



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

3 rd April	JoAnne Roy & Louise Lee	Super Sunday Final Lenten study will follow the service
10 th April	Palm Sunday	Circuit Service St Peters Square at 12:00
17 th April	Easter Sunday Rev Dr Raj Patta	Breakfast Service at 08:00 Communion Service at 10:45
24 th April	Carol & Frank Cork	

Additional Services

Wednesday 13 th April at 10:00	Short Communion Service	Short service followed by refreshments. All welcome
Thursday 14 th April at 18:00	Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday service with food
Tuesday 19 th April at 14:00	Dementia Friendly Service Heaton Moor United Church	Short service followed by refreshments. All welcome

Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

Monday 4 th April at 19:30 (takes place every other Monday)	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday 6 th April at 10:00	Moor Than A Good Read
Wednesday 6 th April at 10:30 (takes place weekly)	Coffee Morning – All Welcome
Tuesday 12 th April at 14:00	Ladies Fellowship
Friday 15 th April at 10:00	Walk of Witness see notices for further information
Wednesday 20 th April at 10:00	Moor Than A Good Book
Saturday 23 rd April at 13:00	The Search Isn't Over community event see notices for further information

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

The grace of our Liberator Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of Holy Spirit be with you all. Hope you are doing well. Hope you enjoyed sunshine and snow this week.

Thank you all for supporting the United with Ukraine event last Saturday. It was so good to see members of the community coming along for the cause of peace in Ukraine, and also as a church to be a hub for the support group for housing refugees from Ukraine.

Thanks to JoAnne and Louise leading the Super Sunday service this Sunday at our church. Thanks to all who have come for the Lent study group and to all those who provided soup for this group. This Sunday will be last session for the Lent study.

As would have heard, the United Stockport Circuit is organising the Palm Sunday service at St. Peter's square, in the centre of Stockport and we are all invited to join and participate in this service. The details are enclosed in this notice sheet. So, we don't have a service at our church on the Palm Sunday, which is the 10th April 2022 and kindly take note of it. We also have a Yurt, at the Mersey Way from 6-9th April and kindly visit the yurt if you are able to and kindly support this fab attempt. Thanks to JoAnne who has been co-ordinating these events, and our prayers and best wishes go with her in all her endeavours.

This week, I was at the Connexional reference group for Walking with Micah making a presentation on theological themes on justice in our context today. And Saturday, we have our District representative Synod meeting at Royston.

We also had our Heaton Churches Partnership meeting this week discussing on the plans for the Walk of Witness on the Good Friday, and if you are able to kindly join in the walk and the service thereafter. Details are on this notice sheet. It was good visit few of our church friends and shared Holy communion with them.

Here is the link for the podcast on the lectionary readings this week:
<https://youtu.be/6qxCMF8luug>

Kindly pray for all our April events and we appreciate all those who have signed up to volunteer and help us. Special thanks to all those who have taken the Easter cards to distribute to houses in their streets. As Heaton Churches, the Easter cards are distributed to about 10,000 houses within the Heatons. On the 3rd of April at 2pm, we are invited to light a candle and pray for peace in Ukraine and if you are able to please do join in it.

May you all have a blessed April and may God's love and peace embrace each of us.

Thanking you,

Regards,

Raj

31.03.2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Hello April!



First a huge THANK YOU to all those who supported our United With Ukraine event last Saturday. Our fundraising total to date is £754.70, there is still time to donate at the following link:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/united-with-ukraine>

It was lovely to welcome new faces into the church joining us in Prayer for Ukraine as well as providing a space for people to come together to look at ways we can work together to provide Homes For Ukraine. Thank you once again to all those who donated goods, time and money to make the event so successful.

It's our last week at toddlers before the Easter break and it's been lots of fun seeing the little ones dressed up as animals from Noahs Arc.

Sunday is our final in person Lenten study on the Hymn "And Can It Be" you do not need to have attended previous weeks to join us - we meet after the service in the hall and enjoy a lovely lunch of soup before we did into the text!

I'll be out of the office next week as I will be at the Yurt in Merseyway - it would be lovely to see some of you there.

As always if I can be of any assistance, 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



@hmuccommunity



heaton_moor_united_church

Office Hours This Week

Monday 09:00 – 13:00

Tuesday 09:00 – 13:00

Wednesday 09:00 – 13:00

Thursday CLOSED

Friday CLOSED



Do you have news to share? We'd love to share members news in the notices. Perhaps you've been on holiday, celebrating a birth, need a Prayer? Send your news to community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk, or let the office know.



RECYCLING — the recycling bins have been emptied this week. Please note at this moment the only recycling we are accepting is as follows:

- Crisp packets (not pringle tubes or date packets)
- Plastic bottle tops (not coffee lids or jar lids)
- Bread bags
- Empty pill packets

Please empty the recycling in the appropriate tub – do not put plastic bags in the tubs. If the recycling is full, please let the office know. Please ensure recycled items are clean and empty!

Bereavement Support Group – this will meet fortnightly at church on Thursday afternoons from 1:30pm. The first session will be on 14th April 2022 in the coffee lounge (upstairs next to the worship space) The aim of the group is to provide a safe space for talking about your recent or past loss of a loved one and to share your experiences.

For more information, please contact Bernice Giblin 0161 442 6217 / 07899 700 915 or Linda Fleming 07564839380

Methodist Homes (MHA) is piloting a new workshop with the aim of increasing confidence in talking about death and dying and they need your help to evaluate and improve it. The event is taking place at The Ridge Methodist Church on

Friday April 22nd from 9:30am with a light lunch included. For more information see flyer outside the office.

Super Sunday The Journey

3rd April prompt departure at 10:00)



Join us as we travel to Bethany and explore the tomb of Lazarus. We will meet with Mary and hear her story of washing Jesus's feet.

Finally, we will travel to Jerusalem, perhaps on a donkey?

If you are not feeling up to a journey, then we invite you to take part in our Prayer Walk inside the Church. There will be various stations providing opportunity for all ages to stop and spend time in reflection. The Prayer Walk will be available from 10:00 until the main service begins and there will be opportunity after the service to take part.



For more information on the Yurt project please visit <http://stockportyurt.mywebcommunity.org/>

Private Screening “Revolution of our times”

To understand more about the background of the National Security Law and why HongKongers wish to leave their home.

This private screening is on 6th April 2022 18:30 – 21:30 at Parrswood High School.

To book please visit

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaEGQ1eEpJo6T15eivY_rdZKgUvIE5YCXdMv_BuRYboUw1bw/viewform

EASTER EVENTS

Maundy Thursday Service

14th April at 18:00

Food will be provided at this service, whilst there is no need to book if you are thinking of joining us please let a team member know so we have an idea of numbers for catering.



Good Friday Walk of Witness

15th April at 10:00

The Walk of Witness will start at St Thomas. Then we will walk as follows:

St Thomas's C.E, Buckingham Road, Heaton Chapel along the Pavement of Wellington Road North to Heaton Moor Road / Wellington Road North Junction.

Crossing Heaton Moor Road, and proceed by Walking along Pavement of Heaton Moor Road to Thornfield Road. Continue along Thornfield Road to Mauldeth Road, along Mauldeth Road to Thornhill Road.

Walking along the Pavement of Thornhill Road to Cavendish Road, along the Pavement of Cavendish Road to Didsbury Road. Along the Pavement of Didsbury Road to St John's Road.

The walk will finish at St Johns for a short service, we hope to be at St Johns for 11:00 or shortly after. If you are not able to walk the full route you can join for part of the way or for the end service. We will be stopping at the following churches along the route

- St Mary & St Minas Coptic Orthodox Church
- St Pauls
- Heaton Moor United Church
- St Winnifreds
- Heaton Mersey Methodist Church
- Heaton Mersey Congregational Church

Events at Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

Good Friday Communion Service

15th April at 14:00

Easter Egg Hunt

16th April at 11:00

VOLUTEERS NEEDED

If you can help with any of the following, there is a sign up sheet outside of the office. Or please speak with JoAnne

07340 269 354 or community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Holy Week Monday 11th April - Thursday 14th April
07:30 - 09:00 daily

Handing out hot cross buns and drinks at The Plough, Heaton Moor Road

Good Friday 15th April Walk of Witness
From 10:00

Stewarding the walk of witness

Community Event - After The Egg
Saturday 23rd April 13:00 - 15:00



We would love to do a celebratory event for the Queens Platinum Jubilee this year on Sunday 5th June. We are looking for a team of volunteers who can help plan and carry out the event – the staff team can help with planning but unfortunately none are available on the day. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact JoAnne as soon as possible. Without volunteers we will not be able to hold an event.

SMALL GROUPS at the Church Meeting and other gatherings
some of the congregation have expressed an interest in getting together in small groups for bible study, reflection, fellowship. If you are available to host and facilitate a small group please let a member of the team know your preferred day and time.

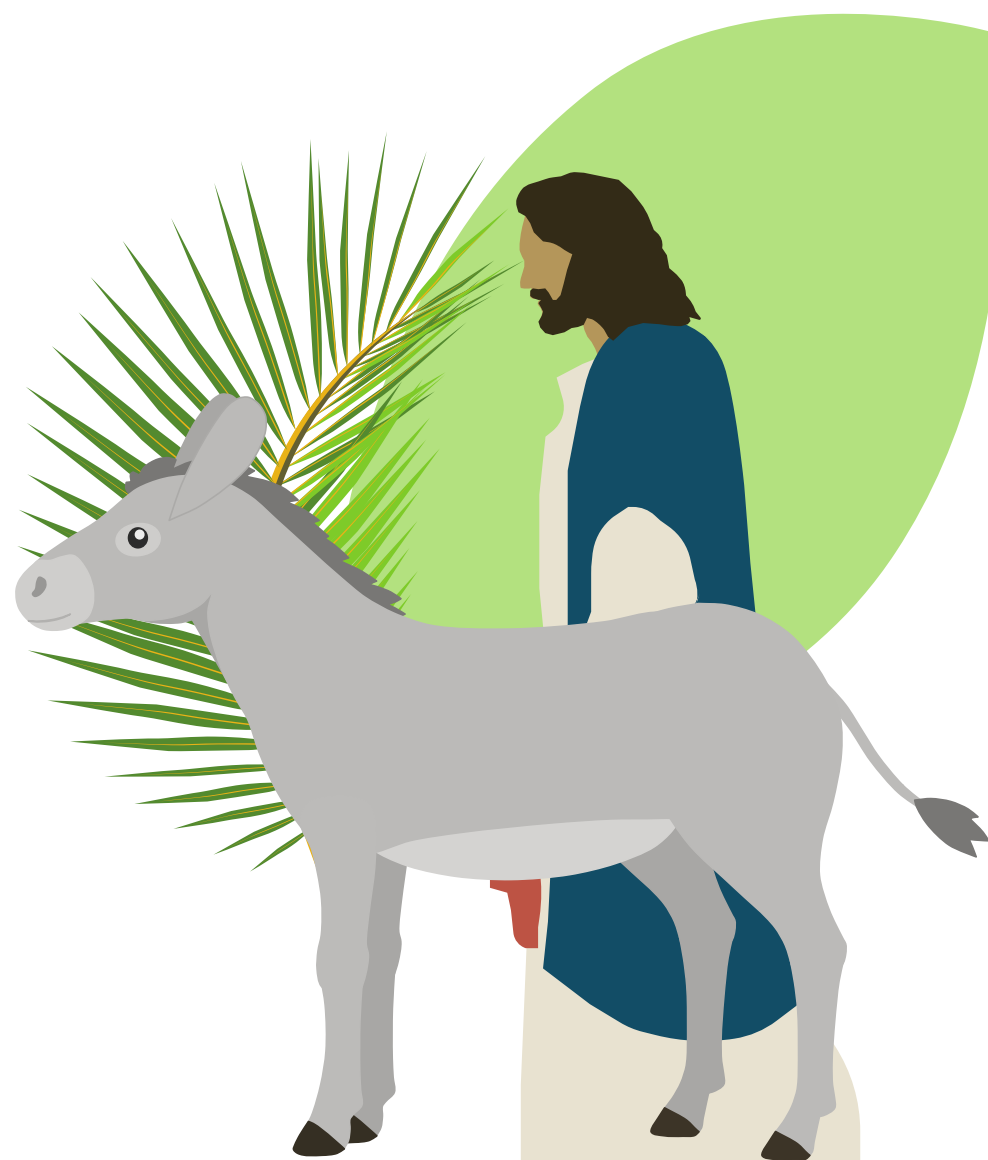
United Stockport Circuit of The Methodist Church

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

10 APRIL 2022 AT 12:00

St Peter's Square Stockport SK1 1NZ

All are Welcome as we come together in worship



Additional Information

This is an open air service

Seating is limited but you are welcome to bring folding chairs

Two nearest car parks (2 minutes' walk) are at Piccadilly Car Park, SK1 1DY (£1.80 for 2 hours)

Mersey Shopping Centre Car Park, entry via St Petersgate SK1 1HL (40p for 2 hours)

Toilet facilities will be available within St Peter's Church

Week 5

The Lenten Liturgy



Symbol: A bag of Coins

Today we remember how Judas, one of Jesus' own friends was so concerned with the monetary value of things that he failed to see the true cost of his words and actions. He devalued the generosity and love of Mary when she anointed Jesus' feet, and he would betray the one who loved him for the thrill of human riches.

Lord, we remember that your values are not based on wealth; that you did not see a person's worth by what they owned or how much they were able to give. You saw into people's hearts and cherished them as images of your Father, God.

The pieces of rubbish that we lay at the cross this week symbolise for us our reliance on worldly ideas of wealth and status.

Lord, in the laying down of these symbols we ask your forgiveness, for we forget to measure people's worth in the way you do. Help us to live in ways that proclaim the values of your kingdom and not this world.

Hymn 345 v 5

We sing, or listen to verse 5 of the hymn

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Salvation through Grace

By Annette Sharp

Today we consider the fifth and final verse of the hymn.

The 'Companion to Hymns and Psalms' published in 1988 notes that 'The range of theology has rarely been equalled in a single Hymn; it includes the Fall and the Redemption, the freeing of the soul from the imprisonment of sin and guilt, and the personal experience of salvation'.

This final verse is just bursting with joyfulness and confidence; the joy and positivity of coming to know Jesus as a personal Saviour and all that that entails. It is easy to feel the excitement and certainty of the Wesley brothers, John and Charles following their 'conversion' experiences and some researchers think that this Hymn was actually their original conversion Hymn rather than that which is credited with this title (Where shall my wondering soul begin? – 454 StF). Both were written in May 1738.

In the preceding verses, the writer has set out what God has done; what is on offer for the redemption of all human kind, yet making it intensely personal. In this final verse he moves from a sense of incredulity at God's generosity, bringing all of these themes together with a new certainty.

Yet, just because of its positivity, this final verse also points us quite clearly to the opposite condition that we might experience without this openness to the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Each line encourages us to explore a separate theological concept but the driving theme is that of personal salvation through God's Grace. Within this one verse we have presented to us, God's prevenient Grace and forgiveness, the concept of us being co-heirs with Christ, gaining eternal life, achieving 'Christian perfection', and ultimately claiming our 'reward' in heaven. All foundational themes of Methodism, although not exclusively so.

Phew! There's enough in there for a whole study series never mind one session.

It is said that Methodists sing their theology and this is clearly apparent in this verse of our Hymn. It is interesting to look at the parallel Gospel references against the lines of each verse.

No condemnation now I dread; (Romans 8:1)
Jesus, and all in him is mine! (Romans 8:17)
Alive in him, my living Head, (Ephesians 4:15)
and clothed in righteousness divine, (Ephesians 6:14)
bold I approach the eternal throne, (Hebrews 4:16)
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own. (2 Timothy 4:8)

Questions For Discussion:

- Preachers are often greeted after a service being praised for choosing 'nice' Hymns or chided for 'poor' or 'difficult' ones. What do you consider makes a 'good' Hymn? and does this have anything at all to do with the theology (our understanding of God) that it expresses?

- Considering the themes mentioned earlier - God's prevenient (anticipatory) Grace and forgiveness, us being co-heirs with Christ, gaining eternal life, achieving 'Christian perfection', and claiming our 'reward' in heaven – What do you struggle with? The language, the concepts, or both?
- The assumption that we are all 'sinners' in need of salvation is uncomfortable for many people. The Hebrew word that we translate as 'sin' is an archery term, 'Chata' meaning to miss or fail to reach the goal (target). Do you think this helps at all in understanding our human condition?

Through God's Grace we are offered salvation through faith in Christ, and as Methodists we are encouraged to develop and deepen this faith through reading and 'grappling' with scripture (using our reason), through openness to the Holy Spirit and building on the insights of those who have gone before us (tradition). It is understood that salvation will be made outwardly visible by changed lives.

Wesley encouraged those who were 'saved' and were members of the Methodist Societies to strive towards Christian perfection, the 'righteousness' of line 4 in this final verse. Perfection or 'wholeness' is again covered by God's Grace but as believers we have to do our part – we strive for perfection and God covers the shortfall. The practices seen as assisting us to grow in wholeness are regular repentance, prayer, Bible reading, Christian fellowship, and acts of service.

Further Questions for Discussion:

- We spend so much time talking about how we can 'get people to come to Church' What do we really mean by this?
- Do we emphasise fellowship and acts of service at the expense of the other spiritual practices?
- Everyone claims to live such busy lives, how can we order the rhythm of our days to include the practices that lead to wholeness?

Prayer of St. Columba

Kindle in our hearts, O God,
the flame of love that never ceases,
that it may burn in us, giving light to others.
May we shine for ever in your temple,
set on fire with your eternal light,
even your Son Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and our Redeemer. Amen

Worship at Home - Sunday 3rd April 2022 – Lent 5

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 Words

When the Lord restored his people's fortunes
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter.
The nations around us said:
"The Lord has done great things for them."
Our tongues praised God with songs of joy.
The Lord indeed does great things for us
and we are filled with joy.

(Ps 126 NIV adapted)

Hymn: StF 94 – To God be the glory

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen
to it here: [To God Be The Glory \(Royal Albert Hall, London\) - YouTube](#)

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the
Son;
and give him the glory -- great things he
has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

Great things he has taught us, great things he
has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

Frances Jane van Alstyne, (Fanny Crosby) (1820-1915)

Let us pray together

God, Lord of history and beyond, you were
before the beginning, and will endure beyond
time. We worship you.

In recognising your greatness, we
acknowledge how small we are, how little we
understand, how often we fail to see the
bigger picture of your kingdom behind the
events of our times and lives. We bow before
you.

Yet you know us; you have called us your
people, by name, as you have called people
from the beginning of time. You have created
us for your purpose and shaped us through
our experiences. You surprise us by your
actions and refresh us with water in dry
places. We adore you.

In Jesus you have demonstrated your humility
and love, undertaking the struggle against
evil, sin and death on our behalf and offering
us not only forgiveness, but new life in his
name. We thank you.

Forgive us if we take your love for granted, or
dismiss your kindness as being of little worth.
Restore our sense of your calling to us, until
we pour out our lives as a gift of gratitude and
reflection of our joy in being yours. Through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Today's Reading from the Old Testament:

Isaiah 43:16-21

Today's Gospel Reading: John 12:1-8

Time to Reflect

When Covid-19 appeared in the world, it changed our lives in ways we would never have imagined. It has changed how we work, how we relate, and how confident we may be in the plans we make for the future. As I write this, war has begun in Ukraine: people are on the move; whole neighbourhoods have been shattered by bombardment. The future is uncertain, not just in the region, but across the world. Politicians and journalists are saying that the world has changed - again. The God who spoke, through the prophet Isaiah, to warn his people that failure to change their ways would lead to exile and destruction is the same God who, in our reading today, promises a return and restoration. Not only that, but he will smooth the path into their new future. God invites the people to clear their minds of hopes of returning to the way things used to be. He is doing something new. It is already in process; we just may not have perceived it yet. Isn't this always the case? We are in constant change as individuals. Society and technology continually alter as innovation and development goes on. New discoveries and fresh ideas arise that challenge our former knowledge and presuppositions. Sometimes those things are welcome, sometimes not. But in the ebbs and flows of history, somehow, God is doing a new thing; always doing new things.

So, in the life of Jesus, he is doing something uniquely new. He is wrapping up the sacred history of the past, focussed on one family, one nation, in the story of one man who fulfils the calling of Ancient Israel; and through his dying and rising, Jesus opens up the presence of God to all people. He preaches a message of a new age already here among us, and brings that age to birth, empowering those who take him at his word to continue his work of welcome and transformation across all time and in all places.

Now, in Lent, we journey with him through the high drama, from Bethany to Gethsemane to Golgotha; from table to cross to grave. Today Mary foreshadows what is to come, as she pours rich oils on Jesus' body; a sign for

those who can perceive it, that the God who does new things is doing new things again.

Take a time to sit quietly

Where, in the twists and turns of your life and the life of the world today, do you glimpse God's new beginnings?

A time of prayer

Unchanging God, always moving on, never still, no matter how much we call for stability, hear our prayer:

for your church, rich in history and tradition, yet challenged by a new world and ever-developing need;

for our world, swept along in the currents of history, driven by political and economic forces, causing the rise and fall of nations and peoples;

for our country, seeking the common good, yet struggling with the challenge of making a fair future for all and needing fresh vision for the task;

for people wrapped up in the circumstances of their days, trying to make ends meet, to find freedom and satisfaction, dealing with illness, grief or loss;

Unchanging God, open our eyes to your new possibilities, and our hearts to your courage in the face of the unknown. Through Jesus Christ our Lord

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to We seek your kingdom [We Seek Your Kingdom \(Official Video\)](#) | Noel Robinson, Lou Fellingham, Andy Flannagan, Donna Akodu - YouTube or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

May the God of new beginnings hold us in peace, fill us with hope and guide us by

wisdom as we step each day into the
unknown future with him. **Amen.**

Original Materials: Revd. Dave Bonny, East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire Circuit

All Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCCLI 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 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)

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
 the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'