



Prestwood Methodist Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

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Sunday 28 June 2020 - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

You will have heard in the news that churches can now open for private worship, and can re-open for public services from 4th July. Churches in the Amersham Methodist Circuit have agreed that, for the time being, we will not open either for private worship or for public services. If we did open for services in July, they would be without singing, which most people would find very strange. The age profile of both our congregation and our leadership team in Prestwood adds to the likelihood that re-opening would be unsuccessful. We will continue to send out worship resources as we have – but see also



the new offer of DVDs and CDs under 'Virtual church.'

Methodist Conference will be meeting to discuss arrangements on 2nd July, so we hope for more news next week

Bridget

Virtual Church



Amersham Methodist Circuit
YouTube channel

See tinyurl.com/vz9y45g.

These services are now also available on CD (to listen) or DVD (to watch) for those who

can't access YouTube. Please contact me if you are interested in receiving these.

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



TV and radio

Radio 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am. John Bell of the Iona Community thinks about how we might live differently with what we have learned during lockdown.



BBC 1:

Sadly, the BBC seem to have dropped the Sunday morning worship slot, replacing it with magazine programmes on religious topics. Songs of Praise continues at 1.15pm, this week from Northern Ireland.

Lighthouse won't be meeting this year face-to-face, but instead there are three virtual activities running in parallel:

- Lighthouse Live for children (although anyone can sign up to watch!). See lighthousecentral.org to sign up
- Lighthouse Youth for 12+
- Lighthouse Prayer for 18+

Sign up details for Lighthouse Youth and Prayer will be available soon, or contact me for more details.

Bridget



Zoom to pray



We successfully held a prayer meeting on Zoom last Thursday at 10.00am. Before lockdown started Prestwood Methodist Church had been holding weekly prayer meetings over the previous couple of years each Thursday morning and I felt that it would be good to see if we could re-start this. We will be on Zoom for the time being. The prayer meeting lasts until 11.00am and people are welcome to stay for however long they're able to. It doesn't matter if you can't make the start of it – just join when you can. It's a time of open prayer when we can pray about the issues that are on our hearts and minds whether they're personal, local, national or worldwide. Everyone is welcome.

The easiest way of joining is by clicking on the link. If you have Zoom downloaded on to your device then just follow the instructions but an option will come up enabling anyone who doesn't have Zoom to connect via their browser instead without having to download Zoom. Alternatively, you can phone in (contact Nigel for the numbers and instructions). You'll be able to hear everything that's going on and speak but won't be able to see the other people present.

Zoom meeting ID: (available on request)

Nigel Wright

Readings for this week:

Genesis 22: 1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6: 12-23
Matthew 10: 40-42

Harvest Share

In his commentary of the Matthew reading this week, Nigel refers to the Harvest Share scheme being co-ordinated by Restore Hope. Please see Nigel's thoughts and the poster below for details, or ring Restore Hope on 01494 765555.



A prayer of blessing by Claire Hargreaves in Methodist Church Worship at Home

Receive these words into your heart.

Jesus opens his arms to welcome and accept you, whoever you are and whatever your circumstances. Open your heart and your hands to receive him now, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love, now and always.

AMEN

Prayers of intercession by Jill Baker in The Vine at Home

These prayers draw on the Psalm 13 reading:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

We hold in silent prayer the groaning of this world, the sense of hopelessness at the effects of pollution and climate change, of plastic waste and rising sea levels.

[Silence] How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer the grief of so many around the world, mourning the loss of family and friends to incurable illness, to starvation and to war.

[Silence] How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer the great needs of our own society, these islands, this village, our street, those who live around the church where we worship.

[Silence] How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer our own families, knowing there are hurts we cannot heal, grievances we cannot solve, challenges we cannot answer.

[Silence] How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer our own needs, our fears and anxieties, our sins and selfishness, our desire to change and our failure to do so.

[Silence] How long, O Lord?

In our longing and our lament, we hear again the words of the psalmist:

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

So today Lord, hear our prayer. We ask that you free us from all our sins, we ask that we clearly hear your words of grace, that our sins are forgiven. And today dear Lord we say here I am, use me. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

Hymn

Make me a Channel of your peace (StF 707)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy:

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving unto all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life. verse.

Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)

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