



Heaton Moor United Church

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



Sunday Services at Heaton Moor United Church

Services at 10:45 unless otherwise stated

5 th December	Rev Dr Graham Adams	2 nd Sunday in Advent
12 th December	Nativity Service	3 rd Sunday in Advent – Activities from 10:00am
19 th December	Rev Dr Raj Patta	4 th Sunday in Advent with Communion
25 th December	Carol Jack	Christmas Day Service at 10:00am

Additional Services

12 th December Zoom	Missional Partnership Service	Meeting ID: 821 8150 8988 Passcode: 716978
12 th December at 16:00	Christingle Service	Heaton Moor United Church with Laurel Lane Choir
19 th December at 16:00	Dickens Inspired Carol Service	Heaton Moor United Church followed by light supper

Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

Wednesday 8 th December at 10:00	Moor Than a Good Read
Monday 13 th December at 19:30 (takes place every other Monday)	Men's Fellowship Christmas Anthology open to all
Tuesday 14 th December at 14:00	Ladies Fellowship

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our liberator and saviour Jesus Christ.

Hope you are all doing well.

Thanks to Graham Adams for leading the service this Sunday at Church. Thanks to Deborah and Sharon for leading the service of Loving Remembrance last Sunday. We remember in prayer all our dear ones whom we miss during this season asking God for God's peace to be with all those bereaved families. Thanks to Paul Brewerton for leading the good read at our church on the theme of hope.

As the season of Advent began, I am sure some you are following some creative Advent calendars with meditations, and wish that this season will give some time to reflect on hope and waiting. Thanks to our friends who are joining the Circuit Advent study course on zoom on the theme of silence. I have also made an Advent calendar to read the book of Luke over the period of 24 days till December 24, to find and receive Jesus Christ on the Christmas Day. If you are interested to follow, here is the calendar #AdventWithLuke for your kind perusal. I am also grateful to a friend from our Church who dropped a book titled "Haphazard by starlight" which is a collection of poems, to read a poem a day from Advent to Epiphany, and reading a poem a day has been so refreshing and uplifting.

This week we were at our Circuit leadership team away day at Gladstone Library in North Wales collectively engaging and envisioning about the mission of God through our circuit in our borough of Stockport. As a circuit we are also planning for a community sponsorship scheme of inviting a refugee family through Home Office and we had our first meeting this week.

We have our circuit's "Carols and Curry" on Sunday the 5th December 2021 at 4 pm at Hazel Grove Methodist Church, and if you haven't registered, please do so and join in this event. We also have our church Christmas events and we seek your presence and support. Thanks to all who supported our Advent fair last Saturday, which I gathered was very well attended.

Stay warm and stay safe.

Wishing you all a meaningful season of Advent.

Thanking you,

Regards,

Raj

02.12.2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Hello December!

What a busy weekend we had last weekend - our Advent Fair on Saturday was a wonderful event. It was lovely to see our worship space full of people shopping and having refreshments together. Our children's activities downstairs went well, and we had over 30 children take part. The event raised £550 for our church charities account - so a huge THANK YOU to all who helped make the day such a success.



On Tuesday we had our Dementia Friendly Service and it was lovely to have some new faces join us this month. Afterwards over refreshments we had an impromptu singing session where people shared their favourite hymn. We all had such a lovely time that we have decided that our next service on the 18th January will be a sing-a-long so do join us if you are able.


Friday is Elf Day for the Alzheimers Society and as it is also the beginning of our Dementia Friends Christmas Celebrations don't be surprised if you come to Church and see me dressed as an elf!

As always if I can be of any help please do not hesitate to contact me,

JoAnne

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk


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 @hmucommunity

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

 Heaton Moor United Church

 YouTube ^{GB} Heaton Moor United Church

 heaton_moor_united_church





Thank you to all those who continue to collect for Action for Children using the lantern collection boxes. If your box has not been emptied in the last couple of months, please either bring it to church or ring Stephanie Donaldson (0161 286 2752) or Deborah Symmons (0161 432 6069) and we will come and collect it from you. Please do this before the end of the year. We are also happy to provide collecting boxes for those who would like to start collecting in this way just let us know.

*****Please note the funeral of Louise Brewood has been cancelled*****

Men's Fellowship 13th December

The meeting on the 13th December is open to all and is the Annual Christmas Anthology. An evening of readings and music.

Refreshments from 7:30pm with the even starting at 8pm



Our Wednesday morning coffee group have sent a generous donation of £100 to Jo's cervical cancer trust. Jo's cervical cancer trust help to improve the lives of women affected by cervical cancer and cell changes.

We have a stock of Advent Boxes from the URC available for families which are full of things to do over the advent period. They are a really great resource which can be used by the whole family - an opportunity to see the events of the first Christmas through the eyes of different eye witnesses.

If you would like a box please let me JoAnne know and she can arrange drop off / collection. Alternatively, they will be available on the notice table at Church on Sunday




LITTER CHURCH

Our next litter Church will be on

Saturday 11th December

Meeting outside Heaton Moor United Church at 10:00am.



UNITED STOCKPORT CIRCUIT'S
ADVENT COURSE 2021

**SILENT NIGHT?
IN SEARCH OF
A SPIRITUALITY
OF SILENCE**

On Zoom, Every Thursday at 7pm
25th Nov - 23rd Dec 2021

www.stockportcircuit.org.uk
Zoom link is available on the calendar of the website

CIRCUIT CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Carols and Curry Service 5th December

A traditional Carol Service with the Offerton Methodist Choir followed by a delicious Curry.

5 December at 4:00 pm

Hazel Grove Methodist Church

Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 4JQ

Email events@stockportcircuit.org.uk

RSVP. NOTE: You only need to book if you would like curry.

Carols in the Car 18th December at Hazel Grove Park & Ride 4pm & 6pm

This was such a successful event last year that we have decided to put it on again this year! You won't

be disappointed. All proceeds go to Wellspring so you are supporting a good cause as well.

Tickets are £6 each and can be purchased visiting www.carolsinthecar.co.uk

NOTE: You can just arrive without booking online but you might be turned away if the event is sold out.

Last year, some people had issues accessing their online tickets and didn't come. Please come! We have a list of everyone who purchased tickets online and you will be admitted even if you can't find your online ticket.



Christingle Service

12th December 16:00 - 17:00

We are excited once again to welcome the Laurel Lane Singers to our Christingle Service where we will recognise and celebrate Jesus as the "Light of the World".

19th December – Dickens Inspired Carol Service

Please let the office know if you will be staying for the light supper (shepherds pie) which will follow the service. Victorian inspired dress is optional!

Recently retired or no longer in full time employment? Why not join the Heatons & Reddish u3a. We offer a range of interest groups.

learn, laugh, live

A world of new experiences is open to you at u3a – so what's stopping you.

Come along to our Coffee morning, held at Heaton Moor United Church
10.15 for 10.45 start on 3rd Monday of the month or visit:



u3asites.org.uk/heatons-reddish/home or find us on Facebook



Heatons-Reddish u3a

u3a

Heatons & Reddish



Gentle Exercise Class

Held at Heaton Mersey Congregational Church every Thursday

1.00 pm – 1.45 pm (Term time only)

Followed by Refreshments and a Chat

Great for Physical and Social Wellbeing

Combination of Chair Based & Standing Exercise – go at your own pace!

£3.00 per session

Contact: Julie Colton

07814 619217

A Meditative Advent Calendar with the Book of Luke for Dec 2021

1st Dec Read: Luke 1 Pray & Act: Path	2nd Dec Read: Luke 2 Pray & Act: Peace	3rd Dec Read: Luke 3 Pray & Act: Prepare	4th Dec Read: Luke 4 Pray & Act: Transformation	5th Dec Read: Luke 5 Pray & Act: Discipleship	6th Dec Read: Luke 6 Pray & Act: Non-judgmental
7th Dec Read: Luke 7 Pray & Act: Arise	8th Dec Read: Luke 8 Pray & Act: Stillness	9th Dec Read: Luke 9 Pray & Act: Food	10th Dec Read: Luke 10 Pray & Act: Neighbours	11th Dec Read: Luke 11 Pray & Act: Perseverance	12th Dec Read: Luke 12 Pray & Act: Worrisless
13th Dec Read: Luke 13 Pray & Act: Stories	14th Dec Read: Luke 14 Pray & Act: Hospitality	15th Dec Read: Luke 15 Pray & Act: Searching	16th Dec Read: Luke 16 Pray & Act: Sharing	17th Dec Read: Luke 17 Pray & Act: Thanksgiving	18th Dec Read: Luke 18 Pray & Act: Humility
19th Dec Read: Luke 19 Pray & Act: Cleansing	20th Dec Read: Luke 20 Pray & Act: Questions	21st Dec Read: Luke 21 Pray & Act: Giving	22nd Dec Read: Luke 22 Pray & Act: Table	23rd Dec Read: Luke 23 Pray & Act: Forgiveness	24th Dec Read: Luke 24 Pray & Act: New life

#AdventWithLuke

raj.patta@methodist.org.uk



Christmas is **11th**
coming **DEC**

WITH

Voices in
Achord

AND

THE KINDER
RINGERS

**A magical evening concert of festive
carols, songs and music old and new**

7.30pm Saturday 11th December 2021

Heaton Moor United Church

Heaton Moor Rd, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 4H

Tickets £8.00 inc. interval refreshments
children under 14 free

Avialble from: The Church, on line at voicesinachord@aol.com

tel: 07710042088 or on the door

www.voicesinachord.com

Worship at Home – Sunday 5 December 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Call to worship - Responsive

Leader: Now is the time to get ready:

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

All: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Leader: Now is the time to be changed:

All: Let us repent and seek forgiveness.

Let us pray together

Leader: Now is the time to welcome God into our midst:

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts in this advent season. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name that is above all names, the name of Jesus Christ who is the reason for the season.

All: Let us worship God in humble expectation.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Hymn: Come, thou long-expected Jesus
(Singing the Faith 169)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ykTZvZPz48&feature=youtu.be>

Pra

Prayers of confession

We have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.

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

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
cf Psalm 51

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Readings: Malachi 3: 1- 4; Luke 3: 1- 6

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,

Time to Reflect

Today, as we step into this second Sunday of Advent, we are invited even more to prepare our hearts and minds for yet another Christmas, another coming of the Christ-child. And

I have rarely met anyone who does not in some way want to be in on the expectant, hopeful feeling of this season. All around us, in the coming weeks, and certainly when Christians gather to worship and pray, people will be given the opportunity to celebrate the Holy birth of "God with us." This is the business of preparation, or as our Gospel lesson puts it, it is a time of "Making Straight the Way." A time of great preparation. With Xmas with us, decorations will be everywhere, This is all preparation.

Today's Gospel lesson reveals the work of the ultimate preparer. John the Baptist, whose ministry, some scholars tell us, lasted only about a few months. John comes to us and tells us to prepare the way. But for thirty years, John's life had been leading up to this short period of ninety days during which he would build a path for the Saviour of the world.

The Scripture tells us that the forerunner John the Baptist did this to call on his hearers for "repentance." He modeled that in his own life by saying he was not even worthy to carry the sandals of the One Who was to come. John knew, despite some rather incredible popularity in his own right, that for God to work in his life and to continue His work on earth, the Baptizer had to step aside and allow Christ to begin for another preparation, the preparation for His kingdom.

If we are really to be part of the Advent season, I think we have to turn to John as a model. How do we "make the path straight" for the return of our Lord and in our day to day lives? Certainly there are many things, but let me briefly point to two:

The first is that we must utterly and wholeheartedly offer our lives to God in Christ. John the Baptist said that he must decrease so that Christ might increase. We are to do the same. We are consciously to offer ourselves to a deepening commitment and have a personal relationship to Jesus if we are to truly be children of the Light named Christ.

The second is that as John set his life on a path of making straight the way for others, we are called to do the same. Jesus tells us time and time again, that the greatest of all commandments...of all laws, is the law of love the law of concern for those around us. We, you and I, have an obligation to all those around us to take the skills, talents, gifts and resources we have and make straight the path for others to reach the Kingdom, by pointing the way as did John to Jesus.

This is crucial that each of us give of ourselves beyond joining in worship week after week. Not just by our prayers and words. We are called to - in all things - word and deed, prayer and action, by what we say and do, share the Christ story and thereby draw others into our journey to the end of the path.

As Advent continues, let us turn from those things, those paths that are not of God, open our hearts and our souls and say with all that we are, "Emmanuel, God with us." Amen.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

We pray...

For those lost in the desert.

May they find the straight path.

For those down trodden.

May they be lifted up.

For those in dry places.

May they find you as the living water.

For those heart broken.

May they find peace in Jesus.

For those seeking healing.

May they be healed.

For those seeking consolation.

May they be comforted.

For those waiting to be heard.

May they find justice in you.

For those waiting for transformation.

May there be sprouts of change.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Listen to 'The prophets' voice comes down the years' (Singing the Faith 162) [The prophets' voice comes down the years \(StF 162\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

The prophets' voice comes down the years
to teach and to inspire,
to show the nature of our God
in words and deeds of fire;
not to disclose some rigid plan
that God has set in stone,
but to renew the promises
the saints have always known.

The prophets' voice speaks of the past --
the actions that reveal
the way God used the people then
this broken world to heal;
and then translates the things gone by
in ways that we find new
so we can judge the world we know
by standards ever true.

The prophets' voice holds up a glass
in which to see our day;
events which span the globe around
and things we do and say.
It calls us to repent and turn
from things that tear life down,
to choose the path that Jesus chose
and share his work and crown.

Alan Hinton

A prayer of blessing

And now may the blessing of God the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and all
we love now, tomorrow and the days to
come. Amen.

Original Materials by [Peggy Kabonde](#)

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

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.

For more worship resources see

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Readings

Old Testament Reading

3 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.

Gospel reading

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— **2** during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **4** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

6 And all people will see God's salvation.'