table.

Draw near with faith.

- 27 *Words such as the following are said during the distribution.*

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

- 28 *During the distribution there may be appropriate music. Hymns and songs (from those printed at the end of this service) may be sung.*

- 29 *The President covers what remains of the elements with a white cloth.*

THE FINAL PRAYERS

- 30 *Silence*

- 31 Let us pray.

**Lord our God,
strengthen the hands
that have received these holy gifts,
that we may faithfully serve you all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

32 *Hymn*

**O thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!**

**There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me –**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

33 *All remain standing. The President says:*

The almighty God bless you/us,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

34 *The President says:*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

1 Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us – he is with us;
break the bread, drink the wine –
Christ is with us here.

2 Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us – he is with us;
know his grace, find his peace –
feast on Jesus here.

*In this bread there is healing,
in this cup there's life for ever;
in this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here.*

3 Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us – he is with us;
we'll proclaim, till he comes –
Jesus crucified.

Refrain

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

1 Author of life divine,
who has a table spread,
furnished with mystic wine
and everlasting bread,
preserve the life that you have given,
and feed and train us up for heaven.

2 Our needy souls sustain
with fresh supplies of love,
till all your life we gain,
and all your fullness prove,
and, strengthened by your perfect grace,
behold without a veil your face.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

*Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to
him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in
him and you will not thirst.*

- 1 Christ is the bread of life,
the true bread sent from the Father.
 - 2 Our ancestors ate manna in the desert,
but this is the bread come down from
heaven.
 - 3 Eat his flesh and drink his blood,
and Christ will raise you up on the
last day.
 - 4 Anyone who eats this bread will live
for ever.
 - 5 If we believe and eat this bread, we will
have eternal life.
- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me lie in pastures green,
he leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone,
and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*
 - 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil;
and my cup – it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.
 - 3 And though I walk the darkest path –
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and
staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Jacques Berthier (1923-94)

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

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1 Come, my table is a meeting place,
here I'm waiting ready for you,
come and share, you are invited,
come, beloved, I chose you.

*Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.*

2 Come, my table is a feeding place,
bread, my body broken for you,
wine, my blood poured out to save you,
given eternally for you.

1 As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again.

3 Come, my table is a touching place,
hands to greet you span time and
space,
see my arms stretched out in welcome,
this for you a holy place.

2 This bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one.

4 Come and meet me in this moment,
taste and see this gift of my grace,
here, the feast spread out before you,
come, my child, and take your place.

3 We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love.

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Clare Stainsby (b. 1959)

1 King of kings, majesty,
God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End,
all within me falls at your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow;
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve your majesty.*

2 Earth and heaven worship you,
Love eternal, faithful and true,
who bought the nations, ransomed
souls,
brought this sinner near to your throne;
all within me cries out in praise.

*Your majesty, I can but bow;
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve your majesty,
I live to serve your majesty.*

Jarrod Cooper (b. 1970)

1 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.*

2 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?

3 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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Here is bread, here is wine

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Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry

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The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want

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Come, my table is a meeting place

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Bread of life, hope of the world

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King of kings, majesty

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I the Lord of sea and sky

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