



**Welcome back Emma!**

## **Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church**

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021, 10:30am**

### **Morning Worship led by the Rev Emma Cusack**

*You can join our Service today online or by telephone – details in the Service header*

#### **Prayers**

Please pray for Emma preaching here this morning, for our Stewards, for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work for the benefit of all, and for the continued health of the National Health Service staff and all our other key workers. 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.

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

#### **Notices**

**Church Cleaning.** Many thanks to those who cleaned, dusted and polished yesterday.

**Election.** The Church Centre will be hosting the County and Police & Crime Commissioner Elections on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May. This time, to help comply with the current social distancing regulations which are still in effect, we will be using both the Hall and the Church itself. I will be in the Hall and Denise in the Church, using a common entrance through the Courtyard, and direct exits to the Car Park. As usual the Election will be the only activity in and around the Church Centre on Election Day – so closed to all for any other purpose. *Robin*

#### **Around the Trolley**

**So, what's changed?** Very little at the moment actually – whilst the Church will be open for worship, we will still be sending out NewsSheets and copies of the Service sheet to everyone, and you can watch/listen to the Service at home on YouTube or Zoom if you'd rather not come to Church again just yet.

If you do come, you'll find we're seated socially distanced, wearing masks and with no congregational singing for the time being. There will be spare NewsSheets at Church, and the Service hymns will be projected on screen (you might want to sit forward for a better view.)



Our collections of clothing for **Whitechapel**, tinned and packaged food for **Foodbank**, of stamps, milk bottle tops, and spectacles will continue, both at church on Sundays and in the porch of 198 Stoneleigh Park Road at any time. All these items are valued by those who receive them, and the current Foodbank needs are always listed on their website and on every inside page of our own site.

We will return to congregational singing and 'normal' seating as soon as we can, hopefully soon after 21 June, but do let Jeananne or Pat P know if you have any concerns. *Robin*

**Link Magazine.** A further reminder for articles for the Link magazine. Perhaps you had an interesting time at Easter, or heard from some old friends, or just a lovely get together with family; these or reports on a book or article you have read, plans you are making, comments on our Zoom/YouTube services would all be good to put into our magazine. You have a week or so to sort something out - 10<sup>th</sup> May is the deadline. *Catherine*

**From the Golden Couple.** We so enjoyed the wonderful flowers (delivered by Jeananne) and the Golden Anniversary wishes from all associated with SMC. We have been able to thank some people - and hope to be able to thank you all individually, around coffee and cake, in the near future. A big thank you also to Robin, who converted our 'stone age' black and white photo into the wonderful colourful print he published. He knew those 'vintage' crayons would come in handy one day. Again, many thanks to one and all *Marion & Ernie*

## Contact Details

**Website:** - [stoneleighmethodist.church](http://stoneleighmethodist.church)

**Contact:** Jeananne (07729 028850) - [contact@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:contact@stoneleighmethodist.church)

**All items for future NewsSheets** – to [news@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:news@stoneleighmethodist.church) or phone 020 8393 2155

**Our weekly News/Service sheet** is delivered to every member, and also a YouTube or Zoom Sunday Service is available to those able to receive it, including by telephone. A video DVD or audio CD copy is also available – contact Jeananne.

**The Ruxley/Stoneleigh Thursday Morning prayer** (10:00am) by Zoom is open to all. It is followed by Chat Time and virtual tea/coffee from 10:45-11:15. Email to [publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk](mailto:publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk) by Tuesday for details and a copy of the liturgy too.

**Zoom/YouTube details for on-line meetings** – Zoom telephone number **020 3481 5240**

Group/Event	Day/Time	Meeting ID	Password	One Click
Monday Group	Monday 8:00pm	882 9496 8024		
Tuesday Fellowship	Tuesday 3:00pm	880 8308 5350		
Sunday Service (YouTube)	Sunday 10:30am			<a href="#">Click</a>
Sunday Service (Zoom)	Sunday 10:30am	874 6773 6490		

# Morning Worship - Sunday 2 May, 10:30am

*led by the Rev Emma Cusack*

Watch live on YouTube: [youtu.be/42T33rDmNWI](https://youtu.be/42T33rDmNWI) or join on Zoom: [bit.ly/2J5jvY8](https://bit.ly/2J5jvY8)

To join the Morning Service through Zoom go to [bit.ly/2J5jvY8](https://bit.ly/2J5jvY8)  
and if prompted, use Meeting ID: **874 6773 6490**, and Passcode **702336**.

On your home phone, dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement  
and enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by # (hash) when prompted;  
just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID; and when prompted,  
the passcode **702336** followed by #.

And that's it: you should be connected and are able to listen into the service.  
Simply hang up when the service finishes, or whenever you want to leave.

To unmute yourself during the post-service chat time, press **\*6**

## Call to worship

Come apart from your busyness.  
Leave your stresses at the door.  
Come and reconnect with God.  
Remain in him and grow.  
Grow closer, grow deeper.  
Grow and be fruitful.  
Come and glorify God!

## A gathering prayer

Eternal God,  
we come as one and we come together,  
to draw from the source of your life-giving love,  
to reconnect with one another and with you,  
to listen to your word,  
to meet you in prayer and praise,  
and to learn and grow as your faithful disciples –  
in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 350

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,  
should set his love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that he was born of Mary  
when Bethlem's manger was his only home,  
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,  
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,  
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three-and-thirty years.  
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,  
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
and lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,  
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,  
how he will claim his earthly heritage,  
how satisfy the needs and aspirations  
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,  
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,  
and some glad day his sun shall shine in splendour,  
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:  
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

Wm Young Fullerton (1857–1932)  
Public Domain

## Prayer of Adoration

True God, true vine,  
strength of all our being,  
giver of all good gifts,  
healer of all that is broken:

we worship you;  
we glorify you;  
we rejoice in you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,  
we come to you aware of our failings  
and conscious that we have tried to live in our own strength.

**Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.**

We have resisted the challenge of change and not trusted your truth.

**Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.**

We have rooted ourselves in our wills and not in your word.

**Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.**

We have looked for quick fixes and not kingdom-shaped growth.

**Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. **Amen.**

## Assurance of forgiveness

Lord, we thank you that  
when our faith becomes straggly, you prune it with your wisdom;  
when it becomes malnourished, you nurture it with your grace;  
when it becomes brittle, you strengthen it with your truth;  
when it becomes barren, you restore it  
with your life-giving energy, forgiveness and love. **Amen.**

## Readings: Psalm 22: 25-31

(NLT)

I will praise you in the great assembly.

I will fulfil my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

The poor will eat and be satisfied.

All who seek the LORD will praise him.

Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him.

All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

For royal power belongs to the Lord.

He rules all the nations.

Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.

Bow before him, all who are mortal,  
all whose lives will end as dust.

Our children will also serve him.

Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.

**Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptised?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Sermon****Reflective music: Singing the Faith 628**

Faithful One, so unchanging,  
Ageless One, you're my rock of  
peace.  
Lord of all I depend on you,  
I call out to you again and again.  
I call out to you again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble.  
You lift me up when I fall down.  
All through the storm  
your love is the anchor,  
my hope is in you alone.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

To all those in need of love:

**let the love of God be known.**

To a world in need of love:

**let the love of God be shown.**

To those in need of food:

**let the love of God be shared.**

By those in need of healing:

**let the love of God be experienced.**

By those in need of peace:

**let the love of God be felt.**

By those in need of hope:

**let the love of God be seen.**

To those in need of joy:

**let the love of God be sung.**

By those in need of justice:

**let the love of God be heard.**

By all those in need of love:

**let the love of God be known. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the  
power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 487

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace,  
and the mountains and the hills  
shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy  
and the trees of the field  
shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And the trees of the fields  
shall clap their hands,  
the trees of the fields  
shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the fields  
shall clap their hands,  
and you'll go out with joy.

Stuart Dauermann and Steffi Rubin  
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## Blessings

As we leave this place,  
may we abide with God,  
grafted and rooted and pruned.  
Lord, help us to stay connected to one another and to you,  
bearing fruit wherever your love takes us.

**Amen.**

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