

## COMING BEFORE GOD

There are different ways of engaging, no way is wrong, find something that works for you.

### Take time, and respect the space of others

There's a time and place for group worship and prayer, but soul-searching heart-to-hearts with God are often private, so respect the space of others.

### Seek awareness of the presence of God:

Approaching God isn't difficult, we don't need to be 'worthy', we just have to open ourselves. Some are comfortable meditating, clearing their mind of all distractions to hear the voice of God. Whilst others find that God speaks to them through the tangents those distractions can inspire. Whatever works for you, let God speak and guide you.

### Purify Your Heart:

We need to recognise that we have fallen short and need God to cleanse us, it is not hard for Jesus has done the hard work already. If we acknowledge our mistakes and truly intend to do better, God grants us a 'clean slate', it is only we who tend to hold on to feelings of guilt, so let them go.

### Humble Yourself:

There is nothing in our power we can do to earn salvation, yet God loves us anyway. When we are able to see that we, though tiny in the 'grand scheme of things', are precious to God, our open and thankful hearts may become a means by which God can work through us.

## Why 'Crunch Time'?



Our chapel congregations, and Circuit as a whole, are struggling. This is a decisive time. We must prayerfully adapt and change in the ways we worship and live out our faith.

### Reality Check

We need to acknowledge 'where we are'

### Pray

We need to take time to listen, as we seek to follow where God is leading

### Share

We each have insights to offer, the more of us who engage and explore the clearer the vision that will evolve.

### Act

You may well think 'we've done this before and nothing has changed', this time we have the opportunity to do something new.

The **Methodist Church**



Falmouth and Gwennap Circuit

## 'Crunch Time' prayer guide



The **Methodist Church**



## Humility before God:

*Humble yourselves before the Lord,  
and he will lift you up.* James 4:10

*with humility comes wisdom.* Proverbs 11:2b

We live in a reward-based culture, if we do something good we want people to know about it, but this mindset seeks fulfilment in all the wrong places. This is not a modern concept, indeed Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector Luke 18:9-14 to illustrate this. It is human nature to want to see the effect of our hard work now, to seek tangible rewards for our time, whether we deserve them or not. Pride can be dangerous.

*Those who exalt themselves will be humbled,  
and those who humble themselves will be  
exalted.* Luke 18:14

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power  
is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will  
boast all the more gladly about my  
weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest  
on me.<sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ’s sake, I  
delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships,  
in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am  
weak, then I am strong.* 2 Cor 12:9-10

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain  
conceit. Rather, in humility value others above  
yourselves, not looking to your own interests  
but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*Philippians 2:3-4*

*“When you pray, do not be like the  
hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in  
the synagogues and on the street corners to  
be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have  
received their reward in full. But when you  
pray, go into your room, close the door and  
pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then  
your Father, who sees what is done in  
secret, will reward you.”* Matthew 6:5-6

## Wisdom & discernment

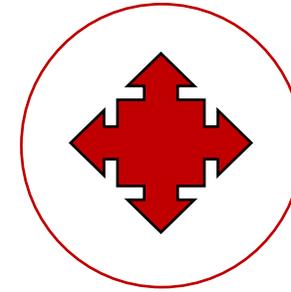
*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of  
wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is  
understanding”* Prov. 9:10

*“There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that  
can succeed against the LORD”* Prov. 21:30.

## Prayer for Communal Discernment

*Good and loving God,  
source of love and light –  
thank you for bringing us together today  
in a spirit of generosity.  
May we honour one another  
by keeping open minds.  
May we voice our truth  
and listen with open hearts.  
May we discern your will  
to unite in fruitful outcome.  
We ask for your wisdom and grace,  
to use our talents for the betterment of others.  
With gratitude, we offer this prayer in your name.*

*Debra Mooney, PhD (Xavier.edu)*



## Seeking a clear vision

A vision that makes the world better for others:

*“Where there is no vision from God, the  
people run wild, but those who adhere to  
God’s instruction know genuine happiness.”*

*Proverbs 29:18 (The Voice)*

*Unless the LORD builds the house, the  
builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD  
watches over the city, the guards stand  
watch in vain.* Psalm 128:1

*Go therefore and make disciples of all  
nations, baptising them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
Matthew 28:19*

It can feel like we are walking in darkness,  
without purpose we often end up going  
round in circles.

Be open God inspiring you. Don’t limit  
yourself, fear or lack of confidence can  
short-change a vision - if it doesn’t make you  
a little uncomfortable then you’re probably  
not dreaming big enough! And be flexible,  
visions inevitably evolve as circumstances  
change. A vision is a living thing, let God help  
us plan the steps required to get there.