



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

9 th January	Rev Dr Raj Patta	Communion Service
16 th January	Local Arrangement	Leprosy Mission Sunday
23 rd January	Rev Dr Graham Adams	
30 th January	Rev Dr Raj Patta	
6 th February	Rev Dr Graham Adams	10.00 Super Sunday followed at 10.45 service
13 th February	Jill Barber	

Additional Services

9 th January at 16:00, Soup and a roll followed by the service	Circuit Service	Heaton Moor United Church led by David Hardman
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Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

Monday 10 th January at 19:30 (takes place every other Monday)	Men's Fellowship
Tuesday 11 th January at 14:00	Ladies Fellowship
Wednesday 12 th January at 10.30	Coffee and a Chat
Wednesday 19 th January at 10:00	Moor Than a Good Book

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Let me wish you all a happy New year! Hope you all had a good time at Christmas with family and friends.

With the rise of infections, let us all be cautious and careful. We thank God for the vaccinations, and for the NHS staff who are working tirelessly in meeting the demands of the situation. Let me also encourage people who haven't had their vaccines to get jabbed please.

Thanks to Carol Jack for leading the Christmas day service and the service on the first Sunday in January. This Sunday we will have our Covenant service and also will welcome some of our friends into the membership of our church. Let me extend a warm welcome to all our friends into our Church.

This Sunday at 4pm, the circuit service is happening at our Church with a soup and roll, and can I please invite you all to join in it. David Hardman, a Methodist Presbyterian who now works with the Joint Public Issues team, will lead the service on the theme, 'what does it mean to be a justice seeking church?'

This week, our neighbours the Coptic Orthodox church on Heaton Moor Road are celebrating Christmas on Thursday, the 6th of January and I am looking forward to joining them in their celebrations. We had our staff meeting this week, where we discussed about our pastoral work in our church. If ever you wanted to have a chat or a prayer, please do give us a ring.

We had our Circuit Meeting this week on Zoom, and it has decided to go ahead with a new Diaconal appointment for the circuit, particularly for the work of the Town centre chaplaincy. Just before Christmas we had a visit to the Bright House shop in the Town centre, which we are planning to rent to have a Christian presence in the market place. We are all excited about the prospects of this new ministry there.

May health, happiness, healing and hope be with you all this New year 2022. Let us keep praying for one another and for the life and witness of our Church.

Thanking you,

With Warm Regards,

Raj

5th January 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Welcome to our first Notice sheet of 2022!

Unlike properly the majority of us, the notice sheet is slimmer than normal ! I am sure when JoAnne returns next week, after her well deserved rest she will help it put some extra padding on . I have returned to very quiet church building, not sure how long that will last. At the time of writing this letter, the government hasn't made any announcements about restrictions regarding groups using the building, so from this Friday when Dementia Friends meet, the building will come alive with laughter and cheer once again.

As Raj has mentioned the Circuit Service is this Sunday at 4.00pm here, Jean and I are making the soup, so come along and join us for some food and discussions about being a Justice Seeking Church.

The following Sunday, I will be leading worship for Leprosy Mission Sunday, this is the start of my journey to become a Worship Leader, so be kind !

As I only work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday you are receiving the notice sheet early this week. I will be spending Thursday taking down my decorations, as we have reached Epiphany. I have included an Epiphany prayer for you to say on Thursday 6th January from the Joint Public Issues Team, which is who Dave Hardman works for, he will be leading the Circuit Service on Sunday.

Hopefully see you all in the coming weeks.

Sharon

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Heaton Moor United Church



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Epiphany God,

As we reflect today incidents involving
migrants

brings Christmas to an abrupt end,
we pray for your world.

God whose light draws travellers,
be with all who journey seeking something
better
whether by camel, carload or dinghy.

God of the truth-seekers,
save us from believing we hold the only
answers
and enable us to listen and learn from other
perspectives.

Gift-receiving God,

help us to value the gifts of all who are part of
our communities
and to remember that earnings and
contribution are not the same thing.

God the refugee,
may those forced to flee in fear of their lives
find places of safety and welcome.

Epiphany God,
an encounter with you leads the wise to
choose a new direction.
We pray that your manifest presence will
enrich our debates, enlighten our world, and
enable us to change.

Amen

Sunday 9th January 2022

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Eternal One, we gather to worship trusting in your mercy and grace and believing that it is you who have called us here. May your name be blessed in all the world.

Hymn: STF17 With gladness we worship

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words

With gladness we worship, rejoice as we sing,
free hearts and free voices how blessed to bring;
the old, thankful story shall scale thine abode,
thou King of all glory, most bountiful God.

Thy right would we give thee -- true homage
thy due,
and honour eternal, the universe through,
with all thy creation, earth, heaven and sea,
in one acclamation we celebrate thee.

Renewed by thy Spirit, redeemed by thy Son,
thy children revere thee for all thou hast done.
O Father! Returning to love and to light,
thy children are yearning to praise thee aright.

We join with the angels, and so there is given
from earth alleluia, in answer to heaven.
Amen! Be thou glorious below and above,
redeeming, victorious, and infinite Love!
George Rawson (1807-1889)

Let us pray together;

Living One, you are so much more than we can ever imagine. Your goodness, holiness, mercy and loving kindness are greater than we can comprehend. We kneel before your majesty and bow our heads in worship. As we seek to walk in your way and follow in the

steps of Jesus, fill us with your Spirit and keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of your Son that we may truly honour him in our lives and bring glory to your name. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Time to Reflect

In a world where even elected governments cling to power with an arrogance that is sometimes breathtaking, our reading today shows both John and Jesus modelling a humility that challenges all our assumptions.

John's ministry has reached out across the land. Everyone from the labourer in the field to King Herod has been affected. His message didn't pull any punches and it brought many people to the Jordan in search of baptism ... in search of cleansing and a new beginning. The whole experience filled them with expectation and hope. Who is this man? Could he ... is it possible ... could he actually be the Messiah?

John could have let them go on speculating and quietly basked in the glory, but instead he replies, 'not I ... I'm not worthy to untie the thong on his sandals ... but he is coming and you need to be ready.'

And so, in the closing days of John's ministry, Jesus comes to the Jordan asking to be baptised. He, who was so much greater and holier than John in John's eyes, submitted himself to John's ministry and accepted the baptism of repentance and cleansing.

Humility is something that we often get wrong. It's not thinking of yourself as the

lowest of the low or assuming that everyone is better than you. We're all called by God and humility is about having a right sense of yourself and of your calling. It's about knowing when God is calling you to submit and when God is calling you to stand your ground ... when to speak and when to be silent ... even when that makes you vulnerable. Neither John nor Jesus was afraid to speak up and be heard when their ministry required it, but neither of them was willing to step outside of their calling and promote themselves in the eyes of the people.

'Blessed are the poor in Spirit,' Jesus taught us ... or as one edition of the New English Bible puts it, 'How blest are those who know their need of God; the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.' (Mt 5:1)

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving One, you have called us to pray for our troubled world. So today we hold before you those places where the effects of climate change are not just a theory but an everyday reality of life. We pray for those places where the land is rapidly disappearing into the sea, where wildfires and flooding are becoming annual events, where animals and people are dying because they are not adapted to the heat of summer. Help us all - leaders, businesses and ordinary people - to see and understand what changes we need to make and to have the will to make them.

We hold before you today those places where people suffer because of the actions of others ... through war, oppression, injustice, hatred, prejudice and neglect. (*Choose a place that is on your heart and hold it cupped in your hands before God*) May they know that they are not forgotten. Help us to recognize and enable those who have the voice and the strength to bring change to these places.

We hold before you today those who are struggling with life because of ill health, whether that be physical, mental or spiritual. We name

those who are known to us and we pray for your strength to uphold them, your peace within them, your love surrounding them and your healing touch on their lives. May those who have the care of them have the wisdom, knowledge and compassion they need to be effective.

We bring all these our prayers in Jesus' name and we draw all our prayers for this day together in the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to "I give you all the honour" by Carl Tuttle.

[I Give You All the Honour - YouTube](#)
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

Wherever you are today and whatever is happening in your life, as you turn to the Eternal One in worship and prayer may God bless you and keep you; may God look on you with grace and mercy; may God acknowledge you and give you peace. Amen.

Original Materials by Mary G Elms

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'