



# Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021, 10:30am**

## **Holy Communion 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 or visit from friends.

### **Notices**

**COVID NEWS.** It may be helpful if I summarise the changes in Church as I understand them:-

- Sanitising as you enter - as we do now, using the wall pump in the vestibule.
- Enter and leave through the centre or side aisles – leave a space as you would when shopping.
- The doors (internal and external) and windows of the church will be open. When choosing a seat, please leave space around yourself and other groups in all directions.
- Face coverings are advised during singing and responses. Spare masks are available in the vestibule – ask the welcoming Steward.
- Holy Communion – please follow the directions of the Minister/Stewards on the day.
- Collection – retiring collection only for those in Church, or direct to bank/Treasurer.
- Refreshments will be served after the Service; masks can be removed once seated.
- Any questions, please speak to the welcoming Steward as you enter.

*Robin*

**RETIRING COLLECTION.** For the time being we will be continuing with a retiring collection rather than handing round the offering bags. The small brown envelopes we have used in the past for 'one-off' donations (not the envelope scheme for regular giving) are no longer necessary for donations below £30 as we can claim Gift Aid for small amounts without recording details of the donor. However, for amounts over £30 where the donor has not made a Gift Aid declaration to SMC, then we do need to collect donor details and there are red printed envelopes in the top drawer of the vestry filing cabinet for this. *Denise*

**THE LINK** magazine is being circulated from this weekend.

**CHURCH CLEANING** will be next Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> August. We're back to turning up on the day, anytime between 10:00am and noon – a mask is advisable.

**NEXT WEEK** (8<sup>th</sup>) our Service will be led by Viv Newitt.

**NEW ARRIVAL** - Debbie and Steve Woolford are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their granddaughter Marley Corrinne on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July. She was a healthy weight of 7lb 7oz and mum, Sarah, and baby are both doing well. Daddy Ben and big brother Dylan are very proud and happy.

**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP.** The weekly Zoom meetings have now come to a natural end, and our next meeting will be in the Link Room at 2:30pm on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Look forward to seeing you all for our Tea Party and film Walk with Tom then. *Pat P*

**MONDAY EVENING GROUP** is not meeting in August. See you all on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. *Vivienne*

**RUXLEY CHURCH.** Do you have a heart for ministry with young people and families?

We want to invest in you! We're looking for someone to join our team part-time, as well as taking part in our local New Wine Discipleship Year Hub 🙏 in London.

If you're interested, or you know someone between 18-24 who might be, go to [www.ruxley-church.org.uk/werelookingfor.htm](http://www.ruxley-church.org.uk/werelookingfor.htm) to find out more. If you'd like to talk more about the internship, you can email Fiona, our Anglican Minister, at [vicar@ruxley-church.org.uk](mailto:vicar@ruxley-church.org.uk). Closing date for Applications is midday Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Interview Date: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021.



Ruxley Church is looking for a new Intern to be a part of our fun, passionate and committed work with young people. We're looking for someone who is creative, up for anything and loves young people. Why not take a year to explore your calling and learn more about who God has made you to be? As well as the opportunity to be involved in life here at Ruxley Church, you will also get to experience being part of the New Wine Discipleship Year and we will provide you accommodation if you need it. *Ruxley Church*



As introduced in last week's News Sheet, we will be printing daily readings each Sunday throughout the next year. These readings will take you through the Bible (in chronological order) with none of the lists of names, rules that are not pertinent in our culture and seemingly useless measurements dealing with the temple – and just focus on the stories and historical accounts.

Our hope is that as we read through the Bible together, it may give us a greater understanding of what is written in God's word. *Richard*

## AUGUST

Sun 1	<b>Genesis 2:4-25</b>	(Adam and Eve)
Mon 2	<b>Genesis 3</b>	(The serpent)
Tue 3	<b>Genesis 4</b>	(Cain and Abel)
Wed 4	<b>Genesis 6:9 - 7:24</b>	(Noah - 1)
Thu 5	<b>Genesis 8:1 - 9:17</b>	(Noah - 2)
Fri 6	<b>Genesis 11:1-9</b>	(Tower of Babel)
Sat 7	<b>Job chs 1 &amp; 2</b>	(Job - 1)

## Contact Details

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

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

# Morning Worship with Holy Communion

## 1 August 2021, 10:30am

*led by the Rev Emma Cusack.*

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: [youtu.be/X1pq9nEh3bU](https://youtu.be/X1pq9nEh3bU)  
or join on Zoom: [bit.ly/2J5jvY8](https://bit.ly/2J5jvY8)

To join the service through Zoom on your landline phone, dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement and enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by # 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 will be connected and 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**

### Welcome & Prayer for the Church Family

#### Call to Worship:

(Roots)

We come with our curiosity and questions.  
We come seeking answers.  
We are grateful for our daily bread,  
but we yearn for the bread of eternal life.  
Let us seek to be fed and filled  
with God's life and love.

#### Gathering Prayer:

(Roots)

Lord God, giver of life,  
you bless us with all we need –  
and with so much more.  
Keep us from being so focused on physical needs  
that we neglect our spiritual food.  
Feed us with your word,  
satisfy us with your presence,  
and strengthen us by your Spirit –  
that we may share your eternal life. **Amen.**

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 322

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary, rest.

Dear name — the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding-place,  
my never-failing treasury, filled  
with boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.

'Til then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath;  
and may the music of thy name  
refresh my soul in death.

John Newton (1725–1807)  
Public Domain

## Opening Prayer

(Roots)

O God, giver of manna from heaven,  
you provided for Moses' followers in the desert.  
O Christ, bread of life,  
you fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish.  
O Holy Spirit of the living God,  
here with us as we come together today,  
we ask you to feed us with all that we need,  
and that, thus fed, we might be satisfied. **Amen.**

Merciful God,  
we thank you that you are to be trusted,  
that you are faithful and provide for all our needs.  
When we feel alone in the desert,  
that is where we meet you.  
In the wilderness of our lives,  
we can turn to you and know that you will sustain us.  
We worship you,  
and we thank you that in you there is always hope. **Amen.**

## Jesus the bread of life

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, ‘Rabbi, when did you get here?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.’

Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’ Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.’

So they asked him, ‘What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’

Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’

‘Sir,’ they said, ‘always give us this bread.’ Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

## Prayer of Confession

(Roots)

Lord, when we fail to trust you in all things:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we complain that you have forsaken us,  
you have left us, abandoned us:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we choose to go our own way  
because your way doesn’t seem to make sense:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we don’t challenge injustice,  
and instead, accept things as they are:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we keep asking for more signs,  
more proof, more of everything:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we trust a little, then snatch it back:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more. Amen.**

## Assurance of forgiveness

(Roots)

When we have not trusted God with our lives and walked away,  
we can always come back into God's everlasting arms,  
knowing that we are loved and forgiven. **Amen.**

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 431

O, the love of my Lord is the essence  
of all that I love here on earth.  
All the beauty I see he has given to me,  
and his giving is as gentle as silence.

Every day, every hour, every moment  
has been blessed by the strength of his love.  
At the turn of each tide he is there at my side,  
and his touch is as gentle as silence.

There've been times when I've turned from his presence,  
and I've walked other paths, other ways;  
but I've called on his name in the dark of my shame,  
and his mercy was as gentle as silence.

Estelle White (1925–2011)

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## Sermon

### Prayers of Intercession

(Roots)

Heavenly Father, giver of all good gifts,  
we pray for all people who willingly use their time and gifts  
in the service of others.

We pray for all who set up and work in charitable organisations:  
bless them as they so freely give of their time and talents.

We pray for people who work together to bring healing,  
for all who work in hospitals, homes, the community:  
bless them as they bring blessing to others.

We pray for those who dedicate their lives to serving God  
in religious orders and communities:  
bless them in their gifts of prayer, hospitality and service.

We pray for people with the gift of words,  
for teachers, writers and communicators:  
bless the seeds that they sow.

We pray for those who don't feel as if they have a gift,  
or feel as if it goes unnoticed:  
bless them with the knowledge that they matter to you.

We pray for our church that it may continue to be a welcoming community,  
constantly build us up by our love for you.  
Bless us, Lord. **Amen.**

## Offertory Prayer

### 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.**

## Holy Communion

(MWB)

### *The Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and ever living God,  
it is right to give you thanks and praise  
at all times and in all places.

With angels and archangels  
and with all your people on earth and in heaven,  
we proclaim your glorious name,  
evermore praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup;  
and when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them saying, 'Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me'.

Accept through him  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
and grant that by the power of your life-giving Spirit,  
we who eat and drink these holy gifts  
may share in the body and blood of Christ  
and be united with all your  
people on earth and in heaven;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
almighty Father,  
forever and ever. **Amen**

*The bread is broken in the presence of the people with the words:*

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ

*Silence*

We say together:

Lord we come to your table,  
trusting in your mercy  
and not in any goodness of our own.

We are not worthy  
even to gather up the crumbs under your table,  
but it is your nature always to have mercy,  
and on that we depend.

So feed us with the body and blood  
of Jesus Christ, your Son,  
that we may for ever  
live in him and he in us. Amen.

*Distribution*

*A steward will direct you to the front to receive Communion.*

*Please approach the Table from the centre aisle and return to your seats via the side.*

*All are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive,  
you may approach the front for a blessing, or simply stay in your seat.*

*Silence*

Let us pray together:

We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all people. Amen

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 663

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Daniel L. Schutte  
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I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
'til their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

## Closing Prayer and blessing

As we seek to do what you want, Lord,  
may we bring bread to the hungry –  
food for bodies and food for souls,  
strength for the journey, and hope for the future.  
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us all now and for evermore. **Amen.**

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