

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

“Peace be with you” said the risen Jesus Christ thrice to the frightened disciples who were living in a locked door experience. May the peace offered by the risen Jesus be with us all during this Easter season.

Our church building will be open for worship from this Sunday, and thanks to the leadership team, the property team, the stewards, our staff colleagues and the members of our congregation for your support and co-operation. The afternoon 3pm Circuit service on Zoom continues to be offered and please do join them if possible.

Thank you for extending your support and prayers to the bereaved family of Anne Hunt at her funeral on Tuesday.

We had our staff meeting this week, and discussed our collective plans for the future.

I was attending interfaith leaders meeting with Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to hear about his vision and plans for this area.

On Saturday, we have Manchester and Stockport District Synod meeting and URC Northwest synod meeting on Zoom, and seek your prayers.

Herewith I am sending you the reflection and the worship resources for this week.

Let us keep praying for the young people at Heatons, as the current pandemic and the lockdown has had a great impact on their lives and well-being.

Now that we can meet people in the garden, and if any of you want a pastoral visit, please do let us know, so that we can arrange a visit or a walk.

May you all have a blessed week, and let us uphold all those in need of healing in our prayers.

Thanking you,

With warm regards,

Raj

16th April 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

It's been a short week for me this week as I took a day off to celebrate my Mum's 70th birthday.

I am still busy with the paperwork aspect of my role - reading government guidelines, preparing risk assessments and planning sessions ready for our groups to start. I'm also thinking of our next family event which will be at Whit.

In one of my walks earlier in the week I spoke with families at Thornfield Park who expressed concern about the increase in antisocial behaviour - please can I ask you to pray for myself and the team as we can think of how we as a Church can be involved in the community response to this.

So . . . we are back to the building for our Sunday Service (yey!) as you arrive I hope you notice the squares that Sharon has installed on the staircase, a wonderful way to showcase the contributions we received. There is still time for you to submit a square, please speak with Sharon for a template.

If you have anything you would like included in the weekly notices please let me know. As always if you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

JoAnne

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www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk



Heaton Moor United Church



Heaton Moor United Church



heaton_moor_united_church

A HUGE THANK YOU

To everyone who donated to our JustGiving page and to those who shared the link. We raised more than our target - £1060 has been sent to UNICEF.



Thursday Prayer

God of all,
We yearn for your coming kingdom,
For the promise of peace,
For that long-awaited day
When lions will lie with lambs,
When weapons of war
Will be made into tools to tend the land.
But for now, all is not as it could be.
In too many places and situations,
Discord prevails,
There is much suffering and pain.
Where tempers rage, we pray for calm,
Where conflict is entrenched, we pray for hope,
When streets become battlegrounds, we pray for kinship.
For the way of Jesus is peace,
May we be peacemakers with him,
In the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jonnie Hill, URC Ordinand

A prayer for Prince Philip



Lord God

We give thanks for the long life of Prince Philip, for all that he has contributed to our nation and beyond, and for his support of our Queen. We pray that he will be at rest trusting in the grace of God.

We remember before you Her Majesty the Queen and her family praying that they will know your comfort and strength in the days to come.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

The President and Vice-President of the Conference

Rev Anne Hunt, Angela, Dave and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness prayers and support at this sad time.

Donations can be made in Anne's Memory to Christian Aid.

www.memorygiving.com/annehunt



Christian Aid Week 10 -16 May 2021.

STOP the climate crisis.

Climate change affects us all, however, Rose (Kenya) a 68 year old makes a six-hour round trip every other day to collect water carrying a 25 litre container so her family can farm, drink and wash.

The corona virus pandemic has made the lack of water more critical for hand washing to help keep she and her family safe from the virus.

With a reliable source of water Rose could grow fresh vegetables to feed her family and sell extra food. She walks 6 miles each day for fresh water carrying a 25 litre container.

Jean James plans to walk 6 miles a day Monday to Friday during Christian Aid Week carrying an EMPTY container.

If you'd like to sponsor her please contact her directly (f you can Gift Aid that's brilliant)

Cream Tea - That sounds good doesn't it? For a donation to Christian Aid you can have one delivered to your door by Jean and her friends. Each cream tea will consist of; 2 scones, Cornish cream, jam, tea bag.

Deliveries will take place during Christian Aid week Monday to Friday (10 to 14 May)

Alternatively if you'd like it on Saturday (15 May) pick up from church between 10am and midday

Please let Jean know the day and number of teas you want by emailing or telephone

Jeanjames9363@gmail.com

0161 432 5455

Do you want to challenge yourself this Christian Aid Week? Why not take on CA 300,000 steps to get fit and raise funds. Find out more and sign up at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/challenge-yourself>

One or two people are doing a House to House collection. If you wish to donate there will be envelopes available in the church entrance for you to take Week beginning 3 May to be returned 10 or 17 May.

Westbury Talks—The next in this series of informative talks will be on Zoom on the 8th May 2021 10.30am

Sheila Feilding Manager of the Blackburn CAP Office talks about the work of Christians Against Poverty and how important and valued this work is in our town **The Talk is open to everyone free of charge on Zoom. To register – email malbreeze@me.com Telephone 01254 674862 Mobile 07825662203**



Audrey was born in Blackbarrow (2 miles south of Windermere) in the summer of 1938. She was daughter of Lena and Albert Fell and sister to Edgar.

Audrey was the only girl from the village school to pass her 11+ and so she followed her brother to Ulverston Grammar School which was a 45 minute bus ride.

As the village had very little entertainment Audrey spent many evenings in Ulverston where her aunt lived, before getting the last bus home at 10pm, but most of the time was spent at the local Methodist church youth club and badminton club.

Her first job was at the Blue Mill (World Famous Dolly Blue) combining this with training in shorthand and typing.

When she was 20 Audrey moved to Newcastle upon Tyne (where her brother and sister in law lived) working as secretary in a wholesale flower business. She joined the Ladies Badminton team in Gateshead and the Westerhope tennis club (she always watched Wimbledon on TV) and attended the local Methodist church.

It was in 1962 that David was sent to Newcastle to work in the local branch of the Leeds company he worked for and lodgings were found for him with Audrey's brother's mother in law. Audrey went there for tea and that is where she met David and church was part of both their lives and so their story begins.

David wonders if this might be called a whirlwind courtship.....

- David left Newcastle to go back to Leeds
- September went to meet Audrey's parents
- October Audrey found lodgings in Horsforth (not far from David) and worked as secretary with Western Electric who at that time provided sound for cinema tickets...free tickets a perk of the job!!
- November asked Audrey's parents' permission to marry their daughter
- January 1963 they returned as they had found a flat in Leeds and wished to set a wedding date for March 16
- February an appointment with the Minister
- They married at Neville Road Methodist Church followed by a reception at the Newby Bridge Hotel.

They spent 6 months in the flat when David's job took them to Leyland where they bought their first house.

In February 1964 Pamela and Paul were born which was a complete surprise to everyone including the hospital staff. Specialists from Preston were called to Audrey and the twins and they went home three weeks later.

On 14 December 1966 Stephen and Nigel were born. It was reported in the Leyland Gazette, "Twins twice in 2 years!"

In February 1967 six weeks after Stephen and Nigel were born the family moved back to Leeds...what a remarkable lady Audrey was!!

In August 1969 the family moved to Stockport and joined Heaton Moor Methodist Church and have had a key part of the church family ever since. Audrey returned to work as a PA at Tilcon Ready Mix Concrete for a further 13 years.

Audrey's hobbies included tatting, crocheting, knitting, sewing (making lots of dresses for Pamela) and later when the children were grown up she did a tailoring course following by decoupage and tapestry.

Caravanning played a big part in the life of the family. They belonged to Bessacarr Owners' Club and the Caracamp section of the Brookdale Club in Bramhall where they made many friendships which continue to the present time.

Audrey was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in her early 40s and for about 10 years life carried on fairly smoothly. However, as Audrey's healthy and mobility declined she needed sticks, then an electric scooter and finally a wheelchair (leading to the wheelchair accessible vehicle which put an end to caravanning)

Pamela recalls a visit from her Mum, a two hour bus trip, to spend the day with her new grandson. They went to the baby clinic and enjoyed the very special time together before the long journey home.

Many of us reading this remember Audrey always looking lovely in her pastel colours and beautiful soft wavy hair. She wanted to know about our lives and families and never (to my knowledge) mentioned her own disabilities.

Their home was always welcoming to any who called and many of us have eaten there, either a "trial" of a banquet to be served for some special occasion at church when their family and dear friends served and washed up.

The last 14 months has been particularly difficult due to Covid – but even then she was uncomplaining and listened to family 'phone calls and to hymns and music played by David and Pauline.

I feel very privileged to have been Audrey's pastoral visitor. She was an amazing lady, her warm smile and twinkling eyes, interest in everyone she met was very touching and humbling. We have memories of a courageous, inspiring woman who it was a privilege to know and love.

Our love and sympathy go to David, an inspirational husband, Pamela, Paul, Stephen, Nigel, Hannah, Matthew and Sarah and their families.

One of the last conversations I had with Audrey was how I thought of her "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain".

What a dancer she was.

By Jean James



Prayers from Linda



Grief Prayer

O Lord, our God, thank you that you are our rock and fortress, we can always find refuge in you. You have said that whoever follows you will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. As we feel the darkness of grief for all the families and friends who we have lost, shine your light on our lives. Remind us that our hope is found in you. May your love surround us, your Spirit guide us, your voice cheer us, your peace calm us, your shield protect us, and your wisdom arm us, wherever you may lead me. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Looking for work

Lord Jesus Christ, a lot of people have lost their jobs in the pandemic and they are very worried about their families and their finances, we know you calmed the wind and waves with your word. As we endure the uncertainty and confusion of a job search, we pray that you would calm our minds in this storm. Fill our hearts with your peace and our mind with your wisdom. I praise you for everything you have given us and we ask you with humble confidence to provide the right job for us now. Make clear your will for our life. May your grace, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us always. In your name, Amen.

If anyone would like to share a Prayer
with the church family, please call Linda
on 07564839380 or
E-mail lindawfleming625@gmail.com.



No names required because
God Knows.

Eco Church Workshop



Eco Church Workshop

**Are you passionate about God's creation?
Would you like to become an Eco Church?**

If that's a yes, please come along on 8th May
At 10:30am -12pm on Zoom

Please register with Daleen ten Cate
Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk





YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PROMS ON ZOOM

An evening of Classical Music to Celebrate St. Georges Day on Saturday 24th April at 7.00pm . This is normally held in church and is a fundraiser for the 'Together Making A Difference Project' which is the umbrella for the work of Mal Breeze our Community Minister as he works in the community and all money raised supports things like holiday clubs, school assemblies, Memory Café, various environmental projects and many, many more!!! This year as it's on Zoom a suggested donation of £5 and if you would like to make a do-nation cheques should be made out to Westbury Gardens URC TMAD account and sent to Mal at 8 Kingfisher Close, Blackburn BB1 8NS *"Come along to a really enjoyable Zoom evening of celebration of British tradition! Always lots of fun and great music to sing along too"* Elizabeth and Maurice Bradley *"If you love music—classical, film soundtracks, choral, popular music— 'Proms on Zoom' will be right up your street....or....right on your screen! Come and join us and bring a flag and be ready to wave it. Don't miss out—the concert is a real tonic and let's your spirits soar. Looking forward to seeing you there!"* Elaine Smith For more information and to sign up please Email Mal on malbreeze@me.com or phone 01254 674862 and he will be delighted to send you the Zoom Link.

'Christ is Risen', and yes 'He is indeed Risen.'

The key verse for our meditation is Mark 16:3. *"Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"* This was a question asked by the women disciples of Jesus Christ as they came in the early morning to anoint the dead body of Jesus Christ in the sepulchre. It was the Lord, who rolled the stone away from the entrance of the tomb and resurrected Jesus Christ from the bondage of death. This stone, which was cut from a rock (Mk 15:46) to lock the body of Jesus Christ, happens to be the first witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I would like to entitle my meditation, as "Rolling Stone Gathers no Moss". This is a very famous phrase, which we often use and the meaning of this phrase is that, "Mosses need a stable and a moist environment to grow, and if a stone is rolling it does not provide this environment, and therefore rolling stone gathers no moss". And when I use this phrase as a title to my meditation, I mean that this rolling stone on the tomb of Jesus, when is rolled by the Lord during the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it also gathers no moss and tramples the roots of sin and death to grow no more. The resurrection rolling stone gathers no moss, but provides an environment for new life, new strength and new hope to live in all freedom and justice. If the resurrection rolling stone gathers no moss, and then what does it gather? I would like to bring out three prominent things that this stone gathered.

1. The Resurrection Rolling Stone Gathered the Activity of God

As the women disciples pose the question, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" in 3 v, and when they looked up already the stone has been rolled away, for the stone was very great (4v). Who would have rolled that great stone away? Who would have had the strength and courage to roll that great stone away, when there was a z ++ security cover at the tomb of Jesus? It was precisely the activity of the Living God. The God of justice and liberation could not have tolerated the death of an innocent Jesus, who had an unjust trial and therefore the activity of God is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the pangs of death. The activity of God proclaims and professes that death has no more strength over justice, for justice is always triumphant. God has chained death in the empty tomb of Jesus Christ and made resurrection a reality. Death is swallowed up in victory of resurrection, the sting of death is broken and the victory of grave is overcome. "Thanks be to God, who gives the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor 15: 57) The resurrection rolling stone gathers the activity of God and makes Jesus' tomb an empty one.

Today there are several people who are bonded in a tomb under the rubric of oppression, gender discrimination, class inequality, hunger, poverty, violence and they ask, "who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" The resurrection rolling stone challenges all of us to gather the activity of the Living God. All those who affirm their faith in this Living God, are today called on to carry on the work of the activity of God, to liberate these people from their death tombs and spread the gospel of new life. "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." (I Cor 15:14). Since we affirm that Christ is risen, our preaching and faith should make us to be the channels of God's grace in granting life to all those who are denied life.

2. The Resurrection Rolling Stone Gathered the Attention of People

The resurrection rolling stone, as it rolled away it gathered the attention of people, particularly the disciples. More than to make Christ go out of the tomb, the stone was rolled from the door of the tomb to make people come in and witness the empty tomb. The women disciples of Jesus were first ones to draw their attention to the rolling stone and the empty tomb. And as these women missionaries of resurrection carried the message of empty tomb, the men disciples came and went into the empty tomb and found the linen of Jesus in its own position, since the body of Jesus Christ was already resurrected from there. If the stone was not rolled away from the entrance of the tomb, many people would not have seen the empty tomb of Jesus, and would not have witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death. If such was the case, people would have built a huge tomb and monument with a huge epitaph on it in that place for Jesus Christ and would have killed the values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But Jesus Christ is risen indeed, and that stone was rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. That rolling stone gathered the attention of the people, because death was chained and the clutches of injustice were arrested once for all in that empty tomb by Jesus Christ.

Today, when many across the globe are shackled in the jaws of various situations of death, the earth is in the clutches due to the climate change, violence, attacks and persecutions on minorities, attacks on migrants and as believers in the resurrection, do we draw our attention to these our fellow human beings? Are we there beside them in times of suffering and pain? Does our message of resurrection have any meaning, relevance and hope to our neighbours caught up in the web of serious and heinous situations? Today, the challenge is let us as those celebrating Easter attend to our neighbours, address their needs, and make resurrection a reality in their lives. If we cannot roll the great stone away from the entrance of the tombs of death where several of our friends are trapped and caught up, the issues of our friends will be unattended and resurrection of Christ remains as an idle tale (Lk 24: 11) and not as a reality.

3. The Resurrection rolling Stone Gathered the Allegations of Injustice

As the news spread that the stone was rolled away, Jesus Christ was resurrected from death, immediately the Chief Priest and elders gathered up to bribe the security personnel to lie that the body of Jesus Christ was stolen in the night by his disciples, and resurrection of Christ was just a story and not history. (Mt 28:11-15). If the resurrection rolling stone was not rolled away by God, and if the body of Jesus Christ remained in the tomb for several years, the enemies of life would have had their day. But since the stone was rolled away, since Christ was resurrected, there were allegations made by the proponents of injustice. Firstly, death would have thought, there is no defeat for it, for it has conquered everyone till then, but with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it had to allege, "the sting of my death is broken and the victory of the grave is defeated." Secondly injustice would have thought, through its means it has brought Jesus on to the Cross and then to the grave, for it fooled everyone in the power and in the pew, but with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it had to allege, "I, injustice has always been a winner thus far, but now am chained and sentenced for life not to rule over people and I am lost now."

Today, when people stand for justice and speak for the equality and dignity of life, several allegations are made on them. Scores of charge sheets are written on them who strive for life in all its fullness. But ultimately truth and justice are always triumphant. The resurrection of Jesus Christ inspires all of us to live for justice and truth, and counter all forces of injustice

and falsehood with courage. 'Stones are thrown at fruit bearing trees.' In our journey towards justice and liberation, let not any allegations demoralise us, and let us be remembered that the spirit of resurrection is always with us to resist those forces and take us home safe and secure.

May the God who raised Jesus from death grant us all a new life to live in a new way with a new hope of resurrection. Resurrection rolling stone gathers no moss, but gathers new life and inspires all of us to witness and channel that new life to all around us. Christ is Risen, and He is risen indeed.

Raj Bharat Patta,
16th April 2021



The Methodist Church

United Stockport Circuit (Manchester and Stockport District)

A Message from the Superintendent Minister

April 13th 2021

Dear Friends,

In my letter this week, I want to invite you to attend the **Greater Manchester Citizens Mayoral Assembly 2021 on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 6pm**. Let me tell you a bit more about it.

Greater Manchester Citizens stands in the tradition of ‘community organising’ as espoused by Barack Obama, and some would say, Jesus himself! Community Organising is for people who want change; for people who perhaps feel frustrated or angry with the ways things are and want to do something about it; for people who feel powerless, or worried about the direction the country is going. One of the biggest and most successful community organisations in the UK is Citizens UK. Citizens UK is an alliance of diverse local communities working together for the common good, and Member Institutions, all of which are deeply rooted in their local areas, are enabled to develop their voice and work together for real change. The work of Citizens UK has led to change of such national significance as the Living Wage with its £1.3 billion of wages won for low-paid workers, through to neighbourhood improvements such as zebra crossings outside primary schools.

In Greater Manchester, Citizens UK operates through a local ‘chapter’ Greater Manchester Citizens (GMC) which is an alliance of churches, mosques, synagogues, trade unions, schools, universities and faith groups. It was formed in 2017 at a founding Mayoral Assembly where a thousand people came together at Lowry Theatre to engage with the Mayoral candidates on the issues that matter most to citizens across Greater Manchester. On that occasion, there were testimonies about Hate Crime, the Living Wage, Homelessness and Social care. **What is really important for you to know is that all Methodists in Manchester and Stockport are members of Greater Manchester Citizens by virtue of the Methodist District being a signed-up Member Institution.** Myself and Revd Ian Rutherford (from Central Hall Manchester) are on the leadership team and this April GMC will be holding another Mayoral Assembly prior to the elections, which will, of course, be online because of the ongoing pandemic. After an extensive period of listening within communities back in the summer of 2019 and researching throughout 2020, a strong agenda is being put forward to the Greater Manchester Mayoral candidates – these issues include cleaning our air and transport, ending child poverty and calling for

better services around mental health. This Assembly will be the largest gathering of people during the Greater Manchester Mayoral Election.

Its perhaps important for me to say this is not a hustings event, rather an opportunity for members of GM Citizens Institutions to come together with the Mayoral Candidates – Andy Burnham and at least one other - to express our hopes for Greater Manchester in the coming year. Amidst celebrating our institutions and sharing powerful stories, communities from across the membership will share specific ‘asks’ of the Mayoral candidates, inviting them to make pledges on reducing poverty, improving mental health, and reforming transport and the environment.

So please let me reiterate my invitation to you; if you have never heard of Citizens UK or Greater Manchester Citizens but think it sounds interesting or intriguing, if you are already involved, or if you would like to know more and perhaps get involved. You need to register for the event which you can do by clicking here (if you are reading this online) or can access a computer, otherwise call or email me and I will register you.

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/citizens-uk-greater-manchester-assembly-2021-2?>

Please remember to tick the box to show you are with ‘Manchester and Stockport Methodists’

Greater Manchester Citizens Mayoral Assembly 2021 on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 6pm -8pm.

It would be a wonderful witness across the whole of Greater Manchester to our commitment to the communities in which God has placed us, if there were lots of Methodists present.

And, as we begin to hope for the end of the pandemic and the lockdown, please remember as always:

In this time of isolation and separation may we feel the unity of God’s spirit in the bonds of peace and love which connect us to one another.

- 1. When we feel lonely let us know that in Christ we are never alone.**
- 2. When we feel isolated may we be reminded that within the worldwide Body of Christ we are always connected.**
- 3. When we need a hug help us to feel the warmth of God’s embrace**
- 4. When we are compelled to keep our distance, may we be drawn close to each other within the Spirit of Companionship that flows from God and which moves through and between each one of us.**

With love and blessings. **Rev Cathy**

NOTICES

Worship

See your local church notices for details but for the time being we are continuing our Circuit wide Zoom service at 3pm on Sundays. Login details as usual as follows:

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

Meeting ID: 872 1224 6881 Password: 974333

Circuit Prayer

As we continue in some form of lockdown, let's continue to say this prayer together when we can, at 11am on a Sunday morning if we are not in church. This way we stay connected in a very really and tangible way with all those who are not yet able to come back to church. You can also read more about each church on the Circuit Website www.stockportcircuit.org.uk

God of Love and Life, we pray to you this morning for the life the United Stockport Methodist Circuit, for our sisters and brothers who belong to (*pausing briefly to reflect after each name*):

Christ Church Methodist /URC , Dialstone Lane Methodist Church , Davenport Methodist Church , Edgeley Community Church , Hazel Grove Methodist Church, Heaton Mersey Methodist , Heaton Moor United Church, Jubilee Methodist Church, (Marple Bridge), Marple Methodist Church, The Ridge Methodist Church, (Marple), Romiley Methodist Church, St. Johns Methodist Church, (Cheadle Heath), Tiviot Dale Methodist Church (centre of Stockport), Trinity Methodist Church, (Bramhall Lane), Windlehurst Methodist Church (High Lane), Woodley Methodist Church

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. We ask that this time of crisis might pass and that those who suffer might find comfort and strength within the knowledge of your grace, revealed through the kindness and compassion of the people of God. Eternal God, though the self-offering of your Son you have filled our lives with your presence. Help us in our sufferings and trials. Fill us with hope and strengthen us in our weakness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Citizens UK: Greater Manchester Assembly 2021

6pm - 8pm | Tuesday 27th April | Online

Join communities across Greater Manchester to share specific asks on our priorities of reducing poverty and poor work conditions, improving mental health, and reforming our transport and environment.

Registration is open to member institutions and invited guests.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://actionnetwork.org/events/citizens-uk-greater-manchester-assembly-2021-2>

Greater Manchester
citizens



/GreaterManchesterCitizens/



@GMCitizens



Laura Evans (tbc)
Conservative Party Candidate



Andy Burnham
Labour & Co-operative Party Candidate

Sunday 18th April 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Come Lord Jesus; bring assurance of your presence right where I am, here and now.

Hymn Jesus is King and I will extol him.

StF 327. Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WnLnaQUes>

Jesus is King
and I will extol him,
give him the glory,
and honour his name;
he reigns on high,
enthroned in the heavens --
Word of the Father,
exalted for us.

We have a hope
that is steadfast and certain,
gone through the curtain
and touching the throne;
we have a priest
who is there interceding,
pouring his grace
on our lives day by day.

We come to him,
our Priest and Apostle,
clothed in his glory
and bearing his name,
laying our lives
with gladness before him --
filled with his Spirit
we worship the King:

'O Holy One,
our hearts do adore you;
thrilled with your goodness

we give you our praise!
Angels in light
with worship surround him,
Jesus, our Saviour,
for ever the same.

Wendy Churchill

Let us pray together

Lord God, as we continue to celebrate the season of Easter with all the joy and hope it brings, we give you our thanks and praise. As we are experiencing springtime and the resurrection of nature after the dark chill of winter, we give you our thanks and praise.

As we reflect on the faithfulness of your immeasurable, eternal love for all, we give you our thanks and praise.

Forgive us, Lord;

if we have lost the wonder and delight of the Easter good news.

when we do not have real regard for your creation, and live selfishly.

for those times when we neglect to respond to your care for us, by our inaction.

(We bring to God, those things which we are sorry for)

Jesus' words assure us of this love. "My child, your sins are forgiven." Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

Time to Reflect

I'm sure we all remember "I don't believe it!" the catchphrase of Victor Meldrew, in the 1990's sitcom "One Foot in the Grave." It's a phrase we can almost hear going round Jesus' followers in our Gospel reading today. They

were frightened and incredulous, which are normal reactions when the boundaries of our experience and knowledge are challenged. We don't always accept and believe what we see and are told. (I think there are still those who believe the moon landing in 1969 was a hoax!!)

After Jesus had given them physical proof that he was indeed alive, he went on to link their knowledge of scripture with their current experiences, explaining this was part of God's greater plan and they were part of it. His teaching expanded their thinking, preparing them for the start of their journey from the familiar into a new future, which involved risk, anxiety and uncertainty.

Generations of Christians have wrestled with the question of the best way to live following the teaching of Jesus in their own time and situations. Over the last year our daily life has not been normal, and many have been trying to hold on to what they know and find what God may be saying to us in our time. As we are emerging from the coronavirus restrictions, we are aware that much has changed within people's hearts and minds, and we are trying to process how to move forward as the people of God.

There are parallels here with this event in Luke's gospel; both situations are extraordinary and isolating, with an uncertain future on many fronts, and in both instances, Christ's followers are called to witness to what he reveals of God's love.

So, now in these uncertain and unsettling times as we claim "I do believe it!" we face the question of how we share the gospel in our new and different circumstances.

May God send us His vision and wisdom.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

We pray for our world, for the environment and people. That all who have any power or influence will work with integrity and wisdom, and seek to bring healing to our planet, and peace and justice to all people.

We pray for the church; for those who are persecuted and suffer for their faith; for those who have experienced hurt instead of healing; for those who are wondering and doubtful. Lord bring your revelation and transformation.

We pray for family, friends and neighbours who are living through difficult times. Particularly, who are struggling with bereavement, isolation and loneliness, exacerbated by lockdowns.

(We call them to mind and bring them to God)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: In Christ Alone StF 351

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words. Listen to it here or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCeSOY5tisI>

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! -- who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine --
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,

this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!
Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

A prayer of blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you.
*(Original Materials .by Revd. Maree Farrimond)
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Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you and give
you peace. Amen

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team. We aim to continue to provide these resources until the end of August 2021.