

Minister's Message

As I write, it is Epiphany, the day on which the church in the West has traditionally celebrated the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. I remember seeing a picture of the Magi on a car sticker with the words, 'Wise Men still seek Jesus'.

Yesterday (5th January), we held our annual covenant service, a time for recommitment to one another and to God. It was a rather cold and snowy day, so you are forgiven if you were not there! I spoke on Matthew 7:7 as a motto for the coming year:

'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'

I encourage you to listen to the sermon online, not least as I speak about a door that appears to have closed to us as a church. This will keep you up to date.

Essentially, my sermon is a call to 'ASK' God for our church and ourselves in the coming year. What do we desire him to do? What doors might we pray that the Lord would open to us in 2025? Of course, what we ask is not always what God desires to give us, but we can be assured that our Father in heaven always gives good gifts to those who ask him!

If we are wise, we will keep seeking and depending upon Jesus in prayer. I encourage you to do that as you pray at home, and also to join with others as we seek him together in 2025. May the Lord bless us, and may that blessing overflow to those around us.

Tim

PS You can find out more about the covenant service here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/the-covenant-service/>

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The covenant prayer in which we joined is below, should you wish to pray it afresh:

Eternal God,
in your faithful and enduring love
you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.
In obedience we hear and accept your commands;
in love we seek to do your perfect will;
with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.
We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
 wherever you may place me,
 in all that I do
 and in all that I may endure;
 when there is work for me
 and when there is none;
 when I am troubled
 and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
 when I am valued
 and when I am disregarded;
 when I find fulfilment
 and when it is lacking;
 when I have all things,
 and when I have nothing.**

I willingly offer

**all I have and am
 to serve you,
 as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 you are mine and I am yours.
 May it be so for ever.
 Let this covenant now made on earth
 be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

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