



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 22nd August 2021, 10:30am

Morning Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft

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

Prayers

Please pray for Valerie preaching here this morning; for our Stewards, for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work for the benefit of all. 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.

AUGUST

Sunday 22	Genesis 26:6-35	(Isaac and Abimelech)
Monday 23	Genesis 27:1-45	(Jacob and Esau - 2)
Tuesday 24	Genesis 27:46-28:22	(Jacob and Esau - 3)
Wednesday 25	Genesis 29:1-30:24	(Jacob, Rachel and Leah)
Thursday 26	Genesis 30:25-31:55	(Jacob goes home - 1)
Friday 27	Genesis 32 & 33	(Jacob goes home - 2)
Saturday 28	Genesis 34 & 35	(Dinah)



Notices

HELEN & DAPHNE have both returned home this week; Helen says she would welcome visitors.

STAN SHEPHERD. We now have access to the webcast of Stan's crematorium service. It's rather good with lots of memories from various folks – we also have a full transcript. If you'd like the link to the video (*available until the end of August) or the transcript just let me know. *Robin*

CHURCH CENTRE MAINTENANCE – Next week we will have some noisy tree trimming work on Thursday 26th August, completing the work started two days ago; otherwise just minor internal fettling. *Robin*

NEXT WEEK (29th) our Service will be led by Tony Loft.

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, 22 August 2021, 10:30am

led by Valerie Ashcroft.

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/Pf292JAg3YM

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.

Welcome & Prayer for the Church Family

Call to Worship

Our God offers us hospitality,
and God's welcome is generous.
God is here among us, meeting with us
in our worship and in our fellowship.
God longs to meet our needs
as we come with hands open
and arms outstretched.

A gathering prayer

Welcoming God,
we come to you with open hearts
and with open hands.
We come with our faith and hope,
and with our doubts and fears.
Send your Holy Spirit to work among us,
filling us and changing us
to become more like Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 34

O worship the Lord
in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him,
his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience
and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him:
the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet
lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart
he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows,
and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps
as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts
in the slenderness
of the poor wealth
thou wouldst reckon as thine;
truth in its beauty,
and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings
to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them
in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept
for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for
evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling,
and hope for our fear.

Repeat first verse

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811–1875),
Public Domain

A prayer of approach

Eternal God, source of all life,
today we choose to follow you.
Be present in all we think, say and do.
Powerful redeemer, speak to our hearts.
Holy God, we draw close to you. **Amen.**

A prayer of adoration

Loving God, giver of life;
Lord Jesus, friend and Saviour;
Holy Spirit, living water –
we worship and adore you.
We come today,
not having or expecting all the answers
but knowing that you are the way. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

When we turn away from you, O God,
and go our own way:
forgive us, and turn us back to you.

When the way ahead is not clear,
when everything feels too much
and we turn our backs on you:
forgive us, and turn us back to you.

When we make wrong decisions
and our actions hurt others:
forgive us, and turn us back to you.

When we want to give up
because it's too hard:
forgive us, and turn us back to you.

When we cannot see beyond ourselves
and act selfishly:
forgive us, and turn us back to you.

When we do not put you and others first:
forgive us, and turn us back to you.

Turn us back to you, O God. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Despite going our own way and not following you,
despite our doubts and fears of your presence,
you are there gently leading us,
reaching out your arms of healing and forgiveness.
Thank you, eternal God. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love.
Thank you that even with all our doubts and fears
and worries about the journey ahead,
you are there by our side.

Where else can we turn? To whom shall we go?
Thank you that you are our rock and our salvation,
our strength and our high tower.

Thank you that as we choose to go on this journey with you,
as we make decisions and plans,
you are there, gently leading and guiding,
always present.

Praise you, Lord, for your constant love and faithfulness.
Amen.

The Tribes Renew the Covenant

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

'Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.'

Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.'

John 6: 56-69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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?

Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

O God, who answers prayer,
we hear the words of Paul the apostle.
He exhorts us to pray
on all occasions
and with all kinds of prayers and requests.

We pray for communities that have seen tragedy.
For vulnerable people who struggle to face what life
throws at them.
May they be built up in your love and strength.
Lord, we pray in your Spirit.

We pray for people who suffer for their faith.
For ministers and evangelists who seek to spread your word.
For us all as we share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
May they, and may we, be built up in your love and strength.
Lord, we pray in your Spirit.

We pray for people who feel bound
by chains of unemployment and poverty,
chains of disability or illness,
chains of sorrow.

Lord, we pray in your Spirit.

We pray for ourselves when we feel vulnerable.

May they, and may we, be built up in your love and strength.

Lord, we pray in your Spirit.

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.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 397

The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light;
he binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.

*Walk in the light, walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.*

Jesus promises life to all,
walk, walk in the light;
the dead were wakened by his call,
walk, walk in the light.

He died in pain on Calvary,
walk, walk in the light;
to save the lost like you and me,
walk, walk in the light.

We know his death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light;
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
walk, walk in the light;
the Father's kindness is revealed,
walk, walk in the light.

The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light;
his light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.

Repeat chorus at end

A sending out prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life,
and we have come to believe and know
that you are the Holy One of God.
Go with us into your world.
Amen.

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