



Prestwood Methodist Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

Minister: Rev Nigel Wright 01494 431819

Stewards:

Sandie Wheatley 01494 712373

Bridget Appleby 01494 890840

Mary Spooner 01494 862431

Website: www.prestwoodmethodists.org.uk

Email: steward@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk

Sunday 7 June 2020 – Trinity Sunday



I'm sure our thoughts have strayed away from COVID-19 this week to the news coming from the USA. It is curious how when reading Bible passages written centuries ago, and hymns written for another time, there are messages still for all of us. I struggled to find a prayer to meet the needs of the

Black Lives Matter campaign, until I read the words of the hymn that Nigel had recommended in relation to Trinity Sunday and the great commission given by Jesus at the end of Matthew's Gospel. Please read the words reproduced on the second page, and use them to pray about the ongoing problems of racial inequality, not just in the USA, but closer to home.

Returning to COVID-19, we also need to pray this week for those who have returned to work or school, and for those who are struggling with these decisions.

Bridget

Virtual Church

Amersham Methodist Circuit
YouTube channel

See tinyurl.com/vz9y45q

See **Worship during the pandemic** from the Methodist Church homepage at www.methodist.org.uk for more suggestions.



TV and radio

Radio 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am 'The Comfort of the Trinity' led by Jonathan Rea, Creative Chief Executive of New Irish Arts.

BBC 1:

Trinity Sunday Worship, 10.45 from St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, led by Rev Canon Leigh Richardson.

Songs of Praise this week at 1.15pm. Sean Fletcher explores how music and faith can help us through the darkest of times, including the coronavirus pandemic and the death of George Floyd in the USA.



Readings for this week:

Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Matthew 28: 16-20

Commentary

The Gospel reading this week takes us back to the end of Matthew's Gospel, with Jesus reminding the disciples – and us – that he is with us to the end of the age. Nigel's reflections this week explain how much this reading has meant to him and to his vocation. I've included the words from the hymn he refers to, as the last verse has a particular resonance this week with the tragic events in the USA.

Although it isn't referred to in any of the sources, I found Psalm 8 worth some time of reflection. In particular, contrasting the promise Jesus makes at the end of Matthew's Gospel with Psalm 8: 4 "what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"

Psalm 8 is a reminder of God the creator or father, which leads us to the theme of Trinity Sunday, picked up in the Methodist Worship at Home resource. The writer there suggests we don't try and overcomplicate our understanding of the Trinity. It reminds us instead to see God through the eyes of a child, as a source of love, with no strings attached.

The Genesis and Matthew readings are quite short, and the Corinthians reading is even shorter, but worthy of a look to remind us of one of the Biblical origins of the idea of the Holy Trinity. Paul closes his letter to the Corinthians with the words 'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.' A blessing we can all share in this week.

A prayer on the Trinity from the Vine by Jill Baker

Great Creator God, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with awe: we see your glory in the night sky, the moon and stars shining on, century after century, we see your glory in the land around our feet, beauty and abundance to sustain life, we see your glory in all people, humankind made in your image. We worship you.

Jesus Christ our Redeemer, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with praise: you are the timeless Word of God, through whom all things were created, you are the incarnate Word of God, demonstrating life in all its fullness, you are the eternal Word of God, present with us now and to the end of the age. We worship you.

Holy Spirit, Energy of God, as we worship you today our hearts are filled with wonder: we feel you sweeping across the earth now, as you swept over the waters at creation, we feel you stirring your church now, as you first stirred the church at Pentecost, we feel you connecting your worldwide family now, as we are joined with one another. We worship you.

Reveal again to us your great glory through your Living Word, as we are transformed by your tireless Spirit. We worship you.

AMEN

Lord Your Church On Earth Is Seeking (StF 410) Reproduced from Singing the Faith

Lord, your Church on earth is seeking your renewal from above; teach us all the art of speaking with the accent of your love. We would heed your great commission: sending us to every place – preach, baptise, fulfil my mission, serve with love and share my grace.

Freedom give to those in bondage, lift the burdens caused by sin. Give new hope, new strength and courage grant release from fears within: light for darkness; joy for sorrow; love for hatred; peace for strife. These and countless blessings follow as the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city where the bruised and lonely dwell, let us show the Saviour's pity, let us of his mercy tell. In all lands and with all races let us serve, and seek to bring all the world to render praises, Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

Hugh Sherlock (1905 - 1998)

Black lives matter

The President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Dr Barbara Glasson, has posted a message relating to the killing of George Floyd in the USA bit.ly/FloydMethodist

As well as expressing sorrow and outrage, Rev Glasson reminds us that “racism is a denial of the Gospel” and that it exists in our country too. Please pray this week for those impacted in the USA – George’s family, local communities, the police and their families. Please also pray for those in this country affected by racism, and for help to know what our role should be. The hymn below (StF 410) is a good place to start our prayers.

COVID-19 Secure

I am also asking for prayers this week for a couple of friends of mine, and for all the people in their situation. They have been told they must now return to work, but they don’t feel safe to do so. As someone in the position of being able to work from home as long as I want to, I can only imagine how hard it must be to be faced with the choice of returning to a workplace you don’t believe is safe, or losing your job.

Prayers from the Vine by Jill Baker

We offer our prayers for others to the God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, already present in every place, already bringing good out of every evil, already holding in love every person:

We hold in our prayers those who feel surrounded by chaos at this time...

Lord, give calm.

We hold in our prayers those who walk in the valley of the shadow of death...

Lord, give light.

We hold in our prayers those who are oppressed by violence and war...

Lord, give peace.

We hold in our prayers those who seek to lead our communities, our nations and our world...

Lord, give wisdom.

We hold in our prayers those who find it hard to believe, who struggle with doubt...

Lord, give courage.

We hold in our prayers those with whom we try to share the Good News of your love...

Lord, give grace.

We rejoice in your promise to be with us always, to the end of the age, as we commend all those for whom we pray into the care of our Three-in-One God.

AMEN

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father...