



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 5th September 2021, 10:30am

Covenant with 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 in all weathers. 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.

Following on from Joseph, there is the well-known story of Moses. If your only knowledge of this event comes from Charlton Heston and Hollywood, you might be rather surprised!

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5	Genesis 49:29 to 50:26	(Joseph - 7)
Monday 6	Exodus 1 and 2	(Moses - 1)
Tuesday 7	Exodus 3:1 to 4:26	(Moses - 2)
Wednesday 8	Exodus 4:27 to 6:13	(Moses - 3)
Thursday 9	Exodus 6:28 to 7:25	(Moses - 4)
Friday 10	Exodus skim 8 to 10	(the next eight plagues)
Saturday 11	Exodus 11 & 12	(the first Passover)



Notices

PASTORAL NEWS. I had a visit with Daphne who was looking well and wants to send her love to you all. Also visited Hazel and she too wants to send her love to you all. *Jeananne*

CHURCH COUNCIL Just a reminder that the next Church Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th September 2021, 4:00pm in the Church. Please use the ramp entrance, and we would ask that you wear a mask until you are seated.

SONGS OF PRAISE. Our Service on 19th 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. We hear it's also 'Back to Church Sunday', so encourage everyone to come. *Vivienne*

CHURCH CLEANING will be next Saturday, 11th September. Just turn up on the day, anytime between 10:00am and noon – a mask is advisable. We will also be open for 'Ride and Stride' when we hope to provide a warm welcome to all those intrepid cyclists and walkers who are raising money for the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust. *Catherine*

NEXT WEEK (12th September) our Morning Worship will be led by Richard.

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP is restarting; we welcome everyone to our first meeting in the Link Room on 7th September at 2:30pm. However, we ask that masks are worn until you are sitting down.
Catherine

THE MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP resumes tomorrow on Zoom (6 September) after the summer break. This is an opportunity to gather together informally to further explore God's Word. We will be looking at A Methodist Way of Life in the next few weeks, more information to follow. The Zoom meeting ID is 882 9496 8024 and the passcode is 256883, or [click here](#).
Richard

KNIT AND NATTER starts again on September 8th and will continue on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month thereafter. Room 1 will resound again to all those needles and nattering from 10:00am till noon. Please come and bring a friend if you want. We ask that you wear a mask (if possible) until you are seated.
Catherine

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK 2021/2022. I have ordered ten copies and will bring them to church this Sunday if you would like one. The cost is £4.65. The theme this time is 'A Place for All'.

"Loneliness, displacement, and alienation are chilling words and scourges of our local and world community. In contrast to be somewhere where you are known by name, welcomed just as you are, where a place is made ready for you- this is heart-warming language that describes a place where people can flourish, finding joy and affirmation. it is truly belonging; echoed in A Methodist Way of Life's commitments to practise hospitality. help people and speak of God's love."

If we run out of copies have no fear, we can easily order more; what a joy that would be!
Jeananne

LINK MAGAZINE I hope you have all had a good summer. Have you had a particularly memorable day in the last couple of months? Days out, coffee in the garden with family? meet up in the park with friends? A holiday? Or have you had an inspiration from the 'through the Bible' readings, or from any of the preachers over the summer? Please send writings or photographs that can be included in the Link by next Friday, 10th September, for the October/ November issue. Send to link@stoneleighmethodist.church or direct to Vivienne, vivienne@ridgworld.com please.

CHURCH CENTRE MAINTENANCE – Pianos have been tuned and the projector and screen has been installed in the Church. Unfortunately, the courtyard sun blind has decided it no longer wants to work for us – further news to follow.
Robin

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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Covenant Service with Holy Communion

5 September 2021, 10:30am

led by the Rev Emma Cusack.

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/myASY-mhnY8

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 and Prayer for the Church Family

Opening Response & Prayer

We worship the God who has been with us:

Our beginning, our present and our future.

We worship the God who will be with us as our stories continue:

Our beginning, our present and our future.

We worship the God who is with us today and will be for ever. **Amen.**

Glory to the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

by whom we are born into the family of God,

and made members of the body of Christ;

whose witness confirms us;

whose wisdom teaches us;

whose power enables us;

who will do for us more than we can ask or think.

Blessèd be God for ever.

Collect

God of grace,
through the mediation of your Son,
you call us into a new covenant.
Help us therefore to draw near with faith
and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and forever.
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.

A reading from the Law: Exodus 24: 3-11

(NIV)

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, 'Everything the LORD has said we will do.' Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, 'We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.'

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.'

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

For the wisdom that guides us
we praise you, O God.

A reading from the Epistles: Romans 12: 1-2

(NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For the truth that enlightens us
we praise you, O God.

A reading from the Gospel: John 15: 1-10

(NIV)

Hear the Gospel of Christ.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

[Jesus said:] 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.'

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

THE COVENANT

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law. The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant, God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God. We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim upon us.

Let us pray.

God of mercy,
hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ,
reluctant to follow him,
and afraid to bear the cross:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused
the poverty of our worship,
the formality and selfishness
of our prayers,
our neglect of fellowship
and the means of grace,
and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us
to misuse your gifts,
evade our responsibilities,
and fail to be good stewards
of your creation:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us
unwilling to overcome evil with good,
tolerant of injustice,
quick to condemn,
and selfish in sharing your love
with others:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 549

Come, let us use the grace divine,
and all, with one accord,
in a perpetual cov'nant join
ourselves to Christ the Lord:

Give up ourselves, through Jesu's power,
his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour,
for God to live and die.

The cov'nant we this moment make
be ever kept in mind:
we will no more our God forsake,
or cast his words behind.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
let us again accept our place
within this covenant
which God has made with us and with all
who are called to be Christ's disciples.

This means that,
by the help of the Holy Spirit,
we accept God's purpose for us,
and the call to love and serve God
in all our life and work.

Christ has many services to be done:
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring reproach;

If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins,
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Therefore to all who truly repent
this is his gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

We never will throw off his fear
who hears our solemn vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear,
come down, and meet us now.

To each the cov'nant blood apply,
which takes our sins away;
and register our names on high,
and keep us to that day.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

some are suitable to our natural
inclinations and material interests,
others are contrary to both;
in some we may please Christ
and please ourselves;
in others we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things
is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.
Therefore let us make this covenant
of God our own.
Let us give ourselves to him,
trusting in his promises
and relying on his grace.

Eternal God,
in your faithful and enduring love
you call us to share in
your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.
In obedience we hear
and accept your commands;
in love we seek to do your perfect will;
with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.
We are no longer our own but yours.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of 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.

God our Father, fountain of goodness,
creator of all that is,
you have made us in your own image.
You have given us life and reason,
and love for one another,
setting in our hearts a hunger for you.

In darkness you are our light,
in adversity and temptation our strength.
You bear patiently with our folly and sin,
granting us your law to guide us
and your prophets to renew our faith.

In the fullness of time
you came to us in love and mercy
in Jesus Christ, your living Word,
full of grace and truth.

He lived among us,
declaring your forgiveness
and revealing your wisdom
in works of mercy and in his word of power.
For us he suffered and died upon the cross,
by death destroying death.

You raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.
Through him you sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your people,
gathered together in every time and place
to glorify your holy name.

With them and all the company of heaven
we join in the unending hymn of praise:

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.

Holy God, pour out your Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who, on the night in which he was betrayed,
took bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
‘Take this and eat it.
This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.’
In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it to them, saying,
‘Drink from it, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, whenever you drink it,
in remembrance of me.’

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

And so, Lord, we obey his command
with this bread and this cup,
by which we recall his death and resurrection,
the source of our life and salvation.
Grant that we,

 who share in this holy sacrament,
may be united by your Spirit
and grow into perfect love.

Bring us, with those
who have done your will in every age,
into the light of your presence
and the joy of your kingdom.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you in songs
 of everlasting praise.
Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The things of God for God’s holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy;
Jesus Christ is Lord.
Glory to God the Father.**

Sharing of the Bread and Wine

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

*Please approach the altar rail from the centre aisle
and return to your seats via the side aisles.*

*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.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Faithful God,
with these holy gifts
you have fed and strengthened us
in Jesus Christ your Son.
Guide us on our way,
that with all your faithful people
we may come to share the feast
of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 477

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to walk in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.
Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

You wrote the rhythm of life,
created heaven and earth;
in you is joy without measure.
So, like a child in your sight,
I dance to see your delight,
for I was made for your pleasure, pleasure.

Teach me to dance . . .

Let all my movements express
a heart that loves to say 'yes,'
a will that leaps to obey you.
Let all my energy blaze
to see the joy in your face,
let my whole being praise you, praise you.

Teach me to dance . . .

Closing prayer:

Let us pray:

And now we give you thanks
because in coming to dwell among us,
Christ revealed the radiance of your glory
and brought us out of darkness
into your own marvellous light. **Amen.**

Blessing:

The blessing of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen**

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