

Dear Friends

Like many Methodists I'm a member of The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland and in the latest newsletter there is a reminder that we are approaching the 10th anniversary of the launch of 'Singing the Faith' which was launched formally at Wesley's Chapel in London on 21st October 2011. I know that our 'new' hymn book has not been universally greeted with rave reviews and many look back with nostalgia to the days of 'Hymns and Psalms' or indeed to the era of 'The Methodist Hymn Book'!

However, no matter which hymn book you favour, it remains true that not only is each of those hymn books full of hymns which reflect Methodist theology but each one has hymns which we can use in our prayers. One of the things which I admired about my father, who was a Methodist LP, was the facility with which he incorporated quotations from hymns into public extempore prayers.

If you are able to go onto the Singing the Faith Plus website you can download the Methodist prayer card 'Hymns for Personal Prayer'. The card offers a selection of hymns included in Singing the Faith suitable for private prayer. They are listed under headings borrowed from the hymn book's own section headings: Prayers of praise and thanksgiving; Morning and evening; The Holy Scriptures; Prayers of petition; Prayers of response.

A good morning prayer is Charles Wesley's morning hymn:

StF 134

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

And a good night prayer is David Adam's evening hymn:

StF 144

Here are my thoughts, Lord,
here is my mind.
Here are my deeds, Lord,
help me unwind.
Here is my strength, Lord,
here is my will.
Here is my life, Lord,
help me be still.

Blessings, Allan

Reverend Allan Taylor

