



## Prestwood Methodist Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

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### Sunday 10 May 2020: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Notices and Open Door

A reminder that this week is Christian Aid week. We'll miss all the tea parties and coffee mornings that accompany this (although we might not miss the street collections!) but see inside how to continue to support the valuable work of Christian Aid during lockdown.

I hope you were all able to join in with the VE celebrations in your own way on Friday. What glorious weather we had!

Let us know if you have a memory from the celebrations, this year or in previous years.

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

Bridget



### Virtual Church

If you would like any worship resources sent by post, to you or anyone you know, please get in touch (details on the front) to request this.

Amersham Methodist Circuit YouTube channel:

Daily reflections (Rev Nigel Wright, on Wednesday and Friday, Rev Adam Wells covering the other days) and a Sunday service normally available from Saturday night. See [tinyurl.com/vz9y45q](https://tinyurl.com/vz9y45q)

See **Worship during the pandemic** from the Methodist Church homepage at [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) for more suggestions.

### TV and radio

Radio 4: Sunday Worship at 8.10am.

BBC 1: Sunday Worship at 11am.  
Songs of Praise at 1.15pm.



Christian Aid Week,  
10 -16 May 2020

This week is Christian Aid week, and normally we would have been running a street collection, attending coffee mornings, garden sales, afternoon tea parties and the like to raise money for Christian Aid. COVID-19 lockdown does not mean that Christian Aid have stopped supporting people around the world. The need continues, and in some places, COVID-19 has made it worse. If you would normally have contributed to Christian Aid this week, please consider making a donation to support their work.

Online at: [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Telephone: 020 7523 2269

Christian Aid are running activities, including a virtual quiz, everyday this week on their [Facebook](#) page.

### Readings for 10 May 2020:

Acts 7: 55-60  
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

*Prayers from Rev Nigel Wright's weekly reflection*

Almighty God, in this time of uncertainty and difficulty we thank you for the solid ground that you provide us with, and the reminder that in Jesus Christ alone our hope is found.

We pray that you will help us to share that hope with those around us.

We pray for all who have lost loved ones over the past few weeks, that they may be aware of your love and your presence with them.

We pray for all who have been involved in treating and caring for those who are ill, and for all who have provided us with essential services during this time of lockdown.

Eternal God, on Friday we celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. We remember and we thank you for those who died to bring us the freedom that we enjoy in our society.

Help us not to take that freedom for granted, and to place our faith and trust in you today, tomorrow and in the weeks and months ahead.

**AMEN**



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Dealing with uncertainty, revisiting the evidence

Although returning to the time before Jesus was crucified and rose again might seem out of sequence, I think it makes sense. In the [Emmaus story](#) we had a couple of weeks ago, Jesus explained to the disciples all the things they'd read and heard and hadn't understood. Without the truth of the resurrection, they could never understand it. This week, I can imagine the disciples, still puzzling over everything, unsure as to whether Jesus is going to make regular appearances for the rest of time, or whether the end of the world is near. We have all experienced uncertainty in the last few weeks, and the rumours of changes to lockdown arrangements give us some ideas of how uncertain the disciples must have felt. And just as we might listen again to one of the government briefings or re-read a news article for suggestions of what might happen, so I can imagine the disciples thinking about everything that Jesus said. "You remember" says Thomas "when Jesus said that thing about preparing a place for us in his father's house? And I asked him then how we could know the way?" "Yes" responds Phillip "and he was a bit fed up with me, because I didn't really understand it." If you want to re-read their conversation at the time Jesus tried to explain it to them take a look at the Gospel reading in John 14.

The disciples probably also spent some time looking back at what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, and Nigel's reflection this week looks at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. We studied these in a local arrangement in February this year, so [Nigel's download](#) is an opportunity to revisit them. If you were at the local arrangement, do you still have your little slip of paper with your chosen Beatitude on it? I come across mine intermittently, and it's a useful reminder to me of God's everlasting love.

Bridget

## Hymn for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Title (StF 727)

As well as hymns to align with the readings, Singing the Faith plus this week suggests hymns for Christian Aid week, and this one leapt out at me from the suggestions.

God in his love for us lent us this planet,  
gave it a purpose in time and in space:  
small as a spark from the fire of creation,  
cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,  
life that sustains us in body and mind:  
plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,  
riches undreamed-of to fathom and find.

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;  
long has earth bowed to the terror of force;  
long have we wasted what others have needed,  
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.

Casual despoilers, or high-priests of Mammon,  
Selling the future for present rewards,  
Careless of life and contemptuous of beauty:  
Bid them remember: the Earth is the Lord's.

Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it,  
ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.  
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,  
good Lord, deliver us, world without end!

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

Unfortunately, I could find only one recording on YouTube of this song, and that is without words. See <https://youtu.be/D9IPIGohu34>

Or you can listen to the midi file at [www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus)

## From Methodist Church Worship at home

This resource focuses on the lectionary reading from 1 Peter 2. While the Gospel reading has Thomas and Phillip musing on what Jesus said, this epistle looks back even further, to Isaiah (8 and 18) and to Psalm 118 "the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." If you want to see how this reading relates to shopping at Ikea, download the [Methodist Church Worship at home](#) resource!

### Prayers of intercession by Cathie Steele

God our Saviour,

We pray for those who feel hopeless that they may hear your good news and be freed from their anguish.

We pray for those who have had their expectation of hope torn away, for those who feel discarded and deceived.

We pray that the Church will stand together with those who are suffering, working for acceptance and peace.

We pray for those who are beginning to hope, those who dare to dream of a better tomorrow.

We pray for all affected during this Covid-19 pandemic. We pray for those who are poor, sick, homeless, lonely, imprisoned, weighed down and powerless.

May your love reach them and may we all stand together. May your Church reach out to those in need, so that all may come to give thanks to you, and celebrate together.

**AMEN**

### Blessing from the Methodist Worship Book

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life; and may almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**AMEN**