

Rev Tim Perkins
20 Far Mead Croft, Burley in Wharfedale,
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9th September 2022

“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken... Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm. 62: 1 – 2 & 5 - 8

Dear Friends,

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have made the following statement in response to the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

“It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty the Queen today. We join the nation in grief and thank God for her long and distinguished reign. The loyalty to, and love expressed, for Queen Elizabeth across the world is a testament to the life that she led, one marked by dedicated service to others. She provided encouragement and reassurance to a world living through uncertain times.

For people of all ages the Queen has provided constancy, a calm and wise influence at all levels of society. Our nation, the Commonwealth and the world have been greatly blessed by her life and work.

We give thanks to God that her duty as monarch was grounded in a deep faith in Jesus Christ, which has been an inspiration to countless people throughout her reign. Her dedication, commitment and service to her people will never be forgotten and will sustain all those who mourn in the coming weeks. Our prayers are for her family who have lost a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt and we pray that all may be inspired by her service and guided by her example.

The prayers of the Methodist people are also offered for His Majesty the King in his new role.”

We join with our President and Vice-President in giving thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II and in praying for King Charles III as he takes up his new responsibilities, and for his family as they grieve the passing of their loved one.

We have heard, and no doubt will continue to hear, of the great depth of faith in Jesus Christ of Queen Elizabeth and how she lived that out in faithfulness to God and in service to her subjects. I have heard countless times already on the news of how the Queen was the rock on which

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modern Britain was built, the source of stability in a rapidly and ever-changing world. She has been the constant factor in national and international life for the 70 years of her reign. She will rightly be remembered and go down in the history of our nation as the greatest statesperson of our age.

And yet, I am equally sure that Her Majesty would not have recognised that description of herself. Because of her great humility, integrity and faith, she would ascribe to another the title of “the rock on which we build.” She would have recognised and echoed the words of that other great Monarch, David, King of Israel, with which I began this letter. And I am sure, in her humble, gentle and wise way, she would have encouraged us and all her subjects to listen to those words of David, and look, not to her but to God as our rock and our salvation.

At a time of great transition and instability, it is in the knowledge of God’s love for us and God’s goodness and grace to us, that despite the events of recent days, we can yet proclaim, “we will never be shaken.

And so we give thanks for our Queen. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

May we and our churches seek to be a source of stability for our communities and a beacon of light and love to them in the sorrow and darkness of these days, in the name of Jesus Christ, our rock and our salvation.

With every blessing,

Rev Tim Perkins