



# Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday, 17 October 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 leading our Service here and for Emma at Ruxley today; for our Stewards, and for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work quietly 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.

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. James 3:13*

## Notices

**CHURCH CENTRE USAGE.** We are pleased to report that bookings for weekend children's parties are now stronger than ever before – we are fully booked until the New Year – totally unprecedented! Bookings are not only from the locality but across the Borough and beyond; publicity in the Connection magazine and on the Internet really works. Making use of the Church Centre at times when not needed for Church purposes is good for both our funds, and in getting the Church known too. *Robin*

**QUIET, REFLECTIVE SERVICE** Our postponed service will now be this coming **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, in the New Room. All are welcome!**

**RESOURCES TO ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP.** There are a number of books on the table in the foyer which we are providing to you in order to encourage you and equip you in your journey with God. It is our hope that you will take them and read them, and also share them with your neighbours and friends. Please take as many as you like to share around - they are being given to you completely free! If there are any topics that you would like resources on, either for yourself or others, then please let me know and I'll see what I can find. *Richard*

**NEXT WEEK** (24<sup>th</sup> October) our Service will be led by Tony Loft.

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*This week we start reading the saga of Samson (surely the man most in need of Solomon's advice on women in the early chapters of Proverbs) but before that we read the story of Jephthah - which will likely surprise you!*

### OCTOBER

<b>Sunday 17</b>	<b>Judges 7</b>	(Gideon - 2)
<b>Monday 18</b>	<b>Judges 8</b>	(Gideon - 3)
<b>Tuesday 19</b>	<b>Judges 9</b>	(Abimelech)
<b>Wednesday 20</b>	<b>Ruth 1 &amp; 2</b>	(Ruth - 1)
<b>Thursday 21</b>	<b>Ruth 3 &amp; 4 &amp; Matthew 1:5</b>	(Ruth - 2)
<b>Friday 22</b>	<i>skim</i> <b>Judges 10:1-14, read 10:15 - 12:6</b>	(Jephthah)
<b>Saturday 23</b>	<b>Judges 13</b>	(Samson - 1)



# Morning Worship, 17 October, 10:30am

*led by Valerie Ashcroft*

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: [youtu.be/ABcAwI6Nk4M](https://youtu.be/ABcAwI6Nk4M)

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 when prompted,  
enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by #;  
just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID;  
and when prompted, the passcode **702336** followed by #.

You will then be connected to the service – simply hang up at the end  
or whenever you wish to leave.

## Welcome & Prayer for the Church Family

### Call to Worship

Let us come together to be still,  
to be known, loved, and held by God our creator,  
to be thankful for all that God gives us,  
to be healed and restored,  
that in our worship today  
joy and gladness may refresh and renew us

### A Gathering Prayer

God our creator, we are made in your image,  
create and reshape us anew for your purposes.

God our sustainer, who sent your Son Jesus to be our servant,  
by your grace, forgive us where we have hurt your world.

God our guide and inspiration,  
open our hearts to receive your wisdom,  
inspire and direct us – in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 94

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;*

*and give him the glory — great things he hath done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God!  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

*Praise the Lord! . . .*

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

*Praise the Lord! . . .*

Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny Crosby) (1820–1915)

## A Prayer of Approach

Lord God, we come humbly into your presence this morning, ready to explore our place in your community. James and John had very set ideas about where they wanted to sit in glory. Sometimes we have very fixed ideas about where we want to sit in this gathering. We like to know our place. Help us to understand that you don't have favourites and we shouldn't either, and that we are a community and we are all in this together. **Amen.**

## A Prayer of Adoration

God of community,  
you look down from heaven  
on your children on earth,  
and are overcome with love.  
Love that reaches out  
to touch even the most faraway soul.

God the Father, who made all creation,  
and shares all good gifts with us.

We adore you.

God the Son,  
just as you walked on earth with your friends,  
you are always here with us.

We adore you.

God the Spirit,  
though we don't see you,  
we know you are deep within our hearts.  
You make sense of our place in your world.

We adore you. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer of Confession and an Assurance of Forgiveness**

Lord, sometimes we have very set ideas about communities.  
The ones we belong to. The ones we aspire to. The ones we stay away from.  
Help us to see as you do: you love every member of every community.  
We are all one in you.

Forgive us when we look down on others,  
or consider our way alone to be the right one.  
Help us to work together with you for good,  
putting ourselves aside and others always first. **Amen.**

God sees our hearts as we turn to him to seek forgiveness.  
He doesn't want us to fight for preference  
but to grow ever closer to him through pure and simple love.

As we come to him,  
acknowledging that we don't always get it right,  
he freely and abundantly pardons us.

Thank you, most gracious God. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord God, that in your kingdom things are wonderfully topsy turvy,  
and we are all in this together.

Thank you that to do your will we must become servants,  
and we are all in this together.

Thank you that when we follow Jesus, however little we think we have to offer,  
we can all minister to each other,  
and we are all in this together.

Thank you that you know what we need.  
You came to earth to serve and build up your followers,  
and we are all in this together.

We thank you for our ministers and church community,  
all who help us to find our place in your community,  
and we are all in this together. **Amen.**

**Reading: Isaiah 53: 4-12**

(NRSV)

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.  
They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
    he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

    Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

    The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
    and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
    and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
    and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Reading: Mark 10: 35-45**

(NRSV)

### **The Request of James and John**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognise as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 274

Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice,  
you became nothing, poured out to death.  
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life,  
and I'm in that place once again.  
And I'm in that place once again.

*And once again I look upon  
the cross where you died,  
I'm humbled by your mercy  
and I'm broken inside.  
Once again I thank you,  
once again I pour out my life.*

Now you are exalted to the highest place,  
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.  
But for now, I marvel at your saving grace,  
and I'm full of praise once again.  
I'm full of praise once again.

*And once again . . .*

Thank you for the cross,  
thank you for the cross,  
thank you for the cross, my friend.  
Thank you for the cross . . .

Matt Redman

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## Reflection

### Hymn: Singing the Faith 415

The Church of Christ, in every age  
beset by change but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live until they die.

Then let the servant Church arise,  
a caring Church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating Word.

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

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## Prayers of Intercession

When we seek power and glory for ourselves  
and overlook the needs of the humble and weak,  
Christ, the servant king:

help us to follow your example of service.

Where there are those who rely on food banks and on benefits,  
Christ, the servant king:

help us to follow your example of service.

Where stronger nations ignore the plight of the poor;  
where food and medical supplies are stockpiled while others cry out in need.  
Christ, the servant king:

help us to follow your example of service.

Where churches focus on their own desires  
and fail to see the needy at their gates.

Christ, the servant king:

help us to follow your example of service.

When our neighbours are sick, imprisoned by addiction,  
cold through lack of shelter, lonely through isolation  
or tearful because of bereavement,

Christ, the servant king:

help us to follow your example of service.

When our personal ease and comfort leads us  
to ignore the threats to the future of our planet,  
Christ, the servant king:

help us to follow your example of service.

Loving God,  
we pray that our society may become characterised  
by our desire to serve one another;  
to help the weak and seek the common good.  
Help each one of us to work out our place  
in the community of those who follow Jesus.

In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

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## 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 319

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name!*

Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:

*Yours the glory . . .*

Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:

*Yours the glory . . .*

Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:

*Yours the glory . . .*

So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:

*Yours the glory . . .*

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## A Sending Out Prayer

Lord, take our thoughts (*touch head*)  
and turn them into prayer. (*hands together*)  
Take our prayer and turn it into love. (*hands over heart*)  
Take our love and turn it into life.

In Jesus Christ

(*right index finger touches left wrist; then left index finger touches right wrist*)  
today and every day. (*palms face up in offering*)

Amen.