



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 7 November 2021, 10:30am

Morning Worship led by Brenda Cannon

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

Prayers

Please pray for Brenda leading our Service here today and for Emma at Ruxley this morning and this evening; 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.

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,” James 1:19

Notices

POPIES will be available in the Church Centre during next week – ask anyone with a vestry key!

CHURCH COUNCIL will be held tomorrow, Monday 8th November, 7:00pm in the Link Room.

This meeting will also be transmitted by Zoom so that you can follow and contribute either by computer or on the phone. The meeting ID is 882 7719 6193 / Passcode: 855716. By telephone you need to dial 020 3481 5240, listen to the announcement and, when prompted, enter the meeting ID 882 7719 6193 followed by #, just # on its own when asked for your participant ID and, when prompted, the passcode 855716 followed by #. You should then be connected to the meeting – simply hang up at the end or whenever you wish to leave. Please remember this meeting is limited to Church members only.

CHURCH CLEANING – thanks to those who came along to clean & tidy yesterday – much appreciated.

DISCUSSION NOTES Thank you to all who stayed after the Service last Sunday to be part of the discussion about the church and ongoing ministry. Massive thanks to Pat Petley and team for organising the soup meal and to everyone who helped set up and clear after, kitchen team etc. I am so very grateful to everyone. Please look out for the contributions pinned on the display boards at the front of the Church today; email subscribers have their own copies attached.

There wasn't enough time to share details - table by table however I am praying and hoping that this will happen very soon and thank you for your contribution to the discussion.

ART & SPIRITUALITY evening with Deacon Dawn this evening, 6:00pm at the Lantern Wimbledon. For details, please see the poster on the notice board at the front left of the Church (inside) or contact Deacon Dawn. *Richard*

CHURCHES TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS. This year, due to the ongoing Covid situation, we will not be holding our usual Christmas lunch event. Nonetheless we are providing Goodie Boxes to those who will be alone on Christmas Day, as we did last year. Please can we ask that you let us know of anyone in such a position who would appreciate a Goodie box. Also, could we be informed of any changes in circumstances of anyone known to you who is one of our regular guests. In each case, please contact Sally on 020 8393 3011. Thank you, *The Together at Christmas Team*

LINK MAGAZINE. Contributions for the next issue need to be with Vivienne by next Wednesday, 10th November please.

NEXT WEEK (14th November) our Remembrance Parade Service will be led by the Rev Emma Cusack. Please ensure you have a mask with you.

We are about to enter the stories of Saul and David stories that you will no doubt remember from Sunday School, but do you recall the story of Jonathan and the honey?

NOVEMBER

Sunday 7	1 Samuel 9:11 to 10:26	(Saul - 2)
Monday 8	1 Samuel 10:27 to 12:25	(Saul - 3)
Tuesday 9	1 Samuel 13:1 to 14:23	(Jonathan)
Wednesday 10	1 Samuel 14:24 to 14:52	(Saul's oath)
Thursday 11	1 Samuel 15	(Saul's mistake)
Friday 12	1 Samuel 16	(David the shepherd)
Saturday 13	Psalms 23 & John 10:11-13	(God the shepherd)



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT – perhaps a different view than we're used to?

A Facebook post by [Sad Jesus \(Rev Nadia\)](#), and reproduced from the Lantern Wimbledon with kind permission.

A benediction for Rachel Held Evans...

"Blessed are the agnostics. Blessed are they who doubt. Blessed are those who have nothing to offer. Blessed are the pre-schoolers who cut in line at communion. Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are those whom no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers. The closeted. The teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms. Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like. Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried. Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else. Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

I imagine Jesus standing here blessing us because that is our Lord's nature. This Jesus cried at his friend's tomb, turned the other cheek, and forgave those who hung him on a cross. He was God's Beatitude— God's blessing to the weak in a world that admires only the strong.

Jesus invites us into a story bigger than ourselves and our imaginations, yet we all get to tell that story with the scandalous particularity of this moment and this place. We are storytelling creatures because we are fashioned in the image of a storytelling God. May we never neglect that gift. May we never lose our love for telling the story. Amen"

- by the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Webber

Morning Worship, 7 November, 10:30am

led by Brenda Cannon

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/GTNR6uRSCgA

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 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 open our hearts, our minds, and our eyes
to see the generous gifts of God,
and respond with praise and thanksgiving.

Opening prayer

Eternal God, you call us to this time and place,
to still our minds and gather our thoughts,
to see the immensity of your giving to us.
You are the giver of life in all its fullness;
the giver of gifts beyond compare;
the giver of more than we can imagine or comprehend.
We come before you now.

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.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)

Prayer of Adoration

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one in three and three in one, we adore you –
for you are light in our darkness;
you are the calm in our turmoil;
you are the wealth in our poverty;
the meaning in our pointlessness;
the hope in our despondency;
the meaning in our being.
For all of this and so much more,
we worship you. **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, God of all ages,
for those who, like the widow at the Temple, inspire us with
their generosity, remind us of our duty, and show us what it is to live sacrificially;
for those who, like the widow of Zarephath,
show us the shape of trust, and embody hospitality;
for those who, like the psalmist, proclaim your care for all in need,
sing your praise, and inspire faith. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,
we come to you in sorrow for our selfishness,
in regret for our greed,
in despair over our blindness and deafness
to the needs of those around us.
With penitent hearts we seek your forgiveness,
and your blessing to make us more generous,
more giving, more able to see, and more willing to listen.
Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Our God of generosity forgives those who truly repent.
Our God lifts the burdens from our hearts
and the blindness from our eyes
and sets us free to be the people we are called to be.
Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 424

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name;
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his love as he told me to.

He said:

*'Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give;
go in my name and because you believe,
others will know that I live.'*

All power is given in Jesus' name
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name;
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his power as he told me to. *He said . . .*

Readings: 1 Kings 17:8-16

(NIV)

(Prior to this reading in verse 1 - Elijah had announced a great drought and says to King Ahab that 'As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there would be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.')

Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath

Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah]: 'Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have instructed a widow there to supply you with food.' So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, 'Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?' As she was going to get it, he called, 'And bring me, please, a piece of bread.'

'As surely as the LORD your God lives,' she replied, 'I don't have any bread - only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it - and die.'

Elijah said to her, 'Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land."'

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Mark 12: 38-44

(NIV)

Warning against the teachers of the law

As he taught, Jesus said, 'Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the market-places, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.'

The widow's offering

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few pence.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.'

Hymn: Singing the Faith 78

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,'
let the poor say, 'I am rich,'
because of what the Lord has done for us.

Henry Smith

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Sermon

Prayer

God of all, we are neither rich nor poor, but comfortable –
may that not turn to complacency.

We cannot change very much, and we challenge very little –
may that not invite indifference.

We do not live sacrificially, but neither are we greedy –
may that not lead us to be satisfied.

We do our duty, no more, no less –
may we not avoid responsibility, but be your disciples in your world today –
generous, compassionate and far seeing.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 566

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart – it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

F R Havergal (1836–1879)

Prayers of Intercession

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for all things come from you.

You give us life.

You give us love.

You give us a world of plenty,
that we may learn

to share with our neighbour
and give generously to each other
as you give to us.

Blessed are you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lord, as you have called us to serve you,
make us worthy of our calling

To all who are in need,
knowing that in giving we are enriched.

May your Church

be a good steward of its gifts
and reach out to where it can use its talents.

We pray for all

who give of themselves generously
in mission or in pastoral care,
all who work for little financial reward
in the service of others.

Silence

Giver of all – **teach us to share.**

We ask your blessing upon all who work
for fair trade and justice in our world.

Let us all realise

that life cannot be bought or sold
or measured by financial worth alone.

We pray for all

who are used almost as slave labour
and for those who do not get
a fair day's wage for their work.

We remember those

who live in slum dwellings
or in refugee camps
and all who will hunger today.

Silence

Giver of all – **teach us to share.**

We give thanks for all

that you have given us,
for your blessings upon our homes
and families.

We give thanks for all who have taught
us

and been our benefactors.

We remember homes

that suffer through greed
and those who,
though they have many possessions,
are poor in spirit.

Silence

Giver of all – **teach us to share.**

We ask your blessing

upon the weary and the war-torn,
upon the weak

and those whose powers are waning.

We pray for all who are ill
and especially for those

who are nearing death,
asking you to bless them
and their loved ones

with your presence and your peace.

Silence

Giver of all – **teach us to share.**

We give thanks for all who,

though poor in the eyes of the world,
are precious in your sight.

We rejoice in the fellowship
of all your saints

and we remember friends and loved ones
who are departed from us.

May we all share in your love
and in your Kingdom.

Silence

**Merciful and loving Father, accept these our prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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.
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 255

The kingdom of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed,
the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
instead of despair.

The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry glory
to God all in all!

Closing prayer

May God who takes no sides,
bless you with a heart that embraces all need and all creation.

May Jesus, who laid down his life for us all,
bless you with a love that knows no boundaries.

May the Holy Spirit lead you in the path of peace,
that you may lead others.

Amen.

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