



Hospitable God, when we have made the Church a closed place,  
where only those who know the unwritten rules are welcome:  
forgive us and enlarge our hearts.

When we have made our minds a closed place,  
where only those who think as we do are welcome:  
forgive us and enlarge our hearts.

When we have made our hearts a closed place,  
where only those who love as we do are welcome:  
forgive us and enlarge our hearts.

Thank you for loving us as we are  
and for calling us to grow into the image of your Son,  
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Michaela Youngson, Assistant Secretary, British Methodist Conference and  
Connexional Ecumenical Officer.

Gracious God,  
I praise you  
For your goodness and loving kindness  
Which you pour out upon me  
As I offer the cup of my life to you.  
May I allow your love to overflow  
To bless the lives of others  
With generosity and hospitality  
And compassionate care.  
In Jesus' name, I pray.  
Amen



## **A prayer as we Dwell in the Word**

Loving God,  
Although our destination is not yet clear,  
May we trust in your graceful promises;  
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,  
May we be rooted in your loving regard;  
Though our attention is inclined to wander,  
May we hear the things you are saying;  
Though we often neglect your influence,  
May we be convicted of your power to change,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## **Dwelling in the Word text:** Hebrews 13: 1-9a (NIV)

13 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

<sup>2</sup> Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

<sup>3</sup> Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.

<sup>4</sup> Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

<sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

'Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.'

<sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence,

'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?'

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.

Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace.