

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

... serving people in Leicester city centre through
welcome, worship and mission

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NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2020

Dear Members and Adherents of Bishop Street Methodist Church,

Like many of you, my pattern of living and work has changed a lot, all of a sudden. Face to face meetings and get-togethers have been cancelled. Some essential meetings are switching to online conference calls, although a lot of usual work has come to a temporary halt, so some meetings are not needed at the moment. Our Centre Coordinator, Chris, and our Liaison Worker, James have both become 'furloughed workers' as their work isn't possible from home or online. Our Arts Enabler and Administrator, Leonie is temporarily taking her work online and she's doing some useful forward- planning. Some of you as keyworkers will doubtless be working harder than ever. This is what the current Methodist Vice-President, Clive Marsh has to say of the Covid-19 lockdown. Do aspects of this list relate to your experience?: "Ask where is God being revealed now, as people cope, adjust, show compassion, help neighbours, find new ways of connecting, stop their busyness, support the weak, learn the value of rest."

Our Circuit Superintendent Paula Hunt has suggested that members of the Circuit all pause to pray at 7pm, particularly remembering those who are ill or who are in the frontline of tackling this virus, all over the world. This in turn is derived from an initiative of Churches Together in England, suggesting we light a candle of hope in our windows on Sunday evenings. Paula, ever watchful, reminds us to be careful of the curtains and not to leave the candle unattended!

Whatever time of day you choose to pray, remember each other, the City of Leicester and our links around the world. As we start the journey of coming alongside Jesus this week during his passion, let us sing with the 17th century author, Samuel Crossman, these moving words from his hymn, "My song is love unknown".

He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but they made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend! (Singing the Faith 277)

More worship resources will follow next Thursday. Rev'd Fran

Here are a few possibilities of worship resources for Sunday:

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/>

This site provides material from preachers at Bishop Street Methodist Church who share their Sunday reflections and prayers and even the odd video.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1540042632786558/> ("Bishop Street Community"). A new facebook group administered through Bishop Street Methodist Church.

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtatTheChapel.Bishopstreet/> Check out plans for an online exhibition which will then take place at Bishop Street.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> Provides Sunday "Worship at Home" sheets. Printed in full at the end of these notices.

Wesley's Chapel London will live-stream from the chapel (the Minister lives on the premises) Sunday 11am

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

Rev'd Jennifer Smith lived in Leicester for a good many years, and I trained alongside her at Queens, Birmingham, and recommend her preaching.

Songs of Praise BBC1, Sunday 1.15pm

Morning Worship (from a variety of churches) BBC Radio 4, Sunday 8.10am (FM 92.70)

The Family Friendly Churches Trust

<https://familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/> will help parents and carers of school-aged children to worship with them.

Giving

Church rental income has come to an abrupt halt, so your giving to the church is needed more than ever. Members and adherents are encouraged to put aside their offering for when it is possible to bring it into church again. You could also post a cheque to the church's gift aid officer, Tony Moore at 46 Holmfield Road LE2 1SA. Alternatively you could make a BACS transfer to Bishop Street Methodist Church, The Cooperative Bank sort code 08-92-99 and account number 65242955. Give your name as a reference.

Christian Aid Emergency Appeal: Donations are sought for countries with scant resources to meet the challenge of the Corona Virus. How about putting aside money that you would have spent on travel, take-aways, or even the theatre, and putting that towards this appeal? Donate online through this link:
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

Do you have a car parked outside your home that you could donate for a week or so? If so, Karshare would love to hear from you. Learn more at Karshare.com or email help@karshare.com.

Leicester Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group - look on facebook and join your local group to find out how you can support people in vulnerable circumstances or get support you may need in your local area.

Here is more detail from the link above for this Sunday's Methodist "Worship at Home" sheet

Sunday April 5th – PALM SUNDAY Prepared by John Staton

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you

Opening Sentences.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Hymn:

1 All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and Blessèd One.

2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

3 To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

4 All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here
<https://youtu.be/h3a8fTTrAdE>

Let us pray together

God our Father, we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus to be our King and Saviour. We thank you that he came to his people in triumph, but also in humility, and was willing to die so that all who believe in him may be forgiven, may become your people, and may share in eternal life. Forgive us for the times we have refused to believe, for the times when we have not listened, and the times when we have been unwilling to follow him on the way, and work in us by your Holy Spirit to make us the people you want us to be.. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1: 9)

Today's Reading from the Epistle: Philippians 2: 5-11

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

Time to Reflect

Think about the last time you saw the Queen in a procession, perhaps on television, at the State Opening of Parliament, or the Trooping of the Colour, or a royal wedding. How did she travel? Either in a limousine or a stately coach most likely. Have you ever seen her arrive at such an event in a battered white van? But that is the equivalent of what Jesus is doing here. He is coming to Jerusalem as King. That much the prophet Zechariah makes clear. He prophesies after some of God's people returned from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem. But they had no king, and it was dubious whether they wanted one because kings had not done them much good in the past. But God promised them a king who would be different from any king they had known. Firstly, he would be victorious. That was unusual, though not absolutely unknown in the history of Israel and Judah. And secondly, he would be humble, coming on a donkey - the common working animal in the streets of the city. His victory too would be unusual. It involved dying on a cross, bearing the consequences and responsibility for the disobedience and rebellion of all God's people so they can reign in life. We too can share in his victory, if we are prepared to believe in Jesus as God's chosen deliverer, to ask forgiveness for going our own way rather than his, and to commit ourselves to walking with him the way of the cross.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

We stand with Christ in his suffering.
For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

For Christian people, that through suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ,
Let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and
encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far
from them,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy**

Holy God, holy and strong
Holy and immortal, have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to *You laid aside your majesty* <https://youtu.be/oVLsRopJZgk>
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

Christ crucified draw us to himself that we may find in him a sure ground for faith, a
firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven and the blessing of God the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon us and remain with us always.

Original Materials by John E Staton