



# Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 10:30am

### Morning Worship led by Tony Loft

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

## Prayers

Please pray for Tony preaching here this morning and for Emma at Ruxley; 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 29	Genesis 38 & Matthew 1:3	(Judah and Tamar)
Monday 30	Genesis 37 & 39	(Joseph - 1)
Tuesday 31	Genesis 40:1 to 41:54 [41:17-24]	(Joseph - 2)
SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 1	Genesis 41:55 to 43:15	(Joseph - 3)
Thursday 2	Genesis 43:15 to 45:15 [44:19 to 34]	(Joseph - 4)
Friday 3	Genesis 45:16 to 46:7, 46:28 to 47:12	(Joseph - 5)
Saturday 4	Genesis 47:13 to 48:22	(Joseph - 6)

*You may wish to skim through the verses in square brackets.*



## Notices

**CHRISTIAN AID** We have received a very nice letter thanking us for our collection this year, totalling £670.00, and confirming the effect that this year's donations have made to the cases highlighted in their publicity. *Robin*

**SONGS OF PRAISE.** Our Service on 19<sup>th</sup> September will be a celebratory 'Songs of Praise' put together by the Leadership Team. If there's any hymn you would particularly like to sing, either a favourite, or one we haven't sung in a long time, please let Vivienne know or put it on the list in the vestibule. We hear it's also 'Back to Church Sunday', so encourage everyone to come. Maybe bring a neighbour? *Vivienne*

**CHURCH COUNCIL** Just a reminder that the next Church Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021. At this stage it has not been decided if this meeting will be held via Zoom or face to face, but full details will be distributed to all Council Members on Emma's return from holiday. *Marion*

**ART & SPIRITUALITY** evenings with Deacon Dawn, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 6:00pm at the Wimbledon Lantern. Contact Deacon Dawn ([deacondawn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deacondawn@hotmail.co.uk)) for details.

**NEXT WEEK** (5<sup>th</sup> September) our Covenant Service (with Communion) will be led by Emma.

**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** – Our tree work is now finished, and the Link Room brighter as a consequence. Grateful thanks to our three neighbours Gary, Julian and Vida who have pro-actively sponsored work to our boundary trees and weeds in the past couple of weeks.

This week we will be installing the new projector and screen in the Church. *Robin*

*This is what was left of the trees behind the Link room and back area at the beginning of the week – by Thursday evening most of the greenery behind the roof had also been chopped back.*

*Next the overhanging branches from behind the New Room, due to go second week of September.*

*The Link room is now SO much brighter at that end of the room.*



## Contact Details

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

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

**NewsSheet** – [news@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:news@stoneleighmethodist.church)

Sunday Service (YouTube)	Sunday 10:30am			<a href="#">Click</a>
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# Morning Worship, 29 August 2021, 10.30am

*Led by Tony Loft.*

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: [youtu.be/49bzeup9DYg](https://youtu.be/49bzeup9DYg)  
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.

## Welcome & Prayer for the Church Family

### A gathering prayer

Gracious God,  
we gather,  
grateful for Your gifts of one another  
and Your life-giving Word.  
bless us with Your presence as we seek Your will.  
**Amen.**

### Hymn: Singing the Faith 503

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast,  
let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith as its beginning.  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Public Domain

### **Prayer of adoration**

Loving Holy God,  
we are in awe of Your power  
and Your goodness.  
Your works are amazing,  
Your love unrelenting.  
Your glory blazes through our lives.  
Your mercy surrounds us.  
Your grace astounds us.  
We worship and adore You.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer of confession**

Lord, we admit that our motives can get murky.  
Forgive us when we 'play-act' our faith,  
not letting Your word sink into us,  
merely reciting what sounds good  
without acknowledging the ugliness in our hearts.  
Peel away the layers of our hypocrisy,  
and bring us into the all-revealing light of Your presence.  
Help us to live our lives  
as a reflection of Your grace and glory,  
that others may find in us  
a genuine witness to Your amazing gospel.  
In Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 161

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
to receive the food of your holy word.  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;  
shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us  
all your purposes, for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise,  
cause our eyes to see  
your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
help us grasp the heights  
of your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,  
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til your Church is built  
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
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## Readings: Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

(NIV)

### That which defiles

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the market-place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, 'Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?'

He replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

‘ “These people honour me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.  
They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are merely human rules.”

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.'

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come – sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.'

**James 1:17-27**

(NIV)

### **Listening and doing**

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

### **Reflection**

## Prayer

I am no longer my own but Yours.  
Put me to what You will,  
rank me with whom You will,  
put me to doing,  
put me to suffering,  
let me be employed for You,  
or laid aside for You,  
exalted for You,  
or brought low for You;  
let me be full,  
let me be empty,  
let me have all things,  
let me have nothing:  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to Your pleasure and disposal.

And now glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
You are mine and I am Yours.  
So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 706

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

## Prayers for all God's people

God of justice,  
we live in an unjust world.  
We are all too aware that shame stalks the corridors of power  
and that hypocrisy is second nature to many.

God, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Remove the dinginess of disgrace and discrimination,  
revealing truth, promoting light, and calling the world  
to see the witness of Your beloved Son.  
Grant us all wisdom in how we conduct our lives  
and in how we interact with others.

God, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Make us doers of Your word and bringers of peace.  
Where there is nothing but cruelty,  
may we plant the seeds of kindness.  
Where life is full of the fake and the false,  
make us advocates of truth.

God, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

May those in power not be trigger-happy with their retorts,  
but thoughtful and wise.  
Give us discernment in how we respond  
to the myriad voices and the excess overabundance of opinions  
that surround us in today's world.

God, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

May we seek what is genuine.  
May we choose what is real.  
For Jesus' sake.

**Amen.**

## The 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 today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,  
now and forever.

Amen.

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 495

Dear Lord and Father of mankind  
forgive our foolish ways;  
reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all  
our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of thy call,  
as noiseless let thy blessing fall  
as fell thy manna down.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
'til all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake,  
wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!

## **Sending out prayer**

Lord, You have placed Your Word in our hearts.  
Help us to be doers of Your Word, not merely hearers,  
so that You may work through us,  
to make the world a better place.

## **Blessing**

Surround one another  
in the warmth of love.  
Enfold one another  
in the strength of prayer.  
Encourage one another  
in the journey of faith.  
Surprise one another  
in the wonder of life,  
and so bless one another  
as we say together:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all now and forever more  
Amen.**

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