



Heaton Moor United Church

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



Church Services

Sunday 8th August 10:45 at Heaton Moor United Church

Sunday Service led by Deborah Symmons and Sharon Heginbotham

Sunday 15th August 10:45 at Heaton Moor United Church

Sunday Service led by Arnold Jones

Zoom Services and Meetings

Weekly circuit Zoom Services are now finished for the summer

No Wednesday Zoom Coffee Mornings – why not come along to the building instead?

11.00am to 12.00pm Coffee and a Chat

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Hello Everyone

It's been a while since I have had the pleasure of writing to you all. This week it has just been me working in the office. JoAnne and Raj are off on their holidays, I believe they are having a lovely time. Linda is still recovering from her operation on her ankle, all is going well and hopefully she will be up and about soon.

It hasn't been as quiet as I thought it would be. On Wednesday morning the first Coffee morning since March 2020 was held in the new seating area in the church. It was so good to see so many faces that I haven't seen for a while except for on zoom. As Raj is on holiday this month, he won't be providing a weekly reflection. I have included a devotion from the URC daily devotions, if you wish to subscribe to this service you can by clicking this link :

<https://devotions.urc.org.uk/>

Some of you may have noticed there wasn't a YouTube service on the 1st August. There will be one this week, however there won't be one the following 2 weeks. I will include links to alternative services in next weeks notices.

You should have all received your Time to Remember packs in the post by now. There is a short video on the YouTube channel explaining the thinking behind the packs. A suggestion of doing a zoom chat for those that can't make the coffee and chat has been put forward more details will follow next week .

Have a good week everyone and God bless

Sharon

office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

PS: Thank you to the courgette fairy , who left some in my porch !

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk



Heaton Moor United Church



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Office Opening The office opening times for next week will be:

Monday Closed

Tuesday 10 - 2

Wednesday 10 - 2

Thursday Closed

Friday 10-2



Preaching Plan August 2021

01/08/2021	Carol Cork
08/08/2021	Deborah Symmons & Sharon Heginbotham
15/08/2021	Arnold Jones
22/08/2021	Paul Brewerton (Communion)
29/08/2021	Sue Shillito

Have you been watching the Sticky Theology Sessions on Facebook – the next one on the 5th August asks Does everything happen for a reason?

Watch this and past sessions (including Why is Jesus Relevant today with our very own Rev. Raj) using this link

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=553086739205836&ref=watch_permalink

Moor than silence !

Sunday 8th August

I am pledging to be silent for 24 hours ! To raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Which is a chosen charity this year by the church to support.

Donations can be made via a justgiving site:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heaton-moor-church>

There will also be envelopes available on the 8th August, if you wish to donate that way.

For people with MND, one of the most worrying and devastating aspects people with MND face is losing their voice. I just need to work out how to call Vera on her walk if I can't speak for 24 hours, let's help support the people living with MND who experience speech loss.

I received an interesting email from Betty this week, who will be doing her own 24hr silence to help raise funds in the near future. She explained about her volunteering experience with MND :

I went as a volunteer years ago when it all started.

I answered letter in paper when the Founder Joan Brander was appealing for helpers. I got to know her well.

The first Centre was at Chigwell and was very primitive in those days . We slept in a caravan.

Then they built a purpose built one, Sandpipers at Southport .

Joan invited me to the Topping out ceremony and I met Prince Charles there.

I loved going although was hard work. Fortunately was young and fit then!

It's great to hear about your connections to things we are doing now, that you have participated in the past.

Thank you

Sharon





Enid Collinson's Funeral is on Wednesday, 11th August

The funeral will be family only, with live streaming.

The link will be emailed out separately.

(Yet to be received at the time of the notices being completed)

There will be a memorial/celebration of Enid's life in the Sunday service on 24th October, followed by refreshments.

Can you please light a candle and say a prayer,
during this time to remember her.

*God of mercy,
From whom we come,
by whose grace we live,
in whose love we are held at last;
surround us with your presence
that in our grief and loss
we may find assurance and hope
in the One who died for us and rose again,
even your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

There will be a memorial service for Ruth Morgan on 14th September at 2.00pm

The family have requested that black is not worn .

URC Daily Devotion Statement of Faith 4

We worship God revealed in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God made flesh; who lived our human life, died for sinners on the cross; who was raised from the dead, and proclaimed by the apostles, Son of God; who lives eternally, as saviour and sovereign, coming in judgement and mercy, to bring us to eternal life.

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly

exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and
under the earth,
and every tongue should
confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the
Father.

Reflection

This portion from Paul's letter to the Philippians is probably one of the earliest portions of the New Testament and it gives a glimpse into very early Christian thinking about who Jesus was. It's probably older than the letter itself, something Paul is quoting, perhaps a form of words that he was clinging to in his imprisonment, as we might a much loved hymn.

From earliest times Christians have celebrated and affirmed that in Jesus was seen the very presence of God, emptied (or poured out) into a human life, a life with the low status of an enslaved person, who died a terrible death, and who was then lifted high, exalted, risen,

his name above every name. Christians have tried to put this story into words over centuries and the URC Statement of Faith is one more go. It reminds us of the words we read at Christmas from the start of John's Gospel, of the Word made flesh, and then tells the story of how the Word lived our human life, died on the cross, was raised, and now lives eternally, raising us up to eternal life.

I wonder which part of the great story of Jesus stirs your heart and your faith most deeply? And does it puzzle you, as it puzzles me, that the teaching of Jesus is so little mentioned in statements like these and why the lectionary and the liturgical year leave so little space for us to explore what Jesus said? It matters to me that it was someone 'in the form of God' who spoke parables to change lives, who released many from inner pain with words of forgiveness, and who commanded us to love our enemies. We worship the God revealed in that voice and that body, in the whole of the story. And our faith is built on the whole story.

Prayer

Jesus,
let me learn your story
and may its wonder shape my
life.

Can it be true
that, in you, God took flesh
and shared our life?

And died upon a cross
for love of all the world?

And are you now risen, lifted
up,
raising us up too?

I treasure the words you said,
the stories you told
and the stories told about you,
but let me live by your whole
story,
from the beginning at creation,
to the fulfilment at the end of
time,

Jesus, Son of God,
my Saviour and my sovereign.
Amen.

Sunday 8th August 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

Living One, as we turn our thoughts to you we acknowledge you as the source of life; we bless you for your goodness; and give thanks for your love. As we come to you in worship, lift our eyes from the horizon of our lives, and guide our thoughts and prayers that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, today and every day. Amen.

Hymn: STF 34 – O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words

[O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness \(StF 34\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/stf/34)

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of
lowliness,
kneel and adore him:the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for you,
comfort your sorrows, and answer your
prayerfulness,
showing the pathway your feet should pursue.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth you would count as your
own;
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;

mornings of joy give for evenings of
tearfulness,
trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of
lowliness,
kneel and adore him:the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)

Let us pray together;

Eternal One, we lift our voices in praise as we
remember your holiness and your
faithfulness.

Beyond anything that we can imagine and yet
present with us and around us, we know you
to be full of grace and forgiveness. We bring
our lives before you and ask that you show us
where we need to change and that you enable
those changes in us which bring us closer to
you. If there is anything we are particularly
aware of that we need to confess we do so
now in the knowledge of your all embracing
love for each one of us as shown to us in
Jesus. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Epistle:

Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Today's Gospel Reading: John 6: 35, 41-51

Time to Reflect

To be a Christian is to live in relationship with
God through Jesus and with each other. This is
the message that comes across in our
readings today.

The Gospel reading is part of the discussion
between Jesus and the crowd in which Jesus

describes himself as the Bread of Life. In the wilderness the Israelites had to put their trust in God to provide the physical food to sustain them day by day on their journey and in this part of the discussion Jesus is saying, 'take me into your very being, make me the foundation of your life, put your trust in me and I will provide the spiritual food you need to sustain you on your journey to eternal life.'

The reading from the letter to the Ephesians gives some rules for living and ends with the command to be imitators of God, as beloved children, and to live in love, as Christ loved us. We are made in the image of God ... children of God ... and we are being called to be true to that image ... to love God and our neighbour ... for when you look at the reasons for the rules they are all about relationship. Speak the truth for we are members of one another; don't live by stealing from others but work honestly so as to have something to share with the needy; don't speak evil with your mouth but use your words to build one another up and give grace to those who hear; forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving One, we lift our world to you.

We lift to you all those places where natural forces have caused devastation and hardship. Give wisdom, humility and courage to those in leadership as they seek to find solutions to the issues facing us and teach each one of us how we too can help.

We lift to you all those places where greed, lust for power and prejudice have been allowed to take root. Raise up leaders to fight injustice and hatred and teach each one of us how we too can help.

We lift to you all those who have suffered as a result of this pandemic both directly and indirectly. Give strength and understanding to all those working to combat it and teach each one of

us how we too can help.

We lift to you all those known to us who are sick or in need, naming them here
May they know your healing in their lives and teach each one of us how we too can help.

We bring all these our prayers in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to STF 50 - *Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise* or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

[Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise - YouTube](#)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,
the city of our God, the holy place,
the joy of the whole earth.
Great is the Lord in whom we have the
victory,
he aids us against the enemy,
we bow down on our knees.
And Lord, we want to lift your name on high,
and Lord, we want to thank you,
for the works you've done in our lives;
and Lord, we trust in your unfailing love,
for you alone are God eternal,
throughout earth and heaven above.

Steve McEwan

A prayer of blessing

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.

And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each one of us now and for ever. Amen.

Original Materials by Mary G Elms

All Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 6: 35, 41-51

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread

that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'