

A loyal address from the Free Churches, including

THE GENERAL BODY OF PROTESTANT DISSENTING MINISTERS OF THE THREE DENOMINATIONS, Presbyterian, Independent and Baptist

THE BODY OF PROTESTANT DISSENTING MINISTERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN (UNITARIAN) DENOMINATION

THE PROTESTANT DISSENTING DEPUTIES
representing lay people of the Three Denominations

THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP, including representatives of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

May it please your Majesty

As representatives of the Free Churches, including the bodies of protestant dissenters enjoying the ancient and highly valued privilege of personal access to the Sovereign, we offer Your Majesty our loyal congratulations on Your Accession to the Throne.

At this time of complex change and crises, the need for spiritual support and loving communities has not been greater, and we thank God that we have a Christian monarch committed to serving this nation and the whole Commonwealth. These years of pandemic have been challenging, but we are grateful to God that our congregations have been enabled by the Holy Spirit to continue worshipping in new ways and serving their communities.

Ours are mostly gathered churches, experiencing friendship and care among ourselves, but at the same time seeking to be good neighbours in the way that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us by word and example – striving to share His love in our rich and increasingly diverse society. This concern for others has been demonstrated by an active involvement in education since the 17th Century, prison and hospital ministry since the 18th Century and whilst some Free Church denominations have been involved in chaplaincy to the armed forces since the beginning of the 20th century, this opportunity has been recently extended to the full range of Free Churches.

We give thanks for the growing depth of love and understanding that exists between the many different Christian denominations within Your realm, and with communities of other faiths, and none. In all of these we have been grateful for the example both in word and deed that Your Majesty has displayed. The impact of global warming and the ecological crises are currently of concern to so many and we are also grateful that this is a concern Your Majesty also shares.

We value the liberty we enjoy to worship according to our consciences to proclaim the Gospel, and the freedom expressed in our differences and diversity. We share with others a vigilant concern for the tolerance, freedom and mutual care we have enjoyed in Great Britain represented by the privilege of address granted now through fourteen reigns.

May the celebration of Your Majesty's Accession be a profound example of this United Kingdom coming together in celebration and an opportunity for many to demonstrate to Your Majesty our appreciation for Your service and Your encouragement of service of every kind.

May the blessing of Almighty God continue to rest upon His Majesty the King.