



Prestwood Methodist Church

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Sunday 5th April 2020: Palm Sunday

With tighter restrictions, all activities at the church building have now ceased. However, we are still here for you if you need shopping or just want a chat.

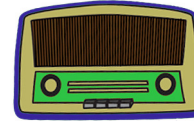
Several people have asked our treasurer, John Deakin, what to do about offerings while the church is closed.

First and foremost, we want to reassure everyone that thanks to John's excellent management, the church has reserves to meet costs for some time. Your priority should therefore be first, to make sure you have enough for *your* needs during this time. Secondly, there are lots of organisations that need additional support. In particular, the [Chiltern Food Bank](#) and the [Storehouse](#) project, being run from Restore Hope Latimer.

If you have a weekly envelope, you might wish to save these up and get them to us when things return to normal. Alternatively, if you would like to set up a bank transfer to PMC's bank account please get in touch with John (via the steward contact details above if you don't have his direct number). Please do not send cheques, as John is unable to get to the bank to pay these in.

Virtual Church

A couple of people have provided some positive feedback about the daily reflections that Revd Adam Wells is posting on YouTube. Perhaps one side-effect of this lockdown is that more of us have time to consider God Monday – Saturday, as well as Sunday. See tinyurl.com/vz9y45q for the Amersham Methodist Circuit channel



TV and radio:

Radio 4 Sunday Worship at 8.10am.

BBC 1 Sunday Worship at 10.45am.

Internet

11am Wesley's Chapel London bit.ly/2wGRIY8

10.30am Swan Bank Methodist Church in Burslem
www.facebook.com/swanbank

For those who would like to interact with people, [Kingshill Baptist Church](#) are running weekly services and mid-week coffee mornings through Zoom, with an opportunity to chat in small groups at the end of the service. We "visited" Kingshill Baptists last week, and were made very welcome. Visit their website for details.

By post

Worship resources can be sent by post if anyone needs them – please get in touch (details on the front) to request this.

Notices

We will continue to include prayers and readings in the weekly notices, and the accompanying email has further links.

If you do not want to receive this each week, please contact Bridget or Malcolm (contact details above).

Humans and animals – Genesis 1: 24-31

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

We come to the sixth day, on which God creates land animals, including human beings.

The first thing to note is that humans are very much part of the natural world and connected to everything. God decides to create humans on the same day as the other land animals, rather on a separate day, which reminds us that we are still earthly creatures. On the other hand, God decides to create humans in His image, which sets us apart from other animals.

This point has huge implications. It means that all humans, regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity and nationality are created by God in His image. It emphasises how all humans are created equal and should be treated as such. However, being created in the image of God also gives us immense power – we are the only species capable of shaping the world the way we do, our own creation. But unfortunately, as we have discussed in previous weeks, our creations are often chaotic, and cause a great deal of damage to the environment.

Humans and animals (continued)

God tells the humans that they may rule over the fish, bird, animals and the land. In verse 28 the word “subdue” is used. Unfortunately, many people have taken this to mean we are given free reign by God to do what we like with this world. But “subdue” when applied to land often means occupy, sometimes in an agricultural context. “Rule” does put us in a position of power, but that only goes to emphasise the importance of our role in the world. Some rulers are cruel, others kind. The greatest ruler of all was the Servant King. So we should follow Jesus’ example, serving the land, the plants, the animals and the people. By doing so, we too are serving God. *James Appleby*



Readings for this week (5th Sunday in Lent):

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Philippians 2: 5-11
Matthew 21: 1- 11

Worship at home

Here are some extracts from Nigel’s thoughts for the week and the Methodist Church worship at home sheet. See the links in the email for the full documents.

Please let us know if you have any news, prayers or encouragement you’d like to share via these notices.

A prayer from Revd Nigel Wright

See Matthew 21:1-11

Nigel’s reflection (see email link) compares the crowd in this reading on Palm Sunday, with the one less than a week later, shouting to Pilate to crucify Jesus.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you come into our hearts and lives, And we have accepted you as our Saviour, the one who sets us free.

We are all too aware though that we can so quickly change our tune when you overturn our expectations, when you do not act in the way we would like, when your ideas are different from ours.

We ask you to forgive us for those times when we push you away, and to help us to return to you.

Holy Spirit, remind us to bring to you in prayer the choices that face us each day. Guide and inspire us to choose your way. Help us to show your love and compassion to those around us.

AMEN.

Helpful Hymn verse

Suggested by Revd. Nigel Wright, in relation to his reflection and prayers.

StF 277, verse 3 of ‘My Song Is Love Unknown’ (Samuel Crossman, 1623 – 1683)

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Go to youtu.be/CRUp5JiRFu0 to hear the whole hymn.

Prayers from the Methodist Church worship at home service sheet for 5th April 2020

Let us pray.

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied

Jesus, let us pray to the Lord - Lord, have mercy

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy.

Jesus, let us pray to the Lord - Lord, have mercy

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground.

Jesus, let us pray to the Lord - Lord, have mercy

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace.

Jesus, let us pray to the Lord - Lord, have mercy

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement.

Jesus, let us pray to the Lord. - Lord, have mercy

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them.

Jesus, let us pray to the Lord. - Lord, have mercy

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross.

Jesus, let us pray to the Lord. - Lord, have mercy

Holy God, holy, immortal and strong, have mercy upon us. In Jesus’ name.

AMEN

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father