



Heaton Moor United Church

The United Reformed Church and The Methodist Church
working together in partnership



Zoom Services and Meetings

Sunday 30th August Circuit Service 3.00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212246881?pwd=VXpyMzRYV21UZ1ZoYlkc2R4dmV1QT09>

Meeting ID: 872 1224 6881 Password: 974333

Wednesday 2nd September Moor than a Good Read 10.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82881695155?pwd=SWkrSTV0bTg2Wm9hN29vbm90dTIJsdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 8169 5155 Password: 714757

Wednesday 2nd September Coffee and Prayer 11.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95327541668?pwd=ekU2QWgzZjVKWtBFTjZsb0tERVQrdz09>

Meeting ID: 953 2754 1668 Password: 794265

Joining by telephone

Step 1)

Dial any of the following numbers. If one doesn't work try another and another until you are able to connect:

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0208 080 6591

0208 080 6592

Step 2)

Follow the prompts you hear on the phone.

You may be prompted to enter 3 different things:

1 -- Meeting ID followed by hash #

2 -- Password followed by hash #

3 -- Participants ID -- You will not have one of these, don't worry, all you need to do is enter "Hash" #

You should then be entered into the service.

Private Prayer and Reflection Opening Times

Monday 11.00am to 12.00am

Thursday 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Dear Heaton Moor United Church family,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and forever.

Hope you are doing well. On the 6th of September, we will have our new circuit inauguration, as churches from Romiley are formally joining the United Stockport Circuit and a welcome service to Rev. Katie Smith, who will be joining our circuit. Efforts are being made to live stream this service on YouTube and on Zoom at 10.30 am on that day. We will share the details and the links as soon as we receive them.

Starting 1st of September, JoAnne Roy will begin her work as the new community worker of our church. May I seek your prayers for JoAnne and her work with our church and community.

Kindly keep praying for the re-opening of our church building for worship from 13th September, and thanks to several people offering their help and support towards it. This week we have met as worship group to discuss about the services in September.

Herewith I am sending you the reflection for this Sunday along with the worship resources for your kind perusal.

Kindly also pray for students and staff at our educational institutions as they re-open for a new academic year from next week.

May God's love always journey with you in all your endeavours.

Stay safe and God be with you,

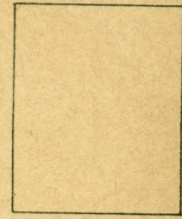
Thanking you,

With warm regards,

Raj

27th August 2020

CARTE POSTALE



Circuit Service 6th September 2020

The Circuit Service will be at 10.30am on the 6th. This will also be live streamed on YouTube as well as on Zoom. All links will be in next weeks newsletter.

I received this lovely note through the door the other day:

It has been lovely to have our church open for reflection the last 6 weeks. We would like to say "THANK YOU" to the friends who have made this possible for being there on the door.

It has made one realise what we have taken for granted when we go to church each week.

Looking forward to our Sunday morning services re-commencing on the 13th Sept, even though at the moment we cannot sing Hymns!

Cynthia and Harold Bailey

Here is the plan for the services for the September:

Unfortunately the 13th is now at full capacity

You can book for the other services by contacting Sharon or your Pastoral Visitor

Re-opening for Worship Plan		
6 th Sept	Circuit Service	Live Stream/Zoom
13 th Sept	Rev Raj Patta	Full
20 th Sept	Rev Graham Adams	
27 th Sept	Carol Jack	

Discipleship as “Tell-show-do-apply” kind of following Jesus Christ

Reflecting on Matthew 16: 21-28

As part of the driving test, besides theory exam, the examiner asks ‘show me’ and ‘tell me’ questions during the practical test, to test the new drivers’ knowledge about the safety of the vehicle. “Tell-show-do-apply” forms a strategy for creating an in-depth learning experience for both the instructor and the student. This week from our lectionary reading, I understand Jesus explaining about his identity and about the discipleship using this strategy, so that both his first century audience and the readers of this text today can decipher that the route map in following Jesus is “tell-show-do-apply.”

Ever since Peter affirmed Jesus to be the Messiah and the Son of the living God (16v), ‘from that time on,’ Jesus began to show his disciples about his death and resurrection. It is important to note that in verse 21, it is said, “From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples...” On reading this verse again, I was intrigued to recognise that Jesus was not merely ‘telling,’ ‘foretelling’ or just ‘preaching’ about his death and resurrection, rather ‘began to show’ about it to his disciples. Jesus began to demonstrate his sufferings, death and resurrection at the hands of the empire, so that the disciples understand the real essence of Jesus being the Messiah and the Son of the living God. Jesus is now adding flesh to Peter’s counter-cultural declaration (21v), showing that to be a Messiah and the Son of God is to live and testify for the values of God’s Kingdom for it contrasts the empire, and the cost of such a call and living is suffering and death in their hands. However, death is not the end of it, for God offers hope and new life to the creation by raising him on the third day. Jesus has shown about the kingdom of God to his disciples, in his acts of protest against the Roman empire, in his acts of compassion towards people and in his acts of liberating the oppressed. Jesus has always shown it by being a living testimony in every situation of his life.

When Jesus began showing his disciples about the suffering, death and resurrection that is to come to him, Peter took Jesus aside and rebuked him saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you” (22v). Peter said those words for he did not want to lose Jesus. But Jesus knew that his suffering, death and resurrection will not happen if he compromises about the Kingdom of God and not demonstrate the love of God to all the oppressed communities. Jesus wouldn’t prefer doing that, and did not leave any stone unturned in liberating the oppressed communities, for which he knew public execution in the form of a cross is the cost that he has to pay for such an act.

Jesus rebuked Peter to be a stumbling block in his mission of God, challenging him to set his mind on divine things, which was his mission with the margins, and not on human things. Liberating the oppressed on the margins has always been at the heart of the divine, and Jesus has come to tell-show-do-apply on this earth, so that his disciples and followers will do it. Jesus made a conscious choice of bringing good news to the poor and liberating the oppressed living on the margins.

Then Jesus told his disciples, “if any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (24v). Jesus having told and shown his mission, now is inviting his disciples to do and to apply. Three things to do and apply as followers of Jesus, self-denial, taking up their cross and following Jesus. Denying one’s own self is costly, for it is

said, “love is self-lessness and self is love-lessness”, so denying one’s own self is to put ‘others’ first, put love first and put love for others first. Taking up one’s own cross is an important thing to understand. Cross is the reward for standing and striving for God’s kingdom, which is to achieve peace, justice, love and equality. So, carrying one’s own cross is carrying the reward for suffering for peace, justice, love and equality. Many have misread this verse by assuming Jesus is inviting us to carry his cross, and forget that each of us has a cross and Jesus is inviting us to carry it in our discipleship for Jesus. Wearing a cross is easy, but bearing it is costly. To put it in other words, if we are followers of Jesus, there is for sure a cross for every follower, because working with Jesus for justice and peace is costly today. And then to follow Jesus, which is not as a volunteer for the gospel but a follower of Jesus by ‘telling-doing-showing-applying.’ Jesus, then goes on to say, “for those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it” (25v). Jesus was assuring his disciples about the strength in resurrection, for God offers hope to all those who suffer for the kingdom of God by granting new life experience.

Drawing a relevance of this text for us today, we are called as churches to be ‘tell-show-do-apply’ followers of Jesus. This ‘tell-show-do-apply’ is a complete package and over the times, we have compartmentalised it and have used each part of it in isolation. Or most times we have only remained as ‘telling’ churches, telling people and haven’t put our efforts towards showing, doing and applying the gospel of Jesus Christ. As churches our call is to demonstrate the love of God in our community, for which we might have to deny ourselves of our identity and offer love to all in our community unconditionally. As churches our call is to do like what Jesus is doing, to act, to dirty our feet in our working with the margins. This week at Glasgow, as you would have read that Mercy Baguma, an asylum seeker from Uganda was found dead in ‘extreme poverty’ next to her crying baby due to hunger. How can such a thing like this happen during our times today in a 21st century advanced society, and I am angered at reading this news. Where has mercy and compassion gone? As part of dirtying our feet, we as churches are called to hear the cries of Mercy’s who are in our localities crying, and are called to share our food to feed people in their hunger.

In terms of ‘applying’ Christian discipleship, it was a delight to know that the German Protestant church is sending a ship called ‘Sea-watch 4’ into the Mediterranean Sea to rescue migrants, for they do not want to stand by and watch thousands of people die in the sea. You can read more about it here on this link.¹ This is an example to see how churches today as followers of Jesus Christ are willing to carry their cross, for they are joining with Jesus in saving lives and in promoting life. Application of Jesus gospel today is the key in our moving forward. How do we translate the work of Jesus in our context today? In this application, the methodology might be different from how God in Jesus worked in his historical contexts, for God in God’s dynamism is willing to work with us to see that we are open in applying the gospel relevant to us. Discipleship today demands application of the gospel in actions, relevant for our times.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/06/german-protestant-church-to-send-migrant-rescue-boat-to-mediterranean#:~:text=The%20German%20Protestant%20church%20will,preparations%2C%20the%20crew%20has%20said.>

In the context of re-opening the church building for worship, with booking or informing well ahead who would join a service happening these days, I was pleased to hear that some people in my churches have put their names as 'reserved,' by which they were willing to drop off and stay at home if there are more people than the allocated number turn up for a service. In following Jesus, we are called to deny ourselves and our own priorities, and take up the cross of love for the sake of God's kingdom here on earth.

May our communities around us know us as 'tell-show-do-apply' Christians and churches. May we keep working with passion for the cause of God's Kingdom by carrying our own local and global crosses and follow Jesus Christ faithfully. Our discipleship in Christ is authentic when it is rooted in 'tell-show-do-apply' kind of Christianity. May God grant us God's strength so that we can follow Jesus sincerely by meeting the needs of the people around us.

Rev. Dr. Raj Bharat Patta
27th August 2020

Sunday 30th August 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Lord, I draw near with faith. Open my eyes to see and ears to hear what you have for me, today and every day. **Amen**

Hymn: StF 608 All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhE-Moyghul>

All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.

The gift which he on one bestows,
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

E'en now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesu's name,
in perfect harmony.

We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what heights of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

A Time of Prayer

Lord God, we pray to you, as Father Son and Holy Spirit, to praise you, For You are our God. We pray to thank you for all that You have done for us, for you are always there. We pray to You as our God, who made the world, died for us, rose again to show us the way to heaven, and lives in us all. We bring before you the burden of all the sins we have committed, and we say Lord God, we are sorry for them. We know that such is your Love, we are forgiven our sins. Thanks be to you, Our God, **Amen**

Today's Reading from the Old Testament:
Exodus 3:1-15

Today's New Testament Reading:
Romans 12:9-21

Time to Reflect

How often have we heard the story of the burning bush? Perhaps you first heard it at school or in Sunday School. Many of us certainly knew the basic plot as soon as we saw the heading. Yet, when we read it now, in these difficult times, perhaps it is the assurance God hears our sufferings that is what we need most from this reading, rather than a familiar story. If on our next walk outside we saw what Moses did, and heard a similar promise, would we rejoice? Yet, God is telling us to do that, without flames amidst our shrubbery.

The reading from Romans tells us, Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. In difficult moments, that is enough, to ask of someone that get through these

times. What is astonishing is, it can be sufficient if we will let it be. Not that we are ever alone.

Listening to what God tells us in our despair is often the hardest thing. Why did God have to burn a bush so that it would keep burning until Moses noticed it? Moses was in the depths of despair. We don't like to listen in our despair to anything of hope. Much of the duty of a Christian is to help one another out of the wallowing. To share our own grief's lessons with those who are in the midst of learning them. We should weep with those who weep, yes, and yet, more than this, we should pass the tissues and try and help them through.

At present, we are much minded to think of all that is wrong in our lives, of those dear to us being taken from us, or at risk of so being. Take thought though of all that is not awful even in our present miseries. For there is more goodness on show than at that burning bush each and every day, if we would but see it. It may be hard to see, yet that is why God gives us such lights. If we light a candle in a dark room, an experiment I recommend, you will marvel at how much such a small light can reveal. So how much more can a burning bush light up? Yet more than this, the light of God is alive in every Christian this very day, and it burns even brighter than the sun itself.

If you doubt this, take the Romans passage, and think of examples you have seen of each verse, one or two a day this week. You will soon see much light, more than comes in at your windows in the bright summer days.

Do not let the evil that sits in the world overpower you. Leave such to the Lord, He will deal with the evil people, turning them to good. Focus instead on the good you can do. For if we all do what good we can, that is quite enough to make the world a very different place. If we dwell on evil, we will be overwhelmed. Yet instead of decrying all that is wrong, let us concentrate on doing good. If we spend our time doing our bit of Good, we

do far more than all the handwringing in history ever accomplished. Do not let yourself think yourself weak, you have prayer, you have the good you can do for others with your God-given abilities. That is quite enough to overcome a lot of evil for other folk, if you would but set to it with a will. Thus, the True Christian does not just hold to what is good in theory. We do good. For are we not True Christians, all of us?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Gracious God, we bring before you our prayers for the world

We pray for all those who lack physical things, food, shelter, water, and all of life's necessities.

We pray for those who mourn, and those who ail. Lord, for those we may help, may our hands work quickly, and for those we personally cannot help, we pray for the hands that will.

We pray for all those who work to provide care and help to others. Lord bless them and keep them from tiredness and error, and those they care for, keep them from despair. We bring the names of those known to us before you...

We pray for all in spiritual distress, who struggle to hear your message, or to come to you in prayer. Lord, help them to heed.

We pray for ourselves. Strengthen us to come through renewed in faith in certainty.

We pray for our land and nation. Lord, help us all to endure, to do our duty and to serve you faithfully. May our land be brightened by the Light of Lord as we leave these times behind.

Lord, we ask these things, knowing that when we pray, wherever we pray, you hear our prayers. Thanks be unto you, Father Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord's Prayer Our Father

Hymn: Listen to May the Mind of Christ my Saviour(StF 504)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/may-the-mind-of-christ-my-saviour-stf-504/>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do or say.

May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self forgetting --
this is victory.

May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)

A prayer of blessing

Lord, as we go forth, may we see all the things
you long for us to notice. May we be your
people in all we do and say. Amen

Original Materials by Thomas Smith
All Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.
Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

Exodus 3: 1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law
Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock
beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the
mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he
looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not

consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and
look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not
burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned
aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,
'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he
said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from
your feet, for the place on which you are standing
is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of
your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for
he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of
my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry
on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know
their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver
them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out
of that land to a good and broad land, a land
flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the
Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the
Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of
the Israelites has now come to me; I have also
seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I
will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the
Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God,
'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring
the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with
you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I
who sent you: when you have brought the people
out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this
mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites
and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has
sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his
name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to
Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you
shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to
you." ' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say
to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your
ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,

and this my title for all generations.

Romans 12: 9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to
what is good; love one another with mutual
affection; outdo one another in showing
honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in
suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the

needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.