



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 11 October 2020

10:30am: Morning Worship
6:30pm: Evening Worship

Prayers

Please pray for Emma, our Stewards and Jeananne; for others within the Church and beyond, and for the continued health of our key workers and all the National Health Service, on whom we depend so much now, and at all times.

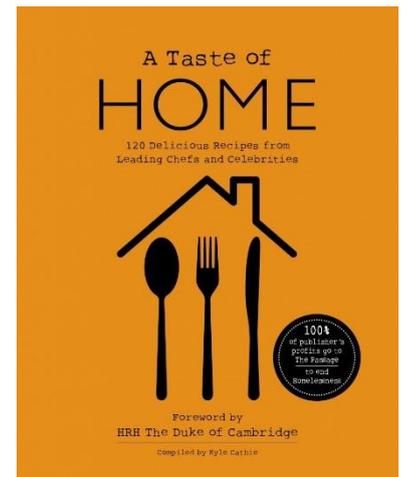
Please pray also for those of our Church family who are unwell or finding their mobility limited and consider whether they might welcome a call from friends.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

Notices

Church Centre reopening. The gates through the Courtyard are now open and will remain so as our user groups return. However, we will not be using the Link room doors during Sunday Services – they will remain locked after the main Church doors have been unlocked. Further details on that when we have confirmation of Service dates, which are expected to start in November. *Robin*

The Passage To commemorate 40 years of their charitable work and the homeless people they have supported during this time, The Passage will be launching a very special cookbook, ***A Taste of Home*** with a Foreword from HRH The Duke of Cambridge, and exclusive recipes from over 100 household names including: Nigella Lawson, Sir Paul McCartney, Stephen Fry, Yotam Ottolenghi, Diana Henry and many more. The book will also include stories and recipes from people who have been helped by the charity's services over the years, shining a light on the challenges that they have been able to overcome with the right guidance, opportunities and resources.



A Taste of Home is priced at £25 and can be pre-ordered at Waterstones, or purchased online and from other bookstores from 15 October, to coincide with The Passage's anniversary month. All profits will go directly towards supporting people who are street homeless and in housing crisis during a particularly testing financial time for so many.

Visit passage.org.uk/tasteofhome for more information – *Andrew Hollingsworth*

Around the Trolley

NewsSheet delivery. As the winter draws nearer and we look to reopening for worship, we need to consider the effect this will have on those who, every week, deliver the News & Service sheets by hand to those who are not on email. We realise that getting the NewsSheet to every one of our members is important, especially as it is something we were unable to achieve reliably before March. We are certain that, subject to any new 'rules' that Boris may come up with, we will be able to continue deliveries BUT, we are going to ask for a little flexibility in the delivery 'window'. So, with one eye on the winter weather, your hand delivered copy may arrive a little later than you are used to – although we will do our best to get it to you by Sunday morning. *Robin & Jeananne*

NHS Test & Trace. Although the Centre is now accessible to all those who have a Link room entrance key, as property owners we are required to record ALL those who enter our premises. The new QR codes you will see around the building make that easy if you have the app, or if you're a member of a group then the group leader will handle the paperwork for you.

If you need to 'pop in' for something and you can't use the QR code, then you MUST give us a ring so that we can record your visit. And, of course, 'popping in' to see a group that is meeting is not allowed for the time being – these groups can only meet for known members that are essentially 'pre-booked'. Our Covid Secure status is only granted because we have undertaken to follow this procedure.

Our priority is to keep our visitors safe, and that includes your friends and relatives too! *Robin*

Whitechapel - don't forget, we're still happy to accept donations of clothing etc – just drop them off in our porch and I'll get them into the trailer after a day or so. *Robin*

Contact Details

Postal Address: 1 Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh, Epsom KT19 0RT

Contact: Jeananne (07729 028850) - contact@stoneleighmethodist.church

All items for future NewsSheets – to news@stoneleighmethodist.church or phone 020 8393 2155

Donations of clothing etc for Whitechapel – please leave in porch of 198 Stoneleigh Park Road

Online Services etc

Christ Church with St Philip, 10:00am - facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip.

Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 10:30am Sunday at shmc.online.church.

The Ruxley/Stoneleigh Thursday Morning prayer by Zoom and it is open to all. Email to publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk by Tuesday for details and a copy of the liturgy too.

The Methodist Church is offering 'Dial-a Prayer' free of charge, updated every Thursday afternoon, on 0808 281 2514. There's also weekly news, again free, on 0808 281 2478.

Methodist Church Year of Prayer on Tuesdays at 12:45pm – a 15 minute Service on Zoom and Facebook Live – full details on <https://www.methodist.org.uk/yearofprayer/>

Lantern Church Service of Harvest and Creation live streaming on the [Lantern Facebook page](#) at 10:00am Sunday 11th October; also on [Zoom](#).

Sunday 11th October 2020 – Morning Worship with Rev Emma Cusack

Call to Worship

The LORD is great and is to be highly praised
in the city of our God, on his sacred hill.
2 Zion, the mountain of God, is high and beautiful;
the city of the great king brings joy to all the world.
3 God has shown that there is safety with him
inside the fortresses of the city.

(Psalm 48)

Prayer of Praise and Confession

Eternal God, so often we give up if something goes wrong or doesn't go our way.
So often we are overwhelmed by our own problems that we forget to look out for others.
So often we are consumed with negatives and endings that we lose sight of the positives
and beginnings.
Eternal God, forgive us for our self-centredness and reawaken your Spirit within us. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading Isaiah 25:1-9 (NRSV)

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
2 For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no
more, it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
4 For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter
from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
5 the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of
clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-
aged wines strained clear.

7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

8 he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reflection

Of all the prophets, Isaiah is the richest in the number of his references to the Christ who is to come. The book of Isaiah divides into three main sections. Isaiah 1-35, mainly engaged with pronouncing judgment upon Israel and the nations, but with repeated references to Christ, in whom alone is hope of blessing found.

No wonder that Isaiah 25 opens with a note of praise. The Lord has visibly done wonderful things, and His counsels of old will have been fulfilled in faithfulness and truth. When these things come to pass it will be easy to sing the note of praise, but it is our privilege as Christians to praise before they come to pass:

The chapter begins with the words; “O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name. For in perfect faithfulness you have done marvellous things; things planned long ago”. God promises to overthrow the enemy and save his people. Isaiah wrote this passage at the time when the Assyrian’s Army was destroyed. The fall of the cities in the passage indicates that human achievements have collapsed but God reigns forever.

We see from the passage that the city is the centre of power; earthly power but the writer does so well in praising God’s sovereignty – the God who reigns in righteousness over human display of power and verse 4 proves God to be the true defence of the weak – “you have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat”.

How do we see God at work in our time today and in the midst of chaos in other parts of the world? How does this passage speak to us and bring us hope?

Our source of hope and challenge can be drawn from Matthew’s gospel Chapter 5:1-12. Seeking to become citizens of the Kingdom of God and when we have truly fulfilled what is expected of us from the passage in Matthew’s gospel, then we shall be able to go back to Isaiah 25:6-8 to celebrate with God in the Kingdom as in a banquet held for us all for the victory won for us.

The questions for us to ponder over are:

who are the blessed people?

The beatitudes describe the qualities you would expect to find in a follower of Christ. What does it mean to:

- Be poor in spirit
- To mourn
- To be meek

Why do the poor in spirit receive the kingdom of heaven? Who gives it to them and when do they receive it?

When do we usually get physically hungry and thirsty? What kind of experience causes a spiritual hunger and thirst for righteousness?

How can you tell if someone is pure in heart?

How do you become pure in heart?

Some may try to keep the peace by smoothing over and ignoring any disagreements but what is the difference between this and being a peacemaker?

The gospel says, "blessed are you who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Has this ever happened to you and did you feel blessed at the time?

The big question is why does being a beatitude person provoke a negative reaction from the world?

The fact is, that these are challenging characteristics to measure us with.

Prayers of intercession

O God, we pray not for ourselves, but for each other
for those we know and those we don't,
for situations we understand and for those
that confound us.

Bless, O Lord, all involved in the hurting and the healing.

The news tells us of trauma and heartache across the world and we try to grasp the intensity of it all.

Bless, O Lord, all involved in the hurting and the healing.

We hear of death and dying,
of grieving and weeping...
We hear of pain, scarring and disfigurement...
We hear of anguish and confusion...
We hear of those in need of help, and those who struggle to find it...
We hear of the grieving and the sorrowful...
We hear of the lost and the alone...
And we know, Lord, there are myriad others known only to you.
Bless them all in their hurting and their healing. **Amen.**

Hymn StF 455

- 1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

- 2 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

- 3, Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

4. Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844–1930) (alt.) based on Joachim Neander (1650–1680)

Closing Prayer

Lord God,
we never know what the future holds
or where life will take us next.
We never know what is just around the corner
and what the outcomes of things will be.
But we know
that whatever follows on from this moment,
you are here with us,
by our side,
above and beneath us,
entwining your life with ours,
surpassing all human understanding...

In this moment,
bless us and awaken us to your abiding presence. Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God almighty, Father, son and Holy Spirit, be with you, now and forever. **Amen**

To join the Evening Service go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5582729094> and use Meeting ID: 558 272 9094.

On your home phone, dial 0203 481 5240, listen to the announcement and enter the meeting ID, 5582729094 then # (hash); then, after the next announcement, # again. And that's it, you should be connected and just need to listen. Hang up when the service finishes, or when you want to leave.

Ruxley Church Evening Service via Zoom 11 October 2020

The theme of the service is 'Yes the Lord has Spoken'
Part of Ezekiel 37: 14

The service will be led by Miss Diana Pinchin

Opening Responses

**Open our eyes Lord,
Help us to see your Face.
Open our eyes Lord,
Help us to see.
Open our ears Lord,
Help us to hear your voice.
Open our hearts Lord,
Help us to love like you.
Open our hearts Lord,
help us to love.
We live within you deep in your heart always.
We live within you
rest now in us
Rest now in us. Amen**

© Rufino ZaragoZa (adapted) 'Open my Eyes'

Hymn: Be still for the Presence of the Lord,

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our
radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

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Prayer of Confession and God's forgiveness

God, our creator, for those times when we have tried to hide our thoughts,
words and actions from you,

**Forgive us and renew
your spirit within us.**

For those times when we have thought ourselves beyond your care on earth!

**Forgive us and renew
your spirit within us.**

For those times when we have allowed hate and prejudice to dictate our thoughts,
words and actions,

**Forgive us and renew
your spirit within us.**

Silence

In the confidence of the wonderful knowledge that God will forgive
our sins, we say

Thanks be to God, Amen

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Reading: Ezekiel 37 :1-14, (NIV,)
The Valley of Dry Bones, (Dave)

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’” ¹²

Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

Sermon,

Hymn: Breathe on me, Breath of God,

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Fill me with life anew;
That I may love what Thou dost love
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure;
Until my will is one with Thine
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine;
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

SoF 51Edwin Hatch. CCLI 3483

Prayers of intercessions

We pray for the peoples of our world
Immerse them in your life.

We pray for parched and hungry people
Immerse them in your life.

We pray for torn and exiled people.
Immerse them in your life.

We pray for lonely and unloved people.
Immerse them in your life.

We pray for unjust and oppressive people
Immerse them in your life.

We pray for...(those known to us in need of prayer in the silence of our hearts)
Immerse them in your love.

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Lord's prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those who sin against us,
lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever Amen**

Hymn Spirit of the living God

**Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me,
mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.**

*Daniel Iverson.
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The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

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