



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

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,

Holy Week greetings to you all. Trust you are all doing well.

This Sunday we have our United Stockport Circuit Palm Sunday at 12pm at St. Peter's square in the centre of Stockport, and we are all invited to join the service. This is an opportunity for us all to worship together in the public square for a collective public witness and please do participate in this service. I gather there will be a donkey at the service!

Most of this week, we were at the Yurt in the Mersey Way, listening and talking to people about their experiences of the pandemic. It was very interesting experience to be at the Yurt. Thanks to JoAnne who is coordinating this Yurt and for all the hard work she has put into it. We are so proud of her. Thanks to few of our church friends who came to support the Yurt and the events happening there. People had various stories to share and it was a wonderful experience to be out there listening to the stories.

Next week during the Holy Week, we will be at the Plough in the Heaton Moor Road giving away the Easter bags in the morning. Thanks to all the volunteers who will be helping us with it. On Thursday, we have Maundy Thursday evening service with local food to share remembering the last supper of Jesus Christ. Please do join in it if you are able to. On 15th April 2022, the Good Friday, we have our Heaton's churches walk of witness, and again if you are able to come for the walk please do join. The walk begins at 10am from St. Thomas CoE church and completes at St. John's in Heaton Mersey followed by a service around 11ish am.

Herewith I am sending you the link for the podcast on the lectionary texts for Palm Sunday for your kind perusal. https://youtu.be/awPYoqK_sRw

May you all have a blessed time during this Passion week.

Thanking you,

Regards,

Raj

07.04.2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Hello from the Yurt!



So, most of my week I am “off” on my holidays but taking part in the circuit Yurt project. As I write this, we have just finished day two and WOW, we have met many so many fascinating people, all with different stories. We have heard stories of hope, strength, pain and happiness and it has been a very humbling experience.

In addition to listening sessions the yurt has held a vision board workshop and a singing session, both of which have been great fun. Today we have Stockport poet Linda Cosgriff at the yurt and Saturday we have bhangracise! Thank you to all those who have called by and said Hello - we

are here till 3pm Friday and Saturday so still time for you to call in. For more information see the yurt page on the circuit website www.stockportcircuit.org.uk

On Tuesday, along with other lay worker's from across the region Sharon and I took part in an online recharge event. It was an opportunity to learn some new skills and connect with colleagues. I learnt some much needed tips for how to integrate wellbeing into my daily life and got some ideas on how to make future events at Heaton Moor United Church even better!

Although Sunday seems like such a long time ago now - those of us who took part in Super Sunday had a Super time! The prayer walk that rang alongside the children's activities are still up in church and are available whenever the building is open - if you have the time I encourage you to take part as it's a great build up to Holy Week.

I am on my proper holidays next week, but members of the team and Church will be outside The Plough from 7:30am each day handing out hot cross buns, and I'll be at the Maundy Thursday service.

If you need any assistance in my absence please contact the office.

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

Good 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.

NO NOTICES – there will be no notices next week as it is Good Friday. With these notices are the worship at home sheets for this weekend and Easter services. Normal service will resume Friday 22nd April.

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.



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.



HEATON MOOR UNITED CHURCH

THE SEARCH ISN'T OVER

All the eggs have been found but Easter isn't over!
Come and join us as we continue the search through the gallery of miracles.



23RD APRIL

13:00

FREE

BOOK NOW

**This event is aimed at children 7+. The event is free but
please book tickets**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2096336360547186>

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

Worship at Home - Sunday 10 April 2022

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

Loving God, we thank you for the special season of lent and the reminders of events that happened in Jesus' life when he entered Jerusalem. May our time of worship reflect our gratitude and love for you. Amen

Hymn: StF152 This is the day that the Lord has made

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

[This is the day, this is the day \(StF 152\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.

This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again,
when he rose again.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again.

This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came,
when the Spirit came.
We will rejoice,

we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came.

Anonymous

Let us pray together

Lord Jesus,
you journeyed to Jerusalem many times,
as a child and as a man,
touching many lives along the way as you taught and healed and challenged.
Thank you for inviting us
to journey with you today,
for showing us the depth of your courage and the power of your love.
Thank you, Lord, for being our King and Saviour – and our friend.
You are worthy of all our praise. **Amen.**

We are sorry, Lord Jesus, for the moments when our hosannas are loud but lacking in love,
when we chase the lure of worldly power, but miss the signs of heavenly glory,
when we choose popularity over integrity, when we would silence those who speak the truth and are silent when we could speak out.
Forgive us, and inspire our steps as we follow you to the Cross...and beyond. **Amen.**

Prayers from Roots worship, 10th April 2022

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40

Time to Reflect

Though Jesus visited Jerusalem several times, this was the only day when Jesus did something unexpected during his earthly life, entering into the city riding on the donkey. I am aware that many generations of theologians, Biblical scholars and readers of these texts would have asked questions, such as –

Why did Jesus need a donkey, especially a colt (which probably could not carry a grown man!) and not a horse?

How did the owner of the donkey let go of his colt, and obviously without any payment for it?

Jesus was used to walking everywhere, and therefore why did he not walk up to Jerusalem? The city was not too far, about two miles from the Mount of Olives!

As this is a familiar Bible reading, we of course know the answer to all the above questions - that is, all this happened in order to fulfil the Old Testament prophecy, which was spoken by the prophet Zechariah in chapters 9:9 and 14:4. This day was meant also to display a different kind of Kingship and Kingdom to all those who had gathered that day in Jerusalem for Passover, including the Roman soldiers/officials. We read that Jesus, the King of the Jews, entered the city in peace (one would not go into battle riding a donkey!) contrary to the victorious king who would enter the conquered city, riding on his 'warhorse', symbolising a judgment on the people of that city.

Adding to this, we are reminded "this is the day crowd shouts openly and claim allegiance with God rather than Caesar" which was quite a daring thing to do, given that not only was the ruling party watching everything closely, but also the religious leaders who were so concerned that they had said, "...look how the world is gone after him..." (John 12:19). They had their own agenda, but Jesus' journey on a

donkey was extraordinary, unexpected and un-imaginable and therefore they were frustrated to see the large crowd cheering for Jesus.

Perhaps, it was that day when Jesus and his teachings meant something for the followers. The whole city would have been in a joyous uproar on that day! If you have an experience of being in a parade or carnival, you would sense the feeling of joy and something bigger to come, but things did not turn out as people expected! For we know that soon after this event, Jesus was arrested, interrogated and crucified.

The texts for Palm Sunday teach us that Jesus did not comply with the values and expectation around him, and nor should we. This is easier said than done in the Western world, where there is no 'pressure' to live the Christian life, where there is not a great need to rely on Jesus for the daily bread or basic necessity. However, we must live the 'servant leadership' in all circumstances and even when it is hard and challenging.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

As Jesus wept over Jerusalem and cleansed its Temple, let us pray for our cities and our churches today.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities in conflict, where dictators hold on to power and oppress their own citizens, and the voice of the people is not heard. Especially for Ukraine...

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities in economic trouble where the current Covid crisis has put many out of work, new businesses cannot get loans to start, and people do not feel they are all in it together.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities suffering natural disaster, where storms, tsunamis, flooding or fire have destroyed the infrastructure

and rebuilding has been slow and inefficient.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for all those suffering poor health, personal disaster, or the death of a loved one. Make us faithful in praying, visiting and caring for those in difficulties.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for churches of all denominations, as what unites us this week is so much bigger than what divides us. May we love one another, so the world may know you are among us.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Roots Worship, 10th April 2013

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: StF264 Make way, make way, for Christ

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

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK6XuYhL7JI>

Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.
Make way (Make way), make way (make way),
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);
make way (make way), make way (make way),
and let his Kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him

as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him,
their thrones must fall!

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

May God grant us
exuberance of the Palm Sunday crowd,
and the humility of Jesus riding a donkey;
the energy and excitement of the crowd,
and the calm holiness of Jesus;
the expectation of the crowd,
and the understanding heart of Jesus
who journeyed to Jerusalem for love of us
all. **Amen.**

Prayer from Roots Worship, 10th April 2022

Original Materials by Rev. Nutan Sandhya Joseph Suray

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.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

¹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here.³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Worship at Home – Maundy Thursday 14th April

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

Servant King, as we remember that night you washed the disciples feet, may we always be ready to serve you. As we remember what happened on night you were betrayed, may we always be ready to trust and follow you. As we remember the night you came together with your friends, help us to know that you are always with us, no matter where we are. Amen.

Hymn: From Heaven you came, helpless babe (StF 272)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4963QPHAIM>

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him,

each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Let us pray together

Loving God,
Thank you for showing us the way to live
unselfishly and unreservedly, thank you for
showing us the way of self-sacrificial love,
which reaches out with compassion to all who
need it. On this day where we remember your
last supper with your disciples, help us to
remember that whatever we do in your name
for any of our brothers and sisters, we do for
you. Help us to honour you with every part of
ourselves, and every part of our lives. We are
sorry for the times that we get it wrong, or
lose sight of what is important, or left things
undone, and we ask your forgiveness, that we
might be transformed in to what you created
us to be.

This is Christ's gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven'.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

**Today's Reading from the Old or New
Testament** Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Today's Gospel Reading: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Time to Reflect

I have experienced Maundy Thursday in various ways over the years, but perhaps the most significant was the year I was in Jerusalem on this day, as part of an interfaith study trip with students and staff from my university. We had travelled all over the Holy

Land, stopping and praying in some of the places named in the Bible as places that Jesus visited, like the desert, and the sea of Galilee. On Maundy Thursday, when the sun went down, we sat quietly in the Garden of Gethsemane. We were joined by members of the community, and when everyone was gathered we sang hymns quietly together. This was a moving experience which led most of us to tears. We remembered together that night that Jesus shared his last meal with his close friends, the disciples, and thinking ahead to what was to come. That night, Jesus served his disciples through washing their feet, and by serving them a simple meal, urging them to remember what he was about to do. The Methodist Diaconal order is represented by the symbol of the bowl and towel, reminding Deacons of the ministry of service to others. This is a ministry that isn't limited just to Deacons but one which we are all called to in various ways, be it phoning someone who is lonely, serving refreshments at chapel, going out on the streets as Street Pastors do and serving the needy. Each of us has a specific gift given to us by God, and a choice about how to use this. I wonder what your gift of service is?

Take some time to sit quietly before God and hold your gifts before God, rededicating yourself on this day of remembering. If you would find it helpful, reflect on this image.



A time of prayer

Christ, as you knelt and washed your disciples feet, you taught us how to humble ourselves and serve others. Help us to recognise our gifts, that

they may be used to serve others.

Christ, as you broke bread, and shared it with your disciples, help us to remember those who are hungry and in need. May we hunger for justice, and find ways to end poverty throughout the earth.

Christ, as you took the cup, and shared with your friends, help us to thirst for unity in the church, and help us to show your unconditional welcome to all.

Christ, as you were betrayed by one closest to you, we pray for those situations where hurt and pain have been caused. We pray your healing love in to these situations. We pray for our nation, and for those in authority, that they may pursue goodness and mercy.

Christ, as you knelt in the garden and wept, we pray for those who are broken hearted and despairing, that your peace and love may be known. We pray for those who are dying or bereaved, that your presence may be felt closely. We long for the day where peace rules and every tear is wiped away. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to A New Commandment I give unto you (StF 242)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2X8m9tVRO_Y

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this the world shall know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.

A prayer of blessing

Loving Lord, you show us the way of loving service, help us to live our lives for you, that we may serve others in all that we say and all that we do. We ask this in your name, knowing that you hear our prayers. Amen.

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://The Bible (methodist.org.uk))

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

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The First Passover Instituted

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of

Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

<https://bible.oremus.org/>

Images taken from Pixabay

<https://pixabay.com/photos/passover-maundy-thursday-last-supper-5067642/>

Worship at Home – Good Friday 15 April 2022

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

Loving God

We stand at the foot of the cross and remember what happened when your Son was crucified for us. In this act of worship may we know your presence with us. Amen.

Hymn: StF 287 When I survey

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne-kTyAnDsE&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYxMLY_81soj1dufJ&index=4

When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Let us pray together

Gracious God, today we remember the sacrifice your son made by his death upon the cross. We thank you that he was willing to suffer and die for us. As we remember, we recognise that we have often nailed Jesus to the cross. We have not always acted in ways that show others your love. And for this we are sorry. Through the cross, we know ourselves forgiven. As we turn from this place, we again commit ourselves to sharing your love with all we meet. We offer these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Today's Gospel Reading: John 19:17-42

Time to Reflect

Today is Good Friday. Some people may ask why call it Good Friday when it wasn't really a good day because of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. For those first disciples it certainly didn't feel like it was at all, indeed for them it was probably better described as 'Black Friday' as they saw their friend and teacher die on the cross and all their hopes and dreams for the future die with him. Or so they thought. But I am jumping too far ahead here. On Good Friday we remember the day when the sky turned black and the Son of God was crucified.

A few years ago I had the privilege of being a part of a town-wide passion play which took place on Easter Saturday. I was one of the team working backstage. One powerful moment for me was during the dress

rehearsal the day before on Good Friday itself. Just as the light was starting to fade we reached the crucifixion scene. Our director would have probably told me off for this but I came down from the steps at the side of the stage and on to the square to watch the scene since I wouldn't see it properly the following day. The atmosphere in that square by that point had completely changed. A few people had stopped to watch. It was that quiet that you could hear a pin drop. It isn't easy to put into words how powerful that scene was on Good Friday but I certainly felt as though I was at the foot of the cross 2000 and odd years ago watching Jesus die for us all.

The cross suggested that everything was over. But we know that it wasn't. For we know now that Easter Sunday is coming. But before then we recall and remember Jesus' suffering on the cross and all that he endured for us. He didn't have to but he did. Why? Because he loves us so much that he was prepared to die for each and every one of us. So although right now it can seem like all is dark and hopeless we need to remember that over 2000 years ago Jesus was nailed to the cross to bring us peace and hope although it can feel that hope and peace are far away from us right now. He was nailed to the cross that we might know God's love for each and every one of us. So as we remember and reflect on the events of that first Good Friday over 2000 years ago we remember the love for us that was shown upon that cross.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

As we remember all that happened on that first Good Friday we bring our concerns and prayers and lay them down at the foot of the cross.

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you sacrificed your life, upon the cross, for each and every one of us. You suffered unimaginable pain. You could have chosen not to go through with, it but you did not. In doing so you showed God's love for the world.

We bring to the foot of your cross our concerns and prayers for the world in which we live. We pray for those areas of the world where there is suffering, violence and conflict. We pray for peace across the world. May the world know the love for them that you demonstrated upon the cross.

We pray Lord for the church. As the world continues to adjust to the coronavirus pandemic it needs the church more than ever. Help your church to share your love and to offer hope everywhere. Give us your guidance that your church may be equipped and strengthened for the work to which you have called it.

We bring to the foot of your cross those facing challenging times. So many people in our world are suffering. We offer our prayers for those we know who need our prayers. We place their names at the foot of the cross and ask that they may be aware of your love and strength at this difficult time.

We bring to the foot of your cross those who have died. We bring them to you in the knowledge that they are with you and that you have gathered them into your loving arms. We ask that those who mourn are comforted, knowing that their loved ones are with you and are at peace.

We kneel at the foot of your cross. We remember Lord Jesus how you showed your love for the world. Equip us to share that message with others. Guide us in the right direction and help us to face whatever challenges lie before us. As we stand and look from the cross to your tomb and all that awaits in a few days' time remind us again of the hope and good news that we can share with others.

We ask these and all our prayers in your name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Listen to **StF 270 Come and see**
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gizXMaQ7Y5o>

Come and see, come and see,
come and see the King of love;
see the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears.

Soldiers mock, rulers sneer
as he lifts the cruel cross;
lone and friendless now, he climbs towards the hill.

We worship at your feet,
where wrath and mercy meet,
and a guilty world is washed
by love's pure stream.
For us he was made sin --
oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out
'Father, forgive.'
I worship, I worship
the Lamb who was slain.

Come and weep, come and mourn
for your sin that pierced him there;
so much deeper than the wounds of thorn
and nail.
All our pride, all our greed,
all our fallenness and shame;
and the Lord has laid the punishment on him.

Man of heaven, born to earth
to restore us to your heaven.
Here we bow in awe beneath your searching eyes.
From your tears comes our joy,
from your death our life shall spring;
by your resurrection power we shall rise.
Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

Loving God

We step away from the cross and look
towards the tomb in which your Son was laid
and from which he was raised. As we journey
away from the cross towards the tomb and
onward to resurrection, we go in the

knowledge that you are with us
every step of the way. Amen.

Original Materials by Rebekah S M Fairhurst Bolton Methodist Mission

All

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Local Churches please insert CCCLI No here

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

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Suffering Servant

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human
semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall
contemplate.

53 Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

John 19:17-42

¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in

Greek.²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' ²²Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They

took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Worship at Home – Easter Sunday – Sunday 17th April 2022

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As we come to worship, may we, like the women at the empty tomb, celebrate and share the joyous news of your rising, of love, hope, forgiveness, and freedom.
Risen Christ, draw close as we worship. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 298 Christ the Lord is risen today

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRmDIB_w5BY

Christ the Lord is risen today;
Alleluia!
All creation joins to say:
Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Alleluia!
Sing, you heavens; let earth, reply:
Alleluia!
Love's redeeming work is done,
Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Alleluia!
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell:
Alleluia!
Lives again our glorious King;
Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save;
Alleluia!

Where's your victory, boasting grave?
Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head;
Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise;
Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies:
Alleluia!

King of Glory! Soul of bliss!
Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this,
Alleluia!
You to know, your power to prove,
Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love:
Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together

Glory to you, O God:
you raised Jesus from the grave,
bringing us victory over death
and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:
for us and for our salvation
you overcame death
and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:
you lead us into the truth
and breathe new life into us.

Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.** (MWB p.160)

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Time to Reflect

'Why do you look for the living among the dead, he is not here, but has risen...remember how he told you.' How could the women at the empty tomb remember? With weeping and sorrow, they had shared his agony on that Friday, witnessing him cry 'it is finished' and the last breath of their beloved as he hung on a cross. So, they run back and tell the disciples, who think this is an idle tale, or as one translation puts it, 'nonsense'.

Today we celebrate that 'nonsense' or idle tale, beyond human imagining. We celebrate the message of resurrection, forgiveness, and abundant grace beyond measure. Our lives are touched by hope, astounded by the love of Christ. Love that bore nails hammered through flesh and bone. Love that was rejected, betrayed and abandoned. Love that was too strong to be bound and held by death. Love that burst forth from a tomb with the rising sun.

The joy of Easter is perhaps not only that God has raised Christ from the dead. Easter joy is also about the possibility and the promise that, regardless of what our lives are like now, new life is available to each one of us today. Nothing is the same, everything has changed, Of most significance as we celebrate Easter, is perhaps not what we do today, but what we do tomorrow, the day after, and the day after that. How will we now live differently in the light of the resurrection? Jesus did not die and rise again so that we might continue life as usual. If this new life and freedom do not change us, perhaps, we might as well put the stone back over the entrance to the tomb, and let the women's story remain an idle tale.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

In our time of prayer there is an opportunity to bring before God the things on our hearts and minds using the following themes:

Holy God,
we come to you today with our prayers:
We pray for our world...
We pray for the Church...
We pray for all those striving for justice...
We pray for those who are unwell...
We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones... (Time of silence)

We offer all our prayers in and through the name of the risen Christ, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

Hymn: Singing the Faith 313 Thine be the glory
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tjz4yXUJrgU>

Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay:

Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above:

*Edmond Budry (1854-1932)
translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)*

A prayer of blessing

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was
raised from the dead, strengthen us to walk
with him in his risen life; and may almighty
God bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** (MWB, p.173)

Original Materials by Rev Miriam Moul, Oxford Circuit
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Bible Readings

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 25: 6-9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for
all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-
matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of
well-matured wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will
destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast
over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all
nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death for ever. Then
the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all
faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take
away from all the earth, for the Lord has
spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our
God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Gospel Reading – Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn,
they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they
had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away
from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did
not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed
about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes
stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and
bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said
to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the
dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember
how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that
the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners,
and be crucified, and on the third day rise
again.' ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and
returning from the tomb, they told all this to the
eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary
Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James,
and the other women with them who told this to
the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them
an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But
Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and
looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves;
then he went home, amazed at what had
happened.