



# Heaton Moor United Church

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



## Church Services

Due to current COVID restrictions there will be no services at the Church building. Please see further in the newsletter for alternative arrangements.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Private Prayer

The Church will be open for private prayer from 11:15am until 12:15pm

Remembrance Sunday Reflection

Graham Adams will be doing a short reflection which will be available on our youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyhynK2FIPDTbOugBiO6D9A>

## Zoom Services and Meetings

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November Circuit Service 3.00pm service

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

Meeting ID: 872 1224 6881

Passcode: 974333

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November Coffee and Prayer 11.00am

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

Meeting ID: 953 2754 1668

Passcode: 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.

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord and Liberator Jesus Christ.

As the Government has introduced a national lockdown, for a second time, in order to contain the spread of the virus, we as a church will follow the given guidelines during this lockdown, as a sign of showing our love towards our neighbours. This decision of a second lockdown is devastating for many people, especially the poor and the vulnerable have and will continue to be hit the hardest. As a church we have been responding in different and imaginative ways to the challenges for the last seven months, by participating in online zoom services, by offering pastoral care to one another, by worshipping back at the church buildings, by working towards tackling holiday hunger etc. It is now time again, to keep continuing to do church creatively and imaginatively, trying to offer hope to our communities through prayer and faith.

We had our joint leadership team and worship group meeting last night, and have agreed to offer at least four ways of joining in worship besides other community engagements wherever possible. Firstly, our church will be open for private individual prayers, and it will be open this Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of November from 11.15am to 12.15pm, for about one hour. And in the subsequent Sundays it will be open from 11am to 12pm. Secondly, we are planning to send you a link from our church YouTube channel, where you will have a brief worship service done by the assigned worship leaders for each week. This week we are thankful to Graham Adams for preparing the video, and for offering a reflection with some prayers for this Remembrance Sunday. You can join at home in prayer and worship by watching this video preferably at 11.15 to 12.15, this Sunday or at your convenience. Thirdly, we are inviting people to do an individual or one household prayer walk in and around Heaton on Sunday at 11.15 to 12.15pm this Sunday, by walking and praying for our neighbourhood and community. Fourthly, to spend time in prayer and reflection at your home on the written reflections that are sent out to you on the given text, again preferably in these said times or at your convenience. The intention is that, though we are all scattered, we can join together in prayer and worship, affirming our unity as a church on these said times, for though we are isolated we are united in the Spirit of God. We have also decided to organise an online Loving Remembrance Service on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2020 at 6pm by Zoom.

Let us keep praying for one another during these uncertain times, and keep helping those that are vulnerable among us. If anyone needs a help either with shopping or any such needs, please don't hesitate to give a call to one of us on our staff team.

Herewith I am sending you my reflection for this Sunday along with the worship resources for your kind perusal. On this Remembrance Sunday, as we remember all those who died during the War, may we also remember several unsung heroes and heroines whose names have been forgotten or undocumented during the War. May we also commit ourselves for global peace on this Sunday.

The afternoon 3pm circuit zoom services will continue to be offered. Thanks to Johnnie for writing the reflection for last week and to JoAnne for writing this letter when I was on leave during half-term break.

On a more personal note, it will be 17 years on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November this year since I was ordained as a minister in the Lutheran Church, and I thank God for the way God has helped me all these years in my ministry at various diverse settings and contexts. All I have learnt during these years is that the call of God continues to evolve, for it is God who will lead and guide us through in this journey of faith and ministry. Thank you all for your support and encouragement to me and my ministry. I solicit your prayers for me and my future endeavours please.

May God's peace be with each of you during this lockdown and grant God's strength to cope with this situation.

Thanking you,  
With warm regards,  
Raj  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

This week I've been busy redoing a lot of my recent work to make it fit for purpose during the current COVID restrictions which has been a challenge.

Our family light trail will still go ahead as this fits in with the guidelines, but we will be leaving the trail up longer to give people more opportunity to complete it and to avoid any potential gatherings around the clues. More information on the light trail is on page 3

This Sunday is usually a time when we come together as a nation in Remembrance of our brave servicemen and women during the World Wars and later conflicts. Whilst we can't gather as we would usually the leadership and worship team have spent time in discussion to provide alternative forms of worship for the coming weeks which Sharon explains in further details on page 2. Additionally the BBC will be showing the following programmes:

- Festival of Remembrance on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 9:10pm
- Remembrance Sunday from the Cenotaph on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November from 10:15am
- Unknown Warrior 100, featuring the two minute silence at 11:00am, on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November from 10:30am.



Like many I had, and have, family members who have served our country during war time. This is a picture of my Grandfather who served in World War 2. As young children we would beg him to tell us stories of his time served but he steadfastly refused telling us he would tell us when we could understand. He told each his grandchildren once of his experiences. Like many he had endured the loss of his friends who served alongside of him and was a prisoner of war. When we asked, as we inevitably did, each year to talk about it he wouldn't preferring to tell us what he called his *greatest story*. The story of how he met my Grandma when he was at the army barracks at Carlisle and falling head over heels in love.

Once I asked him if it was it hard to talk about his time and he replied that he'd rather not dwell on something that had ended but focus on the story of him and Grandma as that was still going and the best was yet to come!

Maybe we could all take a leaf out of his book and during this second lockdown try not to focus on the restrictions of COVID but look for something that will be our great COVID story to tell in the future.

I will be out and about around Heaton Moor on Sunday on my personal Prayer Walk, thinking of the prayer points, my Grandfather and others. If you see me do give me a socially distanced wave!

Once again this newsletter contains lots of information and as always if you have any queries/comments or something you'd like included in a later edition please do not hesitate contact me.

*JoAnne*

[community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](mailto:community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)  
07340 269 354



Hello

On Thursday there was a joint meeting with the Leadership Team and the Worship group to discuss how we can continue to worship during the new lockdown. Three ways in which we can gather together as a church family on a Sunday morning were discussed.

These were:

1. Private Prayer and Reflection in the Church Building
2. Prayer walk
3. Home activity

### Private Prayer and Reflection

The church building will be open on a Sunday morning at 11.00am for an hour to allow people to come in and sit in reflection, except for the 8<sup>th</sup> November when it will be open from 11:15am. You will be able to turn up at any time during that hour and enter the worship space to sit and pray. How long you stay for is up to you, there will be no one there leading the prayers. You will not be required to book a slot to do this.

### Prayer Walk

Go for a walk on a Sunday morning, whilst on your walk say hello to people and say prayers as you walk.

### Home Activity

Sit at home and read the reflection sent out with the notice sheet or watch the prerecorded message on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyhynK2FIPDTbOuqBiO6D9A>

This is a YouTube channel which you can subscribe to if you wish, if you are not subscribed to it, you can still watch the videos.

There will be prayers provided with the newsletter to reflect the lectionary to use each week. These can be used whilst you are either reflecting in church, walking or sitting at home. If we do one, two or all three of these activities between our usual worship time we can feel connected as a church family in prayer and reflection even though we are not together.

Leadership & Worship Team

## CORONAVIRUS

# NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

From Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December national restrictions apply to England and unfortunately this does mean restrictions to not only us but also the Church building. Once again I have attached a posted outlining the restrictions and more detailed guidance can be found at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)



As the light of the world Jesus leads his followers through the dark and difficult times of our lives providing guidance and hope

## FAMILY LIGHT TRAIL

HEATON MOOR UNITED CHURCH  
Stanley Road, Heaton Moor, SK4 4HL

From Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Book your free tickets online at Eventbrite  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-light-trail-tickets-126991219155>

**Peace, Panic and Pandemic**  
Advent Bible Study Group 2020

2nd December: The vision of peaceful kingdom - Isaiah 11

9th December: The vision of a just Kingdom - Amos 8

16th December: The vision of an anti-empire Kingdom - Kingdom of God

23rd December: The vision of a Kingdom of hope - Revelation 21

Zoom details to follow.

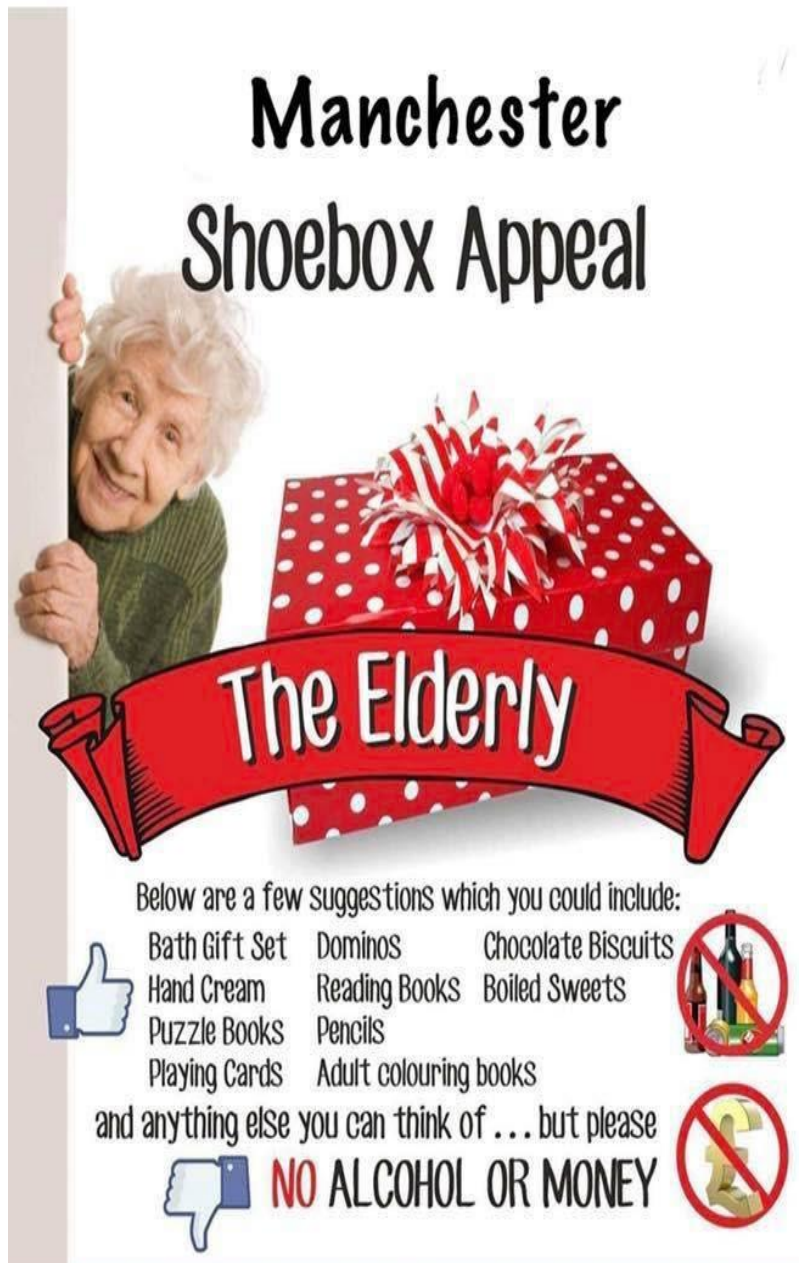
## The Manchester Shoebox

**Appeal** is running again this year. The charity, run by the Manchester Street Angels, provides gifts at Christmas to homeless people.

There are different categories – I suggest that we could assemble some boxes for the elderly. Some suggested contents are shown in the flier. You might also include a small item of warm clothing such as a hat, gloves or socks. You are asked to wrap the box in Christmas wrapping paper (wrap the lid and box separately) and enclose a Christmas card and a one pound donation to cover administration. The deadline this year is earlier to allow for quarantining the boxes.

If you have a filled box to donate please let me know by November 20<sup>th</sup>. I will pick it up from you and take it to the depot.

Deborah Symmons 432 6069



**Manchester Shoebox Appeal**

**The Elderly**

Below are a few suggestions which you could include:

- Bath Gift Set
- Hand Cream
- Puzzle Books
- Playing Cards
- Dominos
- Reading Books
- Pencils
- Adult colouring books
- Chocolate Biscuits
- Boiled Sweets

and anything else you can think of ... but please

**NO ALCOHOL OR MONEY**

The flier features an elderly woman peeking from behind a red gift box with white polka dots and a red and white striped bow. There are icons for a thumbs up, a thumbs down, and a crossed-out pound sign, along with a crossed-out alcohol bottle icon.

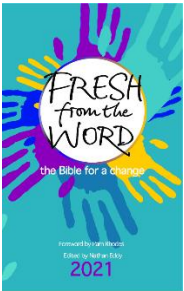


Over the school half term, in response to the government's decision not to provide free school meals during school holidays, a community group was set up named Stockport Together. Their aim is to ensure any family who are struggling due to the current pandemic are able to receive a food pack to feed their family for a week. The generosity of Stockport residents has been a fantastic thing to read about on Facebook throughout the week – we were able to help in a very small way by donating some corned beef.

We are going to be offering our School Pantry to Mersey Vale School at Christmas, further details will follow nearer the time. However one of Raj's friends Tabitha has been making these pretty face masks to raise funds for the project. They are £4 each and can be ordered through the office.

## LAST CHANCE TO ORDER

### Bible Reading notes-Fresh from the Word 2021 = £10 for the year



Themes: The Bible through the Seasons: The Underside of History-women of spirit and the word: On eagles' wings.  
Face the unknown with the spirit of discipleship, sustained by--rooted on growing; walking as one; God on the inside.  
The writers come from all traditions and from different countries and so give us new perspectives on the Scriptures.

### The URC Prayer Handbook 2021---Conversations - £5

This comes in 2 sections: the first has prayers relating to the Lectionary readings for the year and the second has prayers for everyday and extraordinary situations for deep reflection and to respond to God' voice.

If you would like to order a copy of one or both of these. please contact Anne Hunt on 442 2380 by November 8th



On Wednesday we had another delivery of chilled meals which are being provided by Space At The Table. This 12 week pilot is being ran by The URC Synod and For The Love Of Food Salford CIC.

We are distributing our meals through The Dementia Café which usually meet at the Church on Fridays.

This week it was sausage and mash with the added bonus of a banana! We received wonderful news that, despite the lockdown, the wonderful volunteers at For The Love of Food Salford CIC would continue to prepare and distribute the meals.



We received this message from Roy to share and ask that you think of Peter's family in your prayers.

Just to let you know that Peter died in Stepping Hill earlier today. He had been severely disabled since birth and cared by his parents into adulthood. For more than the 40 years since its opening he has been resident in Cheddle Lodge, a residential care home for people with severe learning and physical disabilities belonging to Stockport and District Cerebral Palsy Society now known as Supportability. Peter used to be brought to the Church by his father, Joe.

Roy M Dudley-Southern MBE





## #PrayerForTheNation

Thy Kingdom come invite us to join them for the next 4 weeks of #PrayerForTheNation

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and a number of senior church leaders are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in the month of prayer – launching on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November - the beginning of the second lockdown in England.

Throughout the month, Christians will be encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating into a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

Christians will be encouraged to follow a simple seven-day prayer cycle, praying for a specific area each day including the NHS and frontline workers, the bereaved, and those struggling with physical and mental ill-health, and for children and young people. Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

“On the brink of this second lockdown we might understandably feel helpless, anxious and vulnerable. And we do what we can to halt the spread of this virus – but we can still feel powerless. Is there anything else we can do? Really do?”

Yes. Yes there is. We can pray. Prayer is my first response when I feel out of my depth, when I need help, when I am worried, when I am concerned for those I love.

It is a gift that God gives to all - whether you are a regular pray-er or not - bring your cares and the cares of the nation to God. For God loves and hears and holds. Prayer changes things.”

As a Church we will be sharing the daily prayers over our social media sites and attached to the newsletter is a printable prayer booklet that has been produced.



## DATED EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### **14<sup>th</sup> November Family Light Trail Opens**

See information on page 3

### **18<sup>th</sup> November – 10:00**

More Than A Good Book

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86886449976?pwd=R3ZSeFQ4U1crMXRTNHBuakxGYldjQT09>

### **20<sup>th</sup> November – Deadline for shoeboxes**

See information on page 4



### **25<sup>th</sup> November – Topsy Turvy Coffee Evening 19:00**

House of Cards, contact JoAnne for further information

### **2<sup>nd</sup> December Loving Remembrance Service 18:00**

Zoom service further details to follow

### **2<sup>nd</sup> December – Bible Study Group 19:00**

Peace, Panic and Pandemic : Advent Bible Study Group

See text box on page 3 for further information

## **SCHOOLS FOOD PROGRAMME – A MESSAGE FROM LINDSAY KEMP**

We have all heard in the news recently about children who go hungry during school holidays. This not only leaves children feeling uncomfortable but makes them more vulnerable to illness – coughs, colds, flu etc. makes it harder for them to shake off the illnesses, and they are less able to learn well.

The charity FRESH (Food Really Every School Holiday) has been working to supply schools across Stockport with food, but the need has been overwhelming and so at Davenport Methodist Church we are trying to gather enough food for 65 parcels to supply for the Christmas Holiday to the school nearby, Adswood Primary School with which we already have a longstanding link.

I have put together a list of basics to help families over the Christmas holidays. The prices are taken from Sainsbury's website – you might be able to get items more cheaply.

If your Church can help, please start collecting packets and tins as soon as possible. We will have a collection date in mid December, so we can see where the gaps are and fill them, and the food will go to the school just prior to the school breaking up for the Christmas Holiday before Christmas. Fresher items (in green or red) will be added during that week. Details of where and when the collection date(s) will be sent out nearer the time.

In the meantime, it is important that we get a good spread of items – as many of each item as possible rather than 300 cans of beans and one of corned beef for example! It would also help planning if I could have some idea – nearer the time, of what has come in and what we still need to get.

Of course, for some people, buying food might be difficult, and so if it's easier to give money by cheque or BACS payment, that will also be possible. Please make your payment or cheque payable to the Stockport Circuit, and write ADSWOOD on the back of your cheque and send it to the Circuit Treasurer, Sharon Heginbotham at Heaton Moor United Church, Stanley Road, Heaton Moor Stockport, SK4 4HL, or use the reference ADSWOOD on your BACS payment to Cooperative Bank, Sort Code is 08-92-99, A/C no. is 65888238

Thank you very much for your help – I can assure you that it will be very much appreciated.

***Yours, Lindsay Kemp***

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOD PROGRAMME

Packet of dried mash)	£1.05/1.10	
Packet Pasta	1kg	£1.00
4- pack baked beans (own brand)		£1.00
2 x Tin Peas 400g @ 41p per tin		£0.82
4 tins tomatoes @28p per tin		£1.12
2 x Tin Carrots @ 40p per tin		£0.80
Jam		£0.75
Tin Corned Beef	200g	£2.00
Squash NAD	1 litre	£1.00
Pack mini apples		£0.85
Pack easy peelers		£1.86
Onions	1kg	£0.85
Carrots	1kg	£0.40
Potatoes (Bag of fresh, including baking pots)		
Cheese	400g	£2.00
Bread Medium sliced		£1.10
Total Approx		£19
Chocolate coins		£0.85



## **A LOCKDOWN PRAYER** (reproduced from [www.paulton-benefice.org.uk](http://www.paulton-benefice.org.uk))

Each morning we wake, another day consumed by the news of the coronavirus.  
Another day facing the same space, the same colours, the same sounds.  
We crave for the difference we had, the freedom we are used to and the people we met.

As the tears form, please Lord Jesus fill my uncertainties with peace and strength.  
We have always needed it, but now we know it.

We pray for all those facing isolation, hardship, hunger, fear or anxiety.  
Lord let them know you are close, and guide us, where we have time, energy or resources, to reach out and bring relief.  
We should have always done this, but now we know it.

We pray for all those who are sacrificing safety and comfort so that others can be saved.

For Doctors and nurses, and care workers.

Fill them with your spirit and let them know that they walk in your footsteps.  
It should always have been this way, but now we feel it.

Through this time, help us to draw together in spirit, even while we are apart.  
Help us to seek out the lost and the lonely, and to know that in all circumstances, however dark things may seem, we are loved and we are eternally safe.

Your love has always been like this, help us to know it.

We pray this in Jesus name, Amen

**Linda is on holiday until 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Please do not hesitate to contact another member of the team;  
Raj, Sharon or JoAnne should you require pastoral care during this time.

## **The Forgotten lives: The Parable of Ten Women**

---

### **Remembrance Sunday 2020 - Reflecting on Matthew 25: 1-13**

As a child I remember the 'parable of the ten virgins' enacted as a musical play by the moms in our local Bethany Lutheran Church in India, where all the ten women were dressed in white, holding lanterns in their hands and journeying to meet the bridegroom. On the journey they were tired and lowering the flame of their lanterns, they all fell asleep. Suddenly at repeated loud shouts, they woke up one after the other, and started to adjust the flame for more light. Five of those women carried a bottle of oil and were filling their lanterns to increase the flame, and the other five did not have sufficient oil and were struggling to trim their lanterns. These five women with no extra oil requests their friends to lend some oil, at which the others replied that it wouldn't be sufficient to both and directs them to a dealer to buy for oil at that night. The groom arrives and takes the five women who had their lanterns burning with him and entered the wedding banquet. When the other five women came and knocked the door calling him Lord, Lord, the reply that came was he does not know them. The facial expressions of the five women who made it into the wedding banquet were gloomy that their five other friends couldn't make it inside. The woman narrator of the play concludes by announcing keep awake, be prepared to meet the returning groom, for he can come at any time of the day or night. The play was written, directed, sung and enacted by the moms of our Women's fellowship in our local Church. This enacted parable stayed in my memory all along, and now when I am reading Matthew 25: 1-13, it comes alive, making me nostalgic of my local congregation.

As we reflect this parable this week, allow me firstly to discuss the role of women in parables, which provides a political hermeneutical key in understanding this parable. Nicola Slee in her article "Parables and women's experience," observes the male dominance in the parables in New Testament, which is explained by the dominant presence of male characters and their roles in the parables. She notes that in the Gospel of Matthew alone there are a collection of 104 parables and sayings, out of which there are 85 characters mentioned, where 73 are men and 12 are women. Even among the 12 women, 10 are the bridesmaids, which makes all together only 3 instances where women are mentioned in the whole 104 parables. This therefore calls us to recognise the under-representation of women and their 'invisibility' in the Scriptures, challenging the readers to read this parable by 'hearing to speech' the voices of women from this text. The parable exposes the politics of recording a parable, for as men writers & narrators they hardly mentioned any women in the parables, and exposes the politics of male dominant language in it. In verse 2, he introduces five among the ten as 'foolish' and other five as 'wise.' The male writer begins with a prejudice against the first five by calling them 'foolish.' In our mom's church play, all the ten women entered the stage as friends with lanterns in their hands, all of them were dressed in white, the first five were trying to help the other five by showing them the way towards dealers in buying the oil, and they had gloomy faces towards the end when they did not make it to the banquet. This enactment explains that if it were women recording their own stories, representing their own experience and narrating it in their own language, the parable would have had a totally different take and meaning to it. This therefore calls us to confess the politics of patriarchy in the text, and invites us to a subversive reading of the narratives of the parables from the invisible, decolonised and under-represented

communities. The politics of re-representation must be addressed in any hermeneutical engagement of Biblical texts, this parable of the ten women challenges us towards that.

Secondly, this is a parable of the ten unnamed women. Most translations have recorded the women in this parable as virgins, some others as bridesmaids, however, the politics of re-representation challenges us not to define any one's identity by their role or status or occupation. Caste system in India and elsewhere has been operated on the notions of purity and pollution, for people are divided into dominant castes and outcastes based on descent and occupation. To recognise people as people and not with any of their roles or status or occupation is an important marker for a just and equal society.

This parable then is a recognition to the fact that the divine in Jesus communicates the eschatological message of last judgement through these unnamed, under-represented and unduly presented women, whom the first century Christians till our twenty-first century Christians think are incapable of being the bearers of the Gospel. This parable of the ten unnamed women therefore is an affirmation in the strength of women as bearers, instruments, agencies, and resources of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In our mom's play, when it was written and performed by all women, one could feel the dancing of the Gospel coming alive, for the Spirit of God through our moms gripped us all to turn towards God, and made a lasting impact and impression in the lives of the audience there.

Thirdly, this parable is about keeping us awake and to wait on the hope in God, for none of us knew the day nor the hour for the return of the Son of Man (13v.) This parable is a wakeup call to each of us who have fallen into deep slumber of falsehood, seduced by false saviours of modernity. Today, secularism, market, globalisation, state etc. have been sedating communities to fall asleep offering false hopes, and deviating, even obstructing an encounter with the divine. This parable is inviting us to recognise that the divine in Christ has been visiting us daily at odd hours in different forms like in people with no food, no shelter, who are in prisons etc, which is explained towards the end of this chapter 25, and we have been busy going around to trim our lanterns and meeting the dealers of market, missing opportunities to meet and eat with the divine. This parable of ten women is challenging us to stay awake to recognise God who in Christ is coming to us in unexpected people, to meet and dine with them. In our mom's play, there was a shout from the background that said in a loud repeated voice that the bridegroom is returning. The sound was too loud that no one could miss hearing that shout. Five women got up at that shout, and other five took time to wake up. When they were trimming their lanterns, the other five then woke up and discussed about oil. Stay awake by waiting on God's hope, and the message that reverberates from this parable is to be prepared for the visitation of the divine in our localities.

Finally, this parable of ten women de-envelops a theology of unpredictability, for no one knows the day nor the hour of the return of the Son of Man. This parable contests all kinds of predictions on God, calling us to recognise that God does not act on the terms and conditions of human predictions, but God acts on God's own terms and times. Unpredictability has been a theological category, for the God of the Bible has always preferred to be a God associated in calling people, in sending people, in encountering people, in incarnating as human, in pouring out as Holy Spirit on communities who are on

margins, all happening in the fullness of God's own time. God in Christ has been returning in the unpredictability of our times, for the call is to keep awake and be prepared to meet God at God's time and God's place, which are totally different from human predictions and expectations. In our mom's play, after the shout from the background that the groom is coming, a woman dressed as bridegroom suddenly stands up from the audience to walk up to the stage to meet those women. No one noticed during the play, that the bridegroom was seated among us, for we were all so immersed in the play to actually recognise that the groom was one among us. None of us could predict in the play that the bridegroom comes from within the community of audience.

On this Remembrance Sunday, we are called to remember several unsung heroes and heroes of wars, whose lives were lost, whose histories were lost and whose memories are also lost. It was said that approximately 1.3 million Indian soldiers served in World War I, not representing their country or their geography, but risking their lives and ultimately paying their lives. Over 74,000 Indian soldiers lost their lives, fighting on a distant foreign land for a foreign cause & countries. Those Indian soldiers included Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, people of faith and no faith and had to sacrifice their lives.

On this day, may we re-member those & several other people, whose names, lives & histories have been erased & forgotten and whose lives & their deaths were unrecognised, unnoticed and undocumented. It is time to dis-member their lives, histories & local narratives of resilience as war soldiers, sepoys, jawans & several others.

Particularly during this current pandemic in 2020, there are several people's lives that are forgotten. The lives of people seeking asylum, people who are living in refugee camps, people who are struggling to live in hunger caused by the loss of jobs, people who are vulnerable, and many more whose lives are forgotten. This text invites us to recognise that God is present among such forgotten people, and our call is to listen to their plights and strive towards justice and peace.

Allow me to conclude this reflection by quoting the sermon Martin Luther preached in 1522 on this same text Matthew 25: 1-13, where he said, "Therefore, let each one see to it that he has these two together: the oil, which is true faith and trust in Christ; and the lamps, the vessel, which is the outward service toward your neighbour. The whole Christian life consists in these two things: Believe God. Help your neighbour. The whole Gospel teaches this. Parents should tell it to their children at home and everywhere. Children too, should constantly foster this Word among themselves."

Rev. Dr. Raj Bharat Patta,  
5<sup>th</sup> November 2020












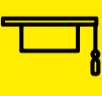














# CORONAVIRUS

# NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

5 November to 2 December  
National restrictions apply to England:

<p><b>Meeting Indoors</b> </p> <p>You cannot meet anybody socially indoors unless they are in your household or support bubble.</p>	<p><b>Meeting Outdoors</b> </p> <p>You can meet with 1 person from another household in outdoor public spaces, following social distancing. Children under 5 and anyone dependent on continuous care do not count towards the 2 person limit.</p>	<p><b>Weddings and Funerals</b> </p> <p>Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies can only take place where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover. Funerals can take place with up to 30 people in attendance.</p>	<p><b>Working from home</b> </p> <p>You must work from home if you can. If you cannot work from home you should continue to go to work (unless you are clinically extremely vulnerable).</p>
<p><b>Essential Shops</b> </p> <p>Open. Essential shops should follow COVID-secure guidelines.</p>	<p><b>Non-essential Retail</b> </p> <p>Closed. Can only open for click-and-collect and delivery services.</p>	<p><b>Exercise</b> </p> <p>You can exercise outside on your own or with your household; your support bubble; or one person from another household.</p>	<p><b>Leisure and Gyms</b> </p> <p>Closed. Except for allotments and outdoor playgrounds.</p>
<p><b>Hospitality</b> </p> <p>Closed except for takeaway, click-and-collect, drive through and delivery services. Takeaway not permitted after 22:00.</p>	<p><b>Education</b> </p> <p>Early years, schools and FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.</p>	<p><b>Healthcare Services</b> </p> <p>You can leave home for any medical reason.</p>	<p><b>Residential Care</b> </p> <p>Care homes are encouraged to provide safe, COVID-secure visiting opportunities. See the guidance for details on how to keep visits safe.</p>
<p><b>Travel</b> </p> <p>You must not travel in the UK or overseas other than for permitted reasons, including work, education, medical reasons, caring responsibilities or for essential retail.</p>	<p><b>Public Transport</b> </p> <p>You may still use public transport, but should only travel for permitted reasons and should look to reduce the number of journeys you make, avoid travelling at peak times, and walk or cycle where you can.</p>	<p><b>Overnight Stays</b> </p> <p>Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences are not allowed, except for work and other exempt purposes.</p>	<p><b>Entertainment and tourism</b> </p> <p>Entertainment venues are closed. Public gardens at visitor attractions are open.</p>
<p><b>Vulnerable People</b> </p> <p>If you are 60+ or clinically vulnerable, be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise contacts with others. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend essential health appointments.</p>	<p><b>Worship</b> </p> <p>Closed. Except for: funerals, broadcasting acts of worship, and individual prayer.</p>	<p><b>Childcare</b> </p> <p>Registered childcare and childcare activities open to enable parents to work, or for respite care. Parents can form a childcare bubble with another household for informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.</p>	<p><b>Youth Clubs and Activities</b> </p> <p>Some youth services are able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.</p>

For more information and detailed guidance visit: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)



# A Family Prayer

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing.

We thank you that we can come to you as we are – with all our fears and concerns, our difficulties and challenges.

Please draw close to each of us and those we remember before you now.

Bring to us your peace and comfort.

And fill us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your grace and hope to others.

As a country protect us, encourage us and keep us.

In the name of your Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

## Prayers for the nation

Lord Jesus Christ,  
In these dark and difficult days  
we turn our hearts to you.  
In ages past you have delivered  
our nation from disaster.  
Do it again we pray.

Give Wisdom beyond human  
wisdom to our leaders.  
Give strength beyond human  
strength to the NHS and all our  
frontline workers.  
Give comfort beyond human  
comfort to children and the  
elderly and all who grieve.

Lord, Jesus Christ. In these  
dark and difficult days, turn  
your face towards us, have  
mercy upon us, and heal our  
land we pray. Amen

Loving God,  
your Son Jesus Christ came  
that we might have life and  
have it abundantly;  
pour out your blessing upon  
our nation;  
where there is illness,  
bring your healing touch;  
where there is fear,  
strengthen us with the  
knowledge of your presence;  
where there is uncertainty,  
build us up in faith;  
where there is dishonesty,  
lead us into truth;  
where there is discord,  
may we know the harmony of  
your love;  
this we ask in Jesus' name.  
Amen.



## PRAYER FOR THE NATION

*The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and senior church leaders have called a month of Prayer for the Nation during the second lockdown.*

*The suggestion is that as many of us as possible unite to do this at 6pm each day.*

*These prayers and themes are offered as tools to enable all to participate and are intended simply as suggestions.*

Loving God,  
at this time of crisis  
when so many are suffering,  
we pray for our nation and our  
world.

Give our leaders wisdom,  
our Health Service strength,  
our people hope.  
Lead us through these parched  
and difficult days  
to the fresh springs of joy and  
comfort that we find in Jesus  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Loving Father God  
Be with us in our distress:  
with our families, friends and  
neighbours,  
our country and our world.  
Give health to the sick,  
hope to the fearful,  
and comfort to the mourners.  
Give wisdom to our frontline  
and key workers,  
insight to our government  
and patience to us all;  
Overcome disease with the  
power of your new life,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen

# Daily Themes

<b>Sunday</b>	Family, friends and loved ones
<b>Monday</b>	Schools and colleges, children and young people
<b>Tuesday</b>	Elderly, isolated and vulnerable
<b>Wednesday</b>	Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing
<b>Thursday</b>	The NHS and other key workers
<b>Friday</b>	National and Local government
<b>Saturday</b>	All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health

## **Sunday Family, friends and loved ones**

We lift to God those we hold in our hearts – praying for their health, their well-being and their sense of hope.

We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together they would not feel apart.

We ask for God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

## **Monday Schools and colleges, children and young people**

We pray for all those involved in the shaping of young lives.

We give God thanks for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education.

We pray that all might be

nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource would be made available – that all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no-one would be overlooked.

## **Tuesday Elderly, isolated and vulnerable**

We echo God's commitment to those most at risk of this virus by praying today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated: praying for their deliverance, protection and comfort.

We hold before God those who care for them – that they would be strengthened and encouraged in this work.

## **Wednesday Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing**

In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country.

We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work.

We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

## **Thursday The NHS and other key workers**

Our God is the great healer – and the agent used more than any other is the NHS. Today we voice our gratitude for those who serve this country in the National Health Service and pray for that God would prosper the work of their hands – that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care amongst us.

## **Friday National and Local government**

We pray for those who are

in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this difficult time. We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgment.

## **Saturday All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health**

*'Lord the one you love is ill....'*  
*John 11 v 3*

We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief. We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain.

We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful – that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence, comfort and strength.

## A Grace

Dear God

We are grateful for all that you have given to us – this food, each other and our health.

We pray for those who lack these things we enjoy.

Give us thank full hearts and opportunities to share your gifts with others.

We lift before you this country in these difficult days – and pray you would protect us, encourage us and keep us.

Amen.

# Inter Faith Week 2020

8–15 November

## An opportunity to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs



## #Interfaithweek

COOPERATE/LEARN/  
RESPECT/REFLECT/  
APPRECIATE/TALK/  
VOLUNTEER/MAKE  
FRIENDS/CELEBRATE

[www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

 [facebook.com/IFWeek](https://facebook.com/IFWeek)  [@IFWeek](https://twitter.com/IFWeek)



# Inter Faith Week 2020

## 8–15 November

Join the thousands of people and organisations who will be taking part in Inter Faith Week this year: faith, belief and inter faith bodies; voluntary organisations; local authorities; museums and libraries; schools; colleges; universities; chaplaincies; emergency services; hospitals; sports organisations; businesses and workplaces; and many others.

At this time of Covid-19, the Week is ever more important, helping people continue to come together; make new links and friendships; educate against prejudice and hatred; and volunteer together to help others. Lots of great ideas for socially distanced and online activities are at: [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/ideas](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/ideas)

Inter Faith Week begins each year on Remembrance Sunday, encouraging remembering together of the service of people of different backgrounds.



Visit [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org) for resources and to register and publicise your activity. And don't forget to share your activities on social media! #InterFaithWeek

Scottish Interfaith Week, led by Interfaith Scotland, will also run from 8–15 November – [scottishinterfaithweek.org](http://scottishinterfaithweek.org)



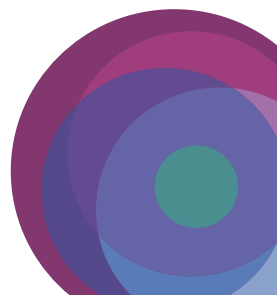
Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK  
IFN, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W0DH



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

[ifnet@interfaithweek.org](mailto:ifnet@interfaithweek.org) [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)  
Registered charity no. 1068934. Company limited by guarantee no. 3443823.  
Registered in England.

Images: IFN webinar; St Anne's RC Primary School Sunderland at Newcastle Hindu Temple; Near Neighbours East Lancs/Lancs Forum of Faiths; Board of Deputies of British Jews at Khalsa Jatha Central Gurdwara, London; One Jain/Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur/ Harrow Interfaith/ Harrow Council/ Trees for Cities tree planting; Gardens of Faith at Cardiff Met University – photo: Landscapes of Faith Project, South Wales; Remembrance, Nelson – Building Bridges Pendle. Event photos: 2019.





# Our Faith, Our Planet, Our Challenge

## Caring for God's Creation

An annual conference bringing people together to learn about climate change and to identify ways of taking practical action to reduce their carbon footprint, with information & workshops.

With **Dr Ruth Valerio**, Environmentalist, Theologian, Author and Global Advocacy and Influencing  
Director for Tearfund

**Monday 9th November 2020**

18:00pm - 20:00pm

Register your place here now

<https://ourfaithourplanetourchallenge.eventbrite.co.uk>



@MancCathedral



/ManchesterCathedral



@Manchestercathedral

**Sunday 8 November 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**

Remembrance Sunday is a time to remember those who lost their lives in the conflicts of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> world wars and to remember all those whose lives were changed by those conflicts and the many conflicts since. It is also a time to remember all those around the world whose lives have been lost or changed because of the conflicts of the world since 1945/6. Today, many people within this nation and around the world will gather at Memorials on which are engraved the names of those who did not return to the community from which they left. It will be a different form of remembrance today due to the Covid 19 restrictions but people will still gather to remember. As we do so today we pray for all who continue to work for peace within our divided and fractured world.

**Hymn:** For the healing of the nations.

StF 696, HP 409

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYFwJita\\_uAM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYFwJita_uAM)

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,

all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

*Fred Kaan (1929-2009)*

**Let us pray together**

The tradition of taking time to hold a silence of remembrance at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month came about at the end of the Great War of 1914 – 1918 and Church services of Remembrance have taken place on the nearest Sunday since that time. The tradition is still followed today and is part of our worship at home on this Remembrance Sunday. Later on in today's service we will be using words spoken at the first Remembrance Sunday and which are still used today.

For our opening prayer we say the words of Alan Gaunt's hymn 'We pray for peace'

We pray for peace, but not the easy peace  
built on compliancy and not the truth of God.  
We pray for real peace, the peace God's love  
alone can seal



We pray for peace, but not the cruel peace leaving God's poor bereft and dying in distress;  
We pray for real peace, enriching all the human race.

We pray for peace, and not the evil peace defending unjust laws and nursing prejudice,  
But for the real peace of justice, mercy, truth and love.

We pray for peace, holy communion with Christ our risen Lord and every living thing;  
God's will fulfilled on earth and all creation reconciled.

We pray for peace, and, for the sake of peace, look to the risen Christ who gives the grace we need to serve the cause of peace and make our own self-sacrifice.

God give us peace, if you withdraw your love there is no peace for us, nor any hope of it.  
With you to lead us on, through death or tumult, peace will come.  
Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**  
*Our Father .....*

**Today's Reading from the Old Testament**  
Micah 4 v 1 – 4

**Today's Gospel Reading:** John 15 v 9 – 17

**Time to Reflect**

It is important for us as human beings to have moments in our busy lives when we look back at the history which has moulded our individual and collective story. Today we look back at the story of the conflicts that have been, and remain part of, our human experience. We remember particularly the wars that engulfed the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as we reflect on how these and further conflicts have shaped our world today. History tells us something of the background to the emerging conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries. We have the opportunity to respond to that story by seeking not to repeat

the conflicts of the past and to join in the hoped for peace which was sought by those who were involved in the conflicts which ended in 1918 and 1945/6. Micah's vision of 'beating swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks' has still to be realised but that doesn't mean it is lost, for the vision remains and as Christians we recognise that God continues to challenge us to seek God's justice and peace for all within the world.

We live in a fast-changing world in which many conflicts remain which means that the ways of peace and justice remain fragile. That fragility is seen in the story of many individuals who lost their lives in the conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and in our time. We remember them all as individuals and remind ourselves year by year of the challenges which bring about conflicts within and between nations and remain mindful of how we can work for peace today. The causes of conflict are many, but the causes of peace are many too, in a world divided by inequality and injustice, where those with the least are usually the most affected by the conflicts going on around them.

As Christians we seek that way of justice and peace which Jesus shares with us and with our world. 'Greater love has no one than this but to lay down their life for their friends', he says. There have been, and continue to be, many acts of self giving in time of conflict. There are those who have refused to stand by when others are persecuted, peacemakers have died in the cause that they were so passionate about, individuals have taken the place of those who are about to die, lives have been changed for the better as a consequence of some having given up their lives so that others might live.

We see that in our reading today. Jesus was caught up in the politics and practice of his day. He too was brought into the conflicts of his day and was taken from a place of peace to the violence of the cross. To lay down his life though was not just for his friends around

him at the time but for all of us, for all time, for ever. Perhaps it is in Jesus' act of self-giving love that the rumour of war is subsumed into the deep rumour of peace, echoing through the centuries, coming to us in the midst of the clamour and disorientation of the conflicts in today's world. We are remembering today a complex area of human experience which has shaped people and nations and which continues to do so today.

Perhaps we can reflect further today on Micah's vision where 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid'. We're not there yet but today we remember the sacrifice of many in the past who brought peace to their world in their time, as we work for peace in our lives, the life of our community and the life of the world today. May we always hold close and share that rumour of peace which comes from God who upholds those we remember today. God's love casts out all fear - that place of peace is worth working for and sharing with our world today, which is a fitting way to remember all those who gave their lives in the service of others.

Take a time to sit quietly

### **An act of Remembrance**

Today is the day when we remember those who died in the First and Second world wars and in conflicts since. Their memory is treasured by families throughout this nation and across the world. If you would like to join in the traditional words used on this Remembrance Sunday please do so now.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them. We will remember them.

We keep a time of silence

Our prayers

Jesus, come among us as bringer of hope. We pray for the life of the world, for its diversity of culture and experience and life and faith. We pray for this world, for its leaders, and pray that all may work for justice and peace throughout the world.

Jesus come among us as bringer of healing. We pray for those whose lives have been and continue to be affected because of the conflicts of our world. We pray for those who through their skill in medicine bring healing to many people. We pray for all those who work in the conflict zones of the world as they seek to bring medical care in difficult circumstances.

Jesus come among us as bringer of light. We pray for hope for our world. We give thanks for the many people who bring light and hope into their world. We pray for the Church as we seek to discover more of the hope that God sets before us. We pray that the light of the risen Christ will give hope, as light shining in the darkness.

Jesus come among us as bringer of peace. In the unresolved questions that this day brings, may we find peace. In bringing the memories of those who have died, may we find peace. In the world in which we live today, may we find peace.

We bring our prayers in Jesus name. Amen

**Hymn: Listen to** Graham Kendrick's song 'Beauty for Brokenness' StF 693 or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYadhF9J-d4>

Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world

this is our prayer.

Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset,  
your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for all people,  
trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.

Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary,  
freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned --  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame  
until your justice burns  
brightly again;  
until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

Creator God, we commit to you the needs of the whole world. Where there is hatred, give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is distrust, faith; where there is sorrow, hope, where there is darkness, light. And may the blessing and peace of God remain with us, with those for whom we have prayed, and all we remember today who are and have been caught up in the conflicts of this world.  
Amen.

Original Materials by Philip Wagstaff

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

### **Micah 4 v 1 – 4**

In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised up above the hills.  
Peoples shall stream to it,  
<sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come and say:  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall arbitrate between strong nations  
far away;  
they shall beat their swords into  
ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more;  
<sup>4</sup> but they shall all sit under their own vines  
and under their own fig trees,  
and no one shall make them afraid;  
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has  
spoken.

## John 15 v 9 - 17

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.