



## Prestwood Methodist Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

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### Sunday 21 June 2020 – 12th Sunday in ordinary time

We're spoiled for choice again this week for readings. The liturgy readings are listed, but other sources focus on Fathers' Day. This is my first year without my Dad, and I've been extra conscious of the advertising around the event. It won't be lost on my Mum and my brother either, who are both doubly alone, without him, and isolated for the time-being from each other. Perhaps we can remember in our prayers this week all those who have lost fathers in the last year, and I'm sure those of you who have lost yours, whether recently or a long time ago, will have memories to think on.



I'm excited that Nigel has agreed to run a live prayer session on Thursdays – see the details in the blue Zoom box, and join us if you can. If you don't Zoom, you can join by telephone, so please contact Nigel to find out how to do this.

Bridget

### Virtual Church

The service this week on the Amersham Methodist Circuit YouTube channel at [tinyurl.com/vz9y45q](https://tinyurl.com/vz9y45q) reflects on the Matthew Gospel reading, and the letter to the Romans. This weekend is the Amersham High St church anniversary, so please remember them in your prayers (see Nigel's thoughts for more detail).

For suggestions of video services from other Methodist churches see **Worship during the pandemic** from the Methodist Church homepage at [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk).



### Zoom to pray

Before lockdown, PMC had a prayer meeting at the church on Thursday mornings. Rev Nigel Wright will be running a Zoom prayer meeting to replace this from this week. Join him at 10am on Thursday 25 June by selecting [this link](#), or using these details:

Meeting ID: 822 3095 1239  
Password: 414026

The meeting ID will be different each week, so contact Nigel directly (see details at the top) if you'd like to attend future meetings. If you haven't used Zoom before, when you 'arrive' you might have to wait until Nigel admits you, but phone him if you have any difficulty on the day. If you're planning to go, it would be helpful to let him know in advance, but not essential.



### TV and radio

Radio 4, 8.10am  
Sunday Worship.  
Pastor Ben Lindsay, Guvna B and Lord Hastings explore what it means to be a 'father' and share their experience of fatherhood. They reflect on the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15: 11-23). The radio service has the advantage over the TV service of being recorded more recently, and so reflects recent events, including the death of George Floyd.

BBC 1,  
11.45am, Sunday Worship. A service for Father's Day from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester led by Rev Dr Paul Mathole, also using the prodigal son story in Luke 15.

1.15pm, Songs of Praise. Inspiring stories of Dads putting their Christian love into action.

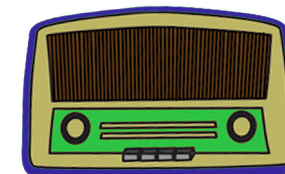
Congratulations to Tony and Marilyn, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in May! What an achievement! They received a telegram from the Queen.



Tony had been in hospital, and then tested positive for COVID-19 when back at his care home. Fortunately, he has mild symptoms but he is in isolation. Please pray for him and for Marilyn and their family.

### Readings for this week:

Genesis 21: 8-21  
Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17  
Romans 6: 1b-11  
Matthew 10: 24-39



## Commentary on the readings

The Matthew reading this week goes against the grain of how I think of Jesus. "I have not come to bring peace... I have come to set a daughter against a mother." It's difficult to align that with a view of a loving God.

I turned instead to the reading in Nigel's thoughts (John 14) and in the Methodist Worship at Home resource (Luke 22: 39-46) which both link God as our Father to the fact that this Sunday is Father's Day.

Nigel recommends the beautiful hymn "Father I place into your hands" (StF 519 – see right) as a reminder that we can trust God like a Father. Reading those words, it strikes me that good human fathers (and mothers) don't solve all their children's problems for them. They encourage their offspring to build independence, to learn their own ways to solve problems. Perhaps the point of placing into God's hands the things we *think* we cannot do, is that He will guide us and show us what we need to do.

That message is reinforced in the Luke reading. Jesus asks his Father if it's ok to be relieved of his responsibilities. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me." We know the answer to that one.

So maybe Father's Day provides an answer to that troublesome reading in Matthew. Jesus was being a good Father to the disciples. Jesus doesn't *want* the conflicts he lists, but he wants to prepare them for what they might face, and to prepare us too.

Being a disciple of Jesus doesn't mean that all our problems will vanish, but our challenge is to continue striving to be a disciple even through the hardship, knowing we will be given the strength to get through, whatever cup is put before us.

Bridget

## Hymn

### Father, I place into your hands

Father, I place into your hands  
the things I cannot do.  
Father, I place into your hands  
the times that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands  
the way that I should go,  
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands  
my friends and family.  
Father, I place into your hands  
the things that trouble me.  
Father, I place into your hands  
the person I would be,  
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,  
we love to hear your voice.  
Father, we love to sing your praise  
and in your name rejoice.  
Father, we love to walk with you  
and in your presence rest,  
for we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you  
and do the things you do.  
Father, I want to speak the words  
that you are speaking too.  
Father, I want to love the ones  
that you will draw to you,  
for I know that I am one with you.

*Jenny Hewer (b. 1945)*

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition

<https://youtu.be/zBfRNrvvUfc>

## Prayers of intercession, from Roots on the web

Lord God, it's not easy being a father today, and so we pray for fathers in a society that is constantly redefining their role;

for fathers who stay at home and look after children;

for fathers who have been forced out of their families or away from their children;

for fathers with adult children who must relearn what it means to be a parent.

We pray also for families with fathers who are inadequate, violent, lazy or unkind;

for families where there is no father present at home;

for families in which there seems to be a succession of different 'fathers',

making it hard for the children to build lasting relationships or know their true identities.

Whatever their circumstances, may every family find wholeness and help as they look to God, the loving Father of us all. **AMEN**

For those whose fathers are absent, through desertion, war, or imprisonment: **Lord have mercy.**

For those whose fathers are abusive:

**Christ have mercy.**

For those for whom the word 'Father' is a word of fear:

**Lord have mercy.**

For those whose fathers have died:

**Lord have mercy.**

For those who are anxious at the prospect of fatherhood:

**Christ have mercy.**

For fathers who miss their children desperately:

**Lord have mercy.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

Our Father...