

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

The peace of Jesus Christ, which passes all understanding be with you all. Hope you are all doing well.

Many thanks to Graham who is the leading the service this Sunday both on YouTube and at the Church. It is good to know that many are engaging in worship through different ways, some by attending the service at church building, some following the services on YouTube, some by attending the circuit service on Zoom, some through Super Sunday events on zoom, some by following Songs of Praise on the Tele, some by reading the reflections which are sent out with the weekly notices and some saying prayers at home. One of the learnings during the lockdown is that, worship services are now available on various different platforms and in different formats and we have learnt to engage with either one of them or all of them.

Last week, I was visiting one of our friends in their gardens on a pastoral visit. It was a time of some catch up, a time of prayer, a time of reading Bible and also was a time where we had a 'communion' shared in the garden. After the third lockdown, this was the first 'breaking of bread' in a garden, and I should say it was quite a moving spiritual experience. So, if any of you are interested in a garden pastoral visit, do please let me or the office know and we can arrange it for you.

Christian Aid week begins next week, and our Church has always been on the forefront in supporting Christian Aid, and thanks to Jean for her efforts and initiatives towards it. Let us join our hands in supporting Christian Aid.

India continues to reel from a deadly second covid wave, and the situation is very 'grave.' It is disturbing to receive every

day, the news of so many known people dying. Appreciate you all for your prayers. After our Prayer Vigil for India last week, the circuit has now received an appeal from the National Council of Churches in India, and a just-giving page has been set up in the Circuit website. Herewith I am enclosing that link seeking your support: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stockportcircuit?utm_term=4z8mdDw7a

The circuit is planning to host a 'mission forum' next week on zoom on the 13th May 2021 at 7pm, where the Task Groups will share their visions and plans. The details of it are on the circuit website.

Herewith I am sending you the reflection for this week and the worship resource for your kind perusal.

May you all have a blessed week. May God's grace be with you all.

Thanking you,

Regards,

Raj

7th May 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

It was lovely to see some of our members last week as I delivered some notices whilst Linda is on holiday - after a week of meeting after meeting it was great to be back outside and chatting to people face to face.

Unfortunately, due to the weather I have been unable to be out and about this week so I continue to plan, plan, plan ready for when we can gather in bigger groups.



The notices this week contain a few requests for items or financial donations - as always please do not feel pressured to give to everything.

If I can be of any help or if you just fancy a coffee and a chat please do not hesitate to contact me.

JoAnne

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

07340 269 354

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

 Heaton Moor United Church



Heaton Moor United Church

 heaton_moor_united_church

Office Opening

JoAnne and I are returning to the office :

Monday 10-2

Tuesday 10-2

Wednesday 10-2

Thursday Closed

Friday 10-1





Margaret Anderson

The Funeral Margaret is taking place
on Friday 14th May

The cortege will call at Priestnall Court at 09:25 before picking the family up at 42 Norris Hill Drive. It will then stop at the corner of the square at around 09:50 and then stop at Heaton Moor United Church for prayers before proceeding to Stockport Crematorium.

Please light a candle at this time and say a prayer to remember her

facebook Request: Catherine, a staff nurse on Jasmine Ward at Stepping Hill hospital is looking for donations for comfort bags. They provide comfort bags, through the charity Cradle, for bereaved women who have been admitted onto Jasmine Ward unexpectedly and or in an emergency. The bags aim to bring some comfort during a difficult and stressful time. The comfort bag contains a letter to bereaved parents signposting anyone affect to Cradle's online and local ambassador support.

Cradle are currently looking for donation of travel size toiletries for the comfort bags. If you have any please let JoAnne know.

For more information on Cradle please visit www.cradlecharity.org



My Shopping List

Jars of pasta sauce
Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots)
Tinned tomato
Tinned kidney beans
Tinned chick peas
Baked beans
Custard / Rice pudding
Tinned fruit
Jam / peanut butter
Dried red lentils
Crisps and child friendly goodies

School Pantry

We will be providing our school pantry once again this half term to Mersey Vale school. We have also been approached by another school to provide emergency first aid food bags for families in need.

We will be having another car park collection on

Saturday 15th May
between 10:00 – 12:00

If you would like further information, please contact JoAnne on community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk or 07340 269 354

Thursday Prayer

Pray for India

I will say of the Lord, 'You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'.

God of power and might we lift our brothers and sisters in India to you.

We pray for your protection,

We pray for your provision,

We pray for the nations of earth to have compassion.

When people are in need, you are our refuge.

When people are scared, you are our refuge.

When people are mourning, you are our refuge.

Compassionate God, draw close to those who seek your refuge today.

Amen.

Prayer from Christian Aid

Prayer Vigil for India

A recording of the online prayer vigil for the people of India that was held last week can be found at <https://soundcloud.com/united-stockport-circuit/prayer-vigil-india>

Many of the attendees at the vigil asked "How can we help?" In response to this United Stockport Circuit has set up a JustGiving page to support the work of The Christian Service Agency in India.

The Christian Service Agency is the Service Arm of the National Council of Churches in India. More information about the work they did during the first wave of the pandemic and what they are aiming to do during this second wave can be found on the JustGiving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stockportcircuit>

In view of the two online donation pages we have operating at the moment the JustGiving page for our Twin Your Vaccine initiative is now closed. A total of £1090 was raised for UNICEF. Thank You to all who donated either through this page, directly to UNICEF or through other vaccine initiatives.



13th May – 23rd May 2021

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

By dedicating the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray “Come Holy Spirit” it is hoped that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow Him. Specifically each and every Christian across the globe is invited to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their “Yes” to God’s call.

Prayer Journal

Thy Kingdom Come have produced a downloadable prayer journal which can be found here
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2021-03/TKC%20Prayer%20Journal%202021%20DOWNLOAD.pdf>

This prayer journal is to be used as a reminder and an encouragement of why and how following Jesus makes a difference to you.

If you would like a printed copy of the journal please contact JoAnne
community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk



The latest edition of the magazine has been emailed out.

If you have not received it please check your spam!

It is also available on the website.

If you would like a printed copy please contact the office 0161 431 0262

office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk



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.



Here is Jean James who was at Church this week preparing her container for her walk next week. Starting Monday through to Friday Jean plans to walk 6 miles a day carrying her (empty) container to highlight the plight of Rose and others who must walk such distances for clean water.

If you would like to donate to Christian Aid in support of Jean you can contact her directly or you can give online via our e-envelope.

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/heaton-moor-united-church>

Thank you to all who have ordered cream teas so far – it's not too late if you would like to order one. Please contact Jean by Sunday if you would like one.

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

Christian Aid 75th Anniversary Service

A service to mark the 75th anniversary of Christian Aid will take place on Sunday 9th May at 6:30pm, co-hosted by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Christian Aid began in response to the refugee crisis following World War II. In a time of weakness and crisis, the churches in the UK did not retreat into themselves and their own recovery but saw a wider need and responded.

Join Christian Aid in celebration, reflection, and recommitment to the caused. You can register for the service here <https://ctbi.org.uk/christian-aid-75th-anniversary-service/>



Climate and ecological emergency

You can join Bramhall Methodist Church for a series of seven online talks by scientists who are also Christians and whose work relates to the climate and ecological emergency. They will speak first about the science they are involved in and then how they reflect this in their prayers. The talks will be at 7:30pm on weekday evenings in May and June 2021. You can find out more and book [here](#).
www.bramhallmethodists.org.uk

Green Conference

If you think that the climate change crisis really is an emergency, and that the Church has an important part to play in helping people transition to new ways of living more gently with God's world, then sign up for JPIT Yorkshire online conference on

Climate Change Emergency: Resources for a Green Church

The event takes place on Saturday June 12th, 9:30am – 3:00pm

Inspiring keynote speakers to stimulate your imagination, develop your understanding of the Bible and reinvigorate your worship life. Engaging workshops with pioneers who are already bringing together faith and action for a better world.

For registration please email sue.cutting1209@gmail.com

All We Can, the official Methodist relief and development charity, has recently signed up to Crack the Crises – a movement of over 70 organisations who are calling on the UK to take action on climate change, Covid-19, inequality and injustice. More information can be found at www.crackthecrises.org



Prayers from the Office

A Prayer For The Coming Week

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this beautiful, restful weekend You have given me.

Prepare me for the coming week.

Take away my worries and regrets.

Recharge my soul and renew my hope.

Please go before me, clear the way and protect me.

Bring the right people into my life and move the wrong people out of the way.

Guide me with Your love and give me Your joy.

In Your name I pray.

Amen

In recognition of Deaf Awareness Week please click the link to see the Lords Prays in British Sign Language. Why not try and learn it ?

<https://christianbsl.com/prayers/lordsprayer/>

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

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.



BIAPT

THE BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION
FOR PRACTICAL THEOLOGY



NTC

A Critique of Discipleship within Fresh Expression literature - does discipleship reach those who do not go to church?

Date and Times

24th June, 2.00pm - 3:15pm

Location

Videoconference (login details will be sent to you upon registration)

Presented by

Revd Al Lowe

[Register here](#)

Friendship Matters (John 15: 12-18)

Jesus says that you need to love one another, and therefore love is the calling that comes to all the partners in mission. The relationship in mission is not that of a master and a servant, not a donor and a receiver one but friends, where there is true sense of partnership and reciprocity. Jesus in this text, where he speaks himself as the true vine, beautifully explains about the true friendship, which is the common denominator for the partnerships in mission. Jesus offers **the formula of friendship** in 13v: which is to lay down one's life for one's friend is the greatest love and offers a formula for true friendship. In fact, Jesus demonstrated such a friendship in his life and by offering his own life.

The foundations of friendship are described by Jesus in 14-15 v. There is no superiority or inferiority among friends, no slave or master, no rich or poor, for in the friendship all are equal and stands on the same base. There is transparency between friends, for it is only to the friends that one can share one's heart's secrets. There is no fear between friends and no hidden agendas in friendship. **Equality and transparency** are the good foundations for any good friendship. **The forerunner of true friendship** is none other but, our true friend Jesus Christ. For he has lived out the formula of friendship and has laid down his life for the sake of all creation. Despite our weaknesses and unfaithfulness, Jesus makes friendship with us and wants to continue that friendship forever. **The Future of Friendship** depends on our carrying that legacy of being together for the sake of the Gospel and its values.

Here are the words of Bishop Azariah from India, as quoted from his famous speech at 1910 Edinburgh Mission Conference. Bishop Azariah spoke these words when the missionary movements across the world were dominated by Western mission agencies and missionaries. I am bringing this saying from Bishop Azariah to help us reflect on the working together in friendships. Bishop Azariah said,

"The exceeding riches of the glory of Christ can be fully realized not by the Englishman, the American, and the Continental alone, nor by the Japanese, the Chinese, and the Indians by themselves – but by all working together, Worshipping together, and learning together the Perfect Image of our Lord and Christ. It is only "with all the Saints" that we can "comprehend the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fullness of God." This will be possible only from spiritual friendships between the two races. We ought to be willing to learn from one another and to help one another. Through all the ages to come the Indian Church will rise up in gratitude to attest the heroism and self-denying labours of the missionary body. You have given your goods to feed the poor. You have given your bodies to be burned. We also ask for love. Give us FRIENDS!"¹

Raj Bharat Patta

¹ <http://www.towards2010.org.uk/downloads/t2010mainintro.pdf>

Sunday 9th May 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 Words Psalm 98:1

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

Hymn: [All heaven declares, StF 293](#)

All heaven declares
the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship him alone.

I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
to reconcile us to God.
For ever you will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship you alone.

Noel Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)

Let us pray together:

Gracious and loving God,
today we bring our praises to You, because:
You are the maker and sustainer of all creation,
upholding all things by Your hand;
out of Your great love for the world, in Jesus
You chose to leave the holiness and purity of
Heaven, embracing life on earth, to live as
carpenter and preacher, leading His disciples
into all truth and calling them to mission;
in Jesus, You showed Your care for all people
and call us to receive the gift of life won at the

cost of His death on the cross;
to receive your forgiveness for sin through
repentance and faith and Your healing by the
power of Your Holy Spirit that we might live in
Your power and be transformed into the image
of Jesus, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Today's Bible Readings:

Acts 10:44-48 & 1 John 5:1-6

Today's Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

Time to Reflect

Recent weeks have seen quite a debate underway about relative freedoms and responsibilities in the light of actual and possible Government announcements easing Covid restrictions - these will no doubt be continuing by the time you receive and read this. This positive tension is found in our readings for today which remind us that as disciples of The Lord Jesus Christ we face a constant series of decisions about how to live authentically as people of faith.

The first section of chapter 5 in the 1st letter of John the elder holds this together in a great declaration about what constitutes being a genuine disciple. The other – and probably better-known readings from John's Gospel and Acts illustrate this well. John's 1st letter was written to a church in trouble – a faction had advocated a view of Christ that made faith more a mystical experience that need not affect how believers lived out what they claimed to believe – rather like some contemporary secular commentators insisting faith is a private matter. John refutes this – and in that sense this passage is straight forward, but his writing is also difficult – because it's plain and simple to see how far we have to go and grow! This leads John to assert three things:

1. New birth is the basis of the Christian life (5:1, 4). Echoing the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus, John says, "Everyone who believes

that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God” this seems innocent enough, but it calls us to believe that the flesh and blood carpenter of Nazareth shows us who God is!

2. Faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 4, 5). When Peter preached at the house of Cornelius a remarkable thing happened – people from a non-religious background came to faith and were filled with God’s Holy Spirit – in short, they were saved and changed. John explains to his readers: That Faith is the result of the new birth, not the cause of it (5:1). It’s not the greatness of our faith that forgives, heals and changes us, but the greatness of God’s faithfulness that works in us - we respond to receive that gift with as much (or little) trust as we have. Such faith has a clearly defined object (5:1, 5). Just as bungee jumpers have to trust the elastic rope round their ankles, so trusting in the self-sacrificial death and the rising of Jesus is what connects us to God in the household and family of faith as The Holy Spirit works in us. Our faith, then, has a clearly observable result which John calls “overcoming the world” (5:4, 5). The work of God in us changes us to want to do what God wants (Phil.2:12) so we are changed. When Billy Bray the reprobate Cornish tin miner came to faith, after hearing John Wesley preach, everyone saw the difference and he began describing himself as “The son of a King” – a complete transformation.

3. Love for God and His children is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 2, 3). As the love of Jesus takes root in our lives, God’s Spirit forms the character of Jesus in us – all well and good. But, here’s the rub, both John’s letter and Jesus in John’s Gospel say that love, self-giving love which expects no reward, love like Jesus shows is shown NOT in feelings or good (or daring) deeds, but an obedience which loves fellow believers as part of our witness (John 15:10,14,17).

We are called to become positively different from worldly standards; often when we’re different we’re seen as negative and

judgemental, but when we’re positive we’re compromised and not very different.

Take time to sit quietly and ask, this week, for whom could the way you live and act show that your faith in Jesus who truly lived, died and rose reflect the reality of the life changing nature of your faith?

Prayers for others

Lord our God, we pray for our mixed up, muddled and compromised world. May those who lead peoples and nations be inspired to work in ways that benefit all whom they are called to serve. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Where tyranny, violence or oppression spread injustice, may those who know the truth be stirred to challenge and transform situations, for the good of all. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who provide health and vaccination services. May such resources be shared among nations, that all humanity may attain fulness of life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Your Church that we may demonstrate the humility and love of Jesus, declaring in word and deed your immeasurable love. By Your Holy Spirit may we live ever to Your glory, that others may come to know their place in Your family. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Lord’s Prayer *Our Father ...*

Hymn: Listen to [Living Hope by Phil Wickham](#) or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing (based on Jude 24-25)

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.

Original Materials by David Miller
Hymns reproduced under CCLI: 1144191.
Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

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

Today's Bible Readings:

Palm 98

- ¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.
- ² The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication
in the sight of the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
- ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song
and sing praises.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King,
the LORD.
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
- ⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Acts 10:44-48

- ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

1 John 5:1-6

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ^[a] has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Footnote *1 John 5:1 Or the Messiah*

John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants^[a] any longer, because the servant^[b] 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Footnotes
John 15:15 Gk slaves
John 15:15 Gk slave