



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 9 January 2022

**10:30am – Covenant Service with Holy Communion,
led by the Rev Emma Cusack**

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

Prayers

Please pray for **Emma** leading our Service here today; for our Stewards, and for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work for the benefit of all.

Catherine remains in hospital and asks for prayers from the Church family for herself and her family. Please pray also for others of 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.

“May all your troubles last as long as your New Year’s Resolutions.” Joey Lauren Adams

Notices

HOW WAS YOUR CHRISTMAS? If you have any news or interesting happenings from the Christmas period, please let me know for the Link - **by tomorrow** please. *Vivienne.*

WHITECHAPEL. We’ve had a very nice note from the Whitechapel Mission thanking us for our Christmas collections which totalled £195.00. *Denise*

FLOWER ROTA. The Flower Rota on the Church Notice board is current but is looking rather empty. If there is a special date you’d like to commemorate between now and the end of 2022, do add your name – details on the sheet. *Val*

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP starts at 2:00pm next week (11th) when a film will be shown.

QUIZ NIGHT AT RUXLEY CHURCH is on Saturday 22nd January 2022, 7:00 for 7:15pm - and SMC are invited! All the family welcome - easy to play, no experience necessary - and there will be a raffle during the evening. One price fits all £12 (no concessions) towards the cost of food, stationery & prizes etc - this includes a Fish & Chip Supper, but please bring your own drinks, glasses & cutlery. Tickets available in advance - get yours NOW! Further information and tickets available from Emma.

RUXLEY CHURCH IS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS of being an LEP on Sunday 30th January 2022 at 10:00am (please note time). Everyone at Stoneleigh have been invited to join them for their Service – our Church will be closed that day. The preacher will be the Rev Dr Mark Wakelin, former President of the Methodist Church for 2012. We are also invited to stay for lunch afterwards, and there is a sign-up sheet by the Memorial book. The closing date for lunch registration is **today** so if you’ll like to eat after that Service, you need to sign up.

NEXT WEEK (16th January) we have Morning Worship with Brenda Cannon at 10:30am.

For a man of great wisdom, Solomon made big mistakes! And the kingdom was split in two as a result. The books of Kings look at the history of the kingdom as a whole, while 2 Chronicles tends to focus on the southern Kingdom of Judah.

JANUARY

Sunday 9	2 Chronicles 9	(Solomon's fame)
Monday 10	Proverbs 3	
Tuesday 11	1 Kings 11	(problems arise)
Wednesday 12	2 Chronicles 10 and 11	(Rehoboam)
Thursday 13	1 Kings 12:25 to 13:34	(a man of God)
Friday 14	1 Kings 14	(Jereboam and Rehoboam)
Saturday 15	2 Chronicles 13:1 to 14:1	(Abijah)



Covenant Service with Holy Communion

9 January 2022, 10:30am

Led by Rev Emma Cusack

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/UeleEey_JA
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 and Prayer for the Church Family

Opening Prayer

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.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 548

Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest —
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:

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

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.**

Readings: Exodus 23: 14-15, 23-25

(NRSV)

Be attentive to all that I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods;
do not let them be heard on your lips.

Three times in the year you shall hold a festival for me. You shall observe the
festival of unleavened bread; as I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread
for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of
Egypt.

No one shall appear before me empty-handed.

When my angel goes in front of you, and brings you to the Amorites, the Hittites,
the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I blot them out,
you shall not bow down to their gods, or worship them, or follow their practices, but
you shall utterly demolish them and break their pillars in pieces. You shall worship
the LORD your God, and I will bless your bread and your water; and I will take
sickness away from among you.

The Greatness and the Goodness of God

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

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.

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 549

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

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.

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

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

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 covenant blood apply,
which takes our sins away;
and register our names on high,
and keep us to that day.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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;
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 blessèd 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.

Offertory Hymn: Singing the Faith 658

A charge to keep I have:
a God to glorify;
a never-dying soul to save,
and fit it for the sky;
To serve the present age,
my calling to fulfil;
O may it all my powers engage
to do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,
as in your sight to live;
and O your servant, Lord, prepare
a strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
and on yourself rely,
so shall I not my trust betray,
nor love within me die.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Those who come to me shall not hunger, and those who believe in me shall never thirst."

Draw near with faith.

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 57

Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!

The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!

The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing:
my God and King!

George Herbert (1593–1633)

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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