

SMALL GROUP
AND SUNDAY
SERMON SERIES



CELEBRATING METHODISM



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR METHODIST HERITAGE
2 - 23 November 2025

Week 1	2 November	A heart strangely warmed
Week 2	9 November	Do all the good you can
Week 3	16 November	The world is my parish
Week 4	23 November	Let us be nothing, that Christ may be all
ADVENT I:	30 November	The best of all, God is with us

Welcome to Celebrating METHODISM Series: November 2025

As the lectionary year draws to a close and we prepare to enter the season of Advent, November offers us a beautiful moment to reflect on who we are as Methodist people. “*Celebrating Methodism*” is an invitation to rediscover our roots and ways to live out the spirit and teachings of John and Charles Wesley in our present time. Throughout this month, we celebrate the faith of those who came before us, the shared identity that binds us as Methodists, and the ongoing call to be a people shaped by grace, holiness, and mission. As we journey through the lectionary readings, we will draw on five well-known Wesleyan sayings - words that have shaped our heritage and can still guide our faith today. Each week’s reflection connects a Wesleyan insight with the Scripture readings, helping us prepare to enter Advent with renewed faith and spiritual energy.

Home Groups and classes guide:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).

Week 4: 23 NOVEMBER

Let us be nothing, that Christ may be all



“*Let us be nothing, that Christ may be all,*” comes from John Wesley's Journal on 4 February 1739. For Wesley, this was a cry of total surrender, acknowledging that his own efforts and ego had to decrease so that the grace and presence of Jesus Christ could completely increase in his life. This sentiment becomes profoundly relevant for Christ the King Sunday, the day we celebrate Jesus as the supreme ruler of all creation. By choosing to become ‘nothing,’ we empty the space of our lives so that Christ can truly be our ‘all,’ allowing His loving rule, rather than our own, to define our identity and direct our actions, thus making the cosmic truth of His kingship an intimate and lived reality.

WORSHIP SONG: Awesome God by Donnie McClurkin:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=canK9GjkyNM&list=RDcanK9GjkyNM&start_radio=1

READINGS:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33 – 43

REFLECTION WRITTEN BY: REV THABISO MCINGA

This week, friends, we gather as a people who are being confronted - again and again - by the realities of our nation and our global economy. Everywhere we turn, we are being asked to respond, to act wisely, to hold things together for the sake of our shared life. And then the lectionary, in this week when we speak of Christ as King, takes us to a Gospel reading we normally reserve for Easter... and then pack away for another year. Yet here it is again, and we find ourselves reading it at a time when our world feels fragile: conflicts playing out on our screens, climate shifts that our bodies can now feel, political divisions so sharp they cut right through the soul of our society. We are a people crying out for strong, decisive leadership, i.e. someone who can fix what is broken.

And what does the lectionary give us?

A dying man on a cross.

Not because someone made a mistake... but because God is provoking us.

This text interrupts every comfortable idea we have about kingship. It forces us to wrestle with what it really means for Christ to reign today. It will not allow us to push Jesus' kingship up into the clouds, far away from the mess of the world. No! The Gospel drags Christ's kingship right into the dirt, right into the trenches of human suffering. A crucified King confronting a wounded nation. A crucified King confronting a wounded world. And this text refuses to let us shout "*Christ is King!*" while living as if we are still loyal to the little kingdoms we have built for ourselves.

Because while the world demands a king who crushes his enemies, God gives us a King who forgives them. His first words from the throne of the cross are: "*Father, forgive them.*" In a world that is constantly shouting for revenge, this is nothing short of a revolution. Jesus turns power upside down. He shows us that real authority is not found in dominating others, but in loving them; even when that love costs everything. It's easy to proclaim Christ as King on a Sunday morning. But this story forces us to ask: Where is His kingdom actually found? It is found in the places we least expect in the middle of human suffering. Right in the chaos. Right in the vulnerability. A crucified King, again, confronting a wounded nation.

And then the Gospel draws our attention to the two criminals beside Him. They represent the choices every single one of us must make. One joins the mockery, shouting, "*If you are powerful, get us out of this now!*" How many of our prayers sound exactly like that? "*God, fix my life. Fix my situation. Do it according to my plan, according to my timeline.*" But the other criminal sees differently. He turns his head, broken, hurting and whispers, "*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*". He isn't asking for a quick escape. He isn't trying to dictate the terms. He's asking for relationship. He sees a King in the man suffering beside him. He recognises a kingdom in the midst of pain.

And here is the challenge that leaves nobody off the hook:

We are all hanging on a cross of some kind -

the cross of anxiety,

the cross of grief,

the cross of frustration with the world as it is.

And the temptation is always the same: to shout, "*Save yourself! Save us! Fix everything now!*" But this Gospel refuses to let us remain in that place. It argues with us. It disturbs us. It confronts us with an uncomfortable truth: that we live in a society that still crucifies the image of God in others.

We crucify through corruption. Through inequality. Through gender-based violence. Through the lack of compassion we show one another. Through tribalism. Through our silence in the face of injustice.

Standing at the foot of this cross, we cannot pretend to be innocent bystanders. Christ's kingship exposes every small kingdom we have been protecting every fear, every prejudice, every excuse that keeps us from living into his reign. And so, the question comes back to us: Which criminal will we be today? Will we mock the one who hangs beside us... or will we whisper, "Lord, remember me," and step into his kingdom, even in the midst of our suffering?

GROUP/CLASS QUESTIONS:

1. What ideas or assumptions about leadership in our world are challenged when we see Christ reigning from a cross instead of a throne?
2. In your own life right now, where do you resonate more with the criminal demanding escape or the one asking simply to be remembered? Why?
3. What small kingdoms in your life - habits, attitudes, fears, privileges or loyalties might Christ's kingship be confronting or exposing?
4. Where do you see the image of God being crucified in our nation today?

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Colossians 1:17 "In him all things hold together."
Tuesday: Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength."
Wednesday: Micah 6:8 "Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God."
Thursday: Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."
Friday: John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world."
Saturday: 1 Peter 2:23 "He did not retaliate... but entrusted himself to him who judges justly."

FAMILY TIME: WRITTEN BY: MAGGOGODI NKUUA

Scripture Reading: Acts 17: 28 (NLT) "For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'"

Wesleyan saying: "Let us be nothing, that Christ may be all"

Opening song: All to Jesus I surrender



Opening thought

There are times when we imagine we can accomplish everything by ourselves, believing we can meet all our daily needs without God's assistance. In reality, this belief is a deception; to embrace it is, in fact, pride.

Family reflection

This week's phrase by John Wesley serves as a reminder that we must surrender our entire being to Christ, allowing His character to be fully manifested in us.

Discussion time

For young children

- Look up the word "surrender" in the dictionary, what does it mean?
- Talk about some of the ways that God takes care of you.
- What's that one thing you can do today to help someone like God helps you?

For teenagers

- What does "in him we live, and move and have our being" mean to you?
- What's that one thing that you are holding on to and should be handing over Christ?
- What step can you take to trust God and surrender it to Him?

Family Activity

Material: small jar, pen and paper

On a piece of paper, write one thing that you are surrendering to Christ (think failure, control, etc). Pray over it together.

Closing prayer

Lord, help us remember that we are your children. Teach us humility and help us to surrender every part of our lives to you. May your character shine through us, today and always. Amen