



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 8th August 2021, 10:30am

Morning Worship led by Viv Newitt

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

Prayers

Please pray for Viv 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.



Week two of our Bible readings – how did you get on? Don't worry if you didn't manage to read through them all, it's not a competition or anything! Just a way to get us reacquainted with God's Word.

Some of you may be wondering why Job has been put here when we're listing the Bible in chronological order! Most scholars believe that the book of Job relates to something that happened pre-Abraham. Although this is not the opinion of everyone, this is where it has been placed in this series of readings.

AUGUST

Sun 8	Job ch 3 & 38:1-3	(Job - 2)
Mon 9	Job chs 38 & 39	(Job - 3)
Tue 10	Job ch 40 - ch 42	(Job - 4)
Wed 11	Genesis ch 12	(Abram and Sarai)
Thu 12	Genesis chs 13 & 14	(Abram and Lot)
Fri 13	Genesis ch 15	(Abram and the Covenant)
Sat 14	Genesis ch 16	(Ishmael)

Notices

CHURCH CLEANING – many thanks to those who came along yesterday morning to help with Church cleaning. The Church Centre is much larger than your average house, and once a month needs several people in the team to get the job done. Perhaps you could help with an hour or so next month (September 4th) – make a note on the calendar perhaps? *Robin*

HELEN has now moved to Epsom Hospital.

GRAHAM AND VIVIENNE are enjoying a great touring holiday around the Northwest, starting in Chester. After reading the creation story in SMC's new through the Bible readings, serendipitously, we went to the zoo and saw so many amazing animals - there was the dead leaf insect, the cutest baby orangutan, beautiful birds, and of course the elephants and the giraffes - always magnificent.
Vivienne

SUNDHAR worked hard all through lock down colouring these mindfulness pictures. He has used beautiful colours and worked very carefully. See the originals on the Conquest Art notice board in the Link Room. *Lesley*)



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 7th 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 6th September. *Vivienne*

NEXT WEEK (8th) our Service will be led by Richard Graham.

Contact Details

Website: - stoneleighmethodist.church

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

NewsSheet – news@stoneleighmethodist.church

Sunday Service (YouTube)	Sunday 10:30am			Click
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Morning Worship, 8 August 2021, 10:30am

led by Viv Newitt

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/THD5lttrfUI
or join on Zoom: 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)

When we journey with God, anything is possible:
we are challenged to push our limits.

When we walk closely with Jesus, anything is possible:
we are reminded that everyone has their own story to tell.

When we welcome the Holy Spirit, anything is possible:
we are invited to share in the bread of heaven that always satisfies.

Lord God, you have the bread of life for the hungry
and living water for the thirsty.

We come hungry and thirsty for your word,
with a desire to know your will
and to love with your unconditional love.

Help us to be fed and to learn from you. **Amen**

Hymn: Singing the Faith 465

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.

Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream shall flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717–1791)
translated by Peter Williams (1727–1796)
Public Domain

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving

We thank and praise you, Lord God,
that despite our assumptions and judgements,
and the way we sometimes treat others,
you never stop loving us.
Bread of life, you are always with us.
We thank you that as we draw near to you,
you quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger,
so that we never need hunger or thirst again.
Thank you that you equip us and resource us
with everything we need for this journey of life.
We thank and praise you, Lord God. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Let us keep a few moments of silence as we prepare to make our confession to God.
If there have been times when our faith has been weak and we have doubted you,
Lord, forgive us
If we have failed to listen to your voice,
Lord, forgive us

If we have not followed where you would lead us,

Lord, forgive us

If we have misused the resources of the world around us,

Lord, forgive us

If through our greed, others are left in need,

Lord, forgive us

If we have been judgemental of others,

Lord, forgive us

If we have not spoken out against evil,

Lord, forgive us, and help us to do better.

God knows our every weakness, but he is faithful and just, and through our Lord Jesus Christ, assures us of pardon and peace. Our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Readings: 1 Kings 19: 3-8

(NIV)

Our first reading is set just after the prophet Elijah has been instrumental in the killing of all 850 of Queen Jezebel's priests of the false god, Baal, and she is seeking vengeance on Elijah.

Elijah flees to Horeb

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said. 'Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.' He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.' So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

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.'

At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They said, 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I came down from heaven"?'

'Stop grumbling among yourselves,' Jesus answered. 'No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: "They will all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. No-one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live for ever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.'

Hymn: Songs of Fellowship 200

'I am the bread of life
he who comes to Me shall not hunger,
he who believes in Me shall not thirst.
No one can come to Me
unless the Father draw him.

*'And I will raise him up,
and I will raise him up,
and I will raise him up on the last day.*

'The bread that I will give
is My flesh for the life of the world,
and he who eats of this bread,
he shall live for ever,
he shall live for ever.

'Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of His blood,
and drink of His blood,
you shall not have life within you.

'I am the resurrection,
I am the life,
he who believes in Me
even if he die,
he shall live for ever.'

Yes, Lord, we believe
that You are the Christ,
the Son of God
who has come
into the world.

S Suzanne Toolan

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Reflection

Prayers for all God's people

God our Father, we pray for the world in which we live, a world of infinite beauty, a world of plenty, rich in natural resources for us all to share. Yet we have filled the seas and rivers with plastic; we have not cared for the land, or for the wildlife that shares this planet with us, and we have wasted its precious resources, taking whatever we wanted without considering others. Show us, we pray, that there is a better, kinder way of living; a simpler lifestyle that will not pollute the land, or the air that we breathe, and will enable a fairer sharing of the earth's resources, and help to protect this wonderful world against the damage caused by climate change.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for your church throughout the world; for its leaders; for its people, that all may be witnesses of your love. Grant wisdom to those who make decisions that affect all our lives. We remember those who are persecuted for their faith and ask you to give them strength and courage to hold fast in the face of opposition which threatens not only their well-being but in many instances their life.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, you shared our human nature and lived among us. We pray now for all of humankind, and ask that you touch with your love and compassion the lives of all who are in need. We think of those living in poverty, both in our own communities and in the wider world - for those who are hungry and don't know where the next meal is coming from, especially when there are children to be fed; for those without access to clean water, which we take so much for granted, always putting them at risk of disease and even death. We bring before you the homeless and the unemployed; the oppressed, whose voices do not seem to be heard; refugees and victims of war, caught up in situations not of their own making, desperately seeking to build a new life for themselves and their families, in safety; and for those who are discriminated against because of age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality.....

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the wealthy nations of the world, who have the means to bring about life enhancing changes for the poorer nations, whether individually or as a community, by supporting the work of the many aid agencies or by challenging politicians to maintain and build on international aid programmes. We pray for your guidance on those in government, or any who hold positions of power and authority, that they may act with care and compassion, honour and integrity towards all people to bring about an end to inequality.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are sick, some known to us, others not, but all are known to you. Bring healing and peace to all who suffer, and to those who care for them. We think of any who are experiencing mental health problems, that they may find a sense of calm; and grant your peace to any whose life is drawing to a close.

And we pray for ourselves, our families and friends, that we may be inspired by your love sweeping through us, so that, made strong in faith, we may be enabled to carry out the work to which you have called us.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our 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.

Hymn & Blessing: Singing the Faith 774

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you.
God's peace, growing in you.

Guatemalan text, *translated by* Christine Carson
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