

## A Note from Angy

Unless you have been, or are a bit of a Conference nerd like I am you won't necessarily know that the Methodist Conference never actually comes to an end, it is merely adjourned until it reconvenes the following year. At that reconvening the first hymn which is sung is; 'And are we yet alive' and has been since the 1780's when Mr Wesley first included it. It is in our hymn book and yet few Methodists outside Conference geeks even know of it, let alone have sung it.

1. And are we yet alive,  
and see each other's face?  
Glory and thanks to Jesus give  
for his almighty grace!

2. Preserved by power divine  
to full salvation here,  
again in Jesus' praise we join,  
and in his sight appear.

3. What troubles have we seen,  
what mighty conflicts past,  
fightings without, and fears within,  
since we assembled last!

4. Yet out of all the Lord  
hath brought us by his love;  
and still he doth his help afford,  
and hides our life above.

5. Then let us make our boast  
of his redeeming power,  
which saves us to the uttermost,  
till we can sin no more.

6. Let us take up the cross  
till we the crown obtain,  
and gladly reckon all things loss  
so we may Jesus gain.

### *Doxology*

Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!  
Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
Praise ye the Lord!

Charles Wesley  
Tune: Falcon Street

When it's sung, unaccompanied, the roof lifts off the conference venue as the representatives reflect on what has been gone through in the 12 months since they last met. That reflection often includes memories of those who have been promoted to glory, the trials and tribulations of church and the world but also those moments of grace and blessing that have been experienced. It is the ability to hold memories of troubles and grace that enable The Conference to follow Mr Wesley's instructions for singing; 'lustily and with good courage.' Of course this year Conference was unable to sing in that same way, Zoom does not allow for congregational singing in the same way, but, even remotely, each in their own rooms, there was togetherness and a shared experience and the words of the hymn were probably even more meaningful.

You may not have encountered the hymn before and may not know the tune, but, as we begin a new Connexional year I offer it to you for reflection and for prayer. As you read it know that others are reading it too and that, even though our connexion is stretched at the moment it is still there and that God is never far away.

God bless, Angy

