



## Prestwood Methodist Church

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### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Notices and Open Door

Thank you to those of you who have already given me an update to include in "Open Door Lock Down Online." It's been fascinating to hear who is doing what. Keep watching this space to find out who is making more bread, playing more music, and who is following on-line exercise routines. I would love to hear from more of you, even if it's just a line to tell me about a book you've read or a film you've watched.

We will continue to include prayers and readings in the weekly notices, and the accompanying email has further links. Let us know if there's anything we can help you with.

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.

Rev Adam Wells - daily reflection and Sunday service on the Amersham Methodist Circuit YouTube channel.

See [tinyurl.com/vz9y45g](https://tinyurl.com/vz9y45g)

See previous week's notices for further suggestions or select **Worship during the pandemic** from the Methodist Church homepage at [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

### TV and radio

Radio 4: Sunday Worship at 8.10am.

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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

I do like the way that during the Easter season the readings follow a narrative. It's like having the next episode of an exciting serial. From the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through Holy Week, the last supper, the crucifixion and resurrection, the story runs in sequence. Last week, we had Thomas' reaction to Jesus after the resurrection, reminding us that while faith is important, it's ok to ask questions too. This week, Nigel's thoughts, and the central Methodist resources, pick up on the story of Jesus meeting Cleopas and an unnamed disciple (possibly, Cleopas' wife, Mary) on the road to Emmaus. The reading in Acts 2 supplements this, with an account of how the first 3000 converts came to Jesus after his resurrection.

Bridget



### Worship at home

#### Readings for 26 April 2020:

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

As well as Nigel's reflections and the Worship at Home resources, this week I've also drawn on the Vine at Home materials provided by [theworshipcloud.com](http://theworshipcloud.com). The opening prayer from the Vine is a simple, short cry, linking perhaps our situation to the 'locked down' disciples.

#### Prayer by Tim Baker

I am here, Lord. I am here to worship you.  
I am here to pray.  
I am here to sing your praises and to weep with you.  
I am here, Lord.  
Uncertain, living with lockdown and afraid.  
But I am here.  
Come Lord Jesus

#### Reflections on Emmaus

The reflections on the Emmaus story in both Rev Nigel Wright's download, and in the Worship at home resource, remind us that God is always alongside us, whether it feels like it or not. Sometimes we don't see it at the time, but often, looking back, it becomes obvious that God was there. Please do download and read Nigel's reflection, or the Worship at Home resource.

For those who are managing to get out for a daily walk, consider using the opening reflection in the Worship at Home resource for one of your walks this week. If you can't get out, you can picture a route you know well.

## Meditation for walking (real or virtual)

### From Methodist Church worship at home by Lorna Valentine

As you come to worship you might like to picture a road that you know really well. Is it straight or twisted? Is it smooth or uneven? Is it busy or quiet? Who else uses it? Who have you walked the road with? Hold the picture in your mind while you pray.

As I come before you today God, I bring you my road recognising others are bringing theirs too. For some the road to worship today will have been difficult while for others it has been smooth. For some there will have been twists and turns, for others it may have felt straight and plodding. Some will have walked alone and others with companions. Thank you that you walk each road with us, uniting us as a community of faith wherever we are to the glory of your name. AMEN



## Hymn for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

This hymn is suggested in the Methodist Church worship at home service. According to the Singing the Faith website, Brian Wren wrote this hymn in response to the assassination of Martin Luther King. As well as reminding us of the joy of Easter, it's another reminder that God walks along the road with us, whatever is happening in the world.

### Christ Is Alive (StF 297)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing  
The cross stands empty to the sky  
Let streets and homes with praises ring  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,  
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*Brian Wren (b.1936)*

Singalong, or listen to this version  
<https://youtu.be/fD8pxDgTZZU>

## Prayers

### From Methodist Church worship at home by Lorna Valentine

Loving God, for the times I have seen you journeying with me, I am thankful.

Gracious God, for the times I have seen others journeying with you, I am humbled,

Holy God, for the times I have not recognised your journeying with me, I am sorry.

Forgiving God, thank you for the assurance that you will continue to journey with me.

Living God, in my journey this week help me to see glimpses of your good news so that my heart burns within me. AMEN.

### From The Vine at Home by Tim Baker

Here we are Lord, present to you, in the midst of confusing news stories and national lockdown.

We are here, amongst fear and doubt, amongst busy key-workers and worried furloughed-workers.

We are here, amongst quiet streets and busy hospitals.

We are here, not sure what the future will hold, waiting for the next announcement, praying for the wider world where coronavirus will be far more damaging than it might be here.

Amongst all this uncertainty, we turn to you, Lord God, for that blessed assurance.

Come to us; abide with us, risen and holy God. AMEN

### Blessing

Jesus comes, he comes amongst us, even as we seek him in our homes and our self-isolation.

Jesus comes today, breaks bread with us,  
Wishes us peace,

And transforms us by his love.

Jesus comes.

Come Lord Jesus. AMEN