



# Dore Methodist Church

## Weekly Update

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020.



## Message from Gail.

As we pause to remember this week, we do so looking back on past conflicts and sacrifice, looking forward to what the future may hold, and standing today in a place of uncertainty.

We continue to read together Paul's letter to the Thessalonians (1Thessalonians 4:13-18) and today's reading is particularly poignant for Remembrance Sunday. In the unstable world of the first Century Christians, Paul reminds them of the hope of the resurrection. Many of their fellow believers had died and this had caused anxiety and uncertainty. They were questioning when Jesus would return and who would rise first. Paul wants the believers to understand these were not critical questions, knowing exactly when the dead would rise was not as important as knowing the hope of the resurrection. This hope was something that they needed to hold onto and encourage others with and around the message there is some wonderful pictorial language which helps us to imagine the unimaginable power of resurrection.

The hope which comes from Paul's words penned 2,000 years ago, continues to give courage and confidence for day to day living today. This hope is not the same as optimism. It is an active hope which motivates us into taking positive actions. It is about being able to see there is light despite all of the darkness.

In the First World War 5.7 million men joined the armed forces, and each one was given a pocket size copy of the New Testament so that even in the darkest of times they could search for comfort, understanding and hope. For some it simply acted as a link with home.

Hope may not always change the outcome but it can help us to cope with the journey. Thomas Chisholm reminds us of this in his wonderful hymn *Great is thy faithfulness*. "Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!"

This Remembrance Sunday will be commemorated in a different way, there will be no large gathering, no big parades, yet we will remember – we will remember the past sacrifices made, we will look to the future with an understanding of past mistakes and we will do that standing in a place where hurt and loss is very real right now. Holding onto the resurrection hope that is in Christ Jesus.

*Gail.*

## Pause for thought and prayer.

There is something very powerful about a whole church praying in unity, please use these prayers knowing that others are praying with you.



**They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)**

The commemoration of Armistice day on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, means our thoughts turn to those who have lost their lives in past conflicts, and on Sunday, we pause to reflect and give thanks for their sacrifice. Remembrance, by the nature of its name, is about remembering. However significant to this Sunday is not only the importance of looking back and honouring those who lost their lives in the wars, but also to learn from past mistakes to help shape the future, as we commit ourselves to work for peace and justice for all.

**We pray together:** Gracious God, at this time of remembering we think of the victims of past wars and current conflicts, those who have mourned and those who are still mourning. We pray for an end to suffering and the destructive hatred of war and hold before you those working for peace. We remember you have called your followers to strive together for the coming of your kingdom, a kingdom of love and peace. Equip us for the task with the faith that knows nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, and we offer this our prayer, in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

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## **Worship for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November.**

Our worship material for next Sunday follows after these notices. As usual it has been provided for us by "Twelvebaskets".

## **Shoebox Collection.**

Would everyone who has who has a shoebox for collection please contact me on (0114) 236 9066 or email me at [starratdore@googlemail.com](mailto:starratdore@googlemail.com) . Boxes will be collected on Monday morning 9<sup>th</sup> November. Please leave them in a carrier bag by your front door. Thank you. *Daphne.*

## **Church Magazine.**

Last call for items for our November/December Magazine, which will be available at the end of next week. In particular this will be an opportunity to send your Christmas Greetings to friends at Church. All contributions need to be sent to Bridget.

*(If you do not have Bridget's contact details speak to the Bailey's – telephone number below.)*

## Grace Food Bank

Thanks to everyone for another excellent collection this week for the Food Bank.

The next collection will be Monday, November 16th. The next two collections (November 16th and 30th) will be for the Christmas Wishlist. It is an opportunity to share our traditional Christmas food with others.

### *This Year's Christmas Wishlist*

Boxes of Christmas biscuits, medium or small, not large tins

Small Christmas Cakes or packs of Christmas Mini rolls etc

Chocolates/sweets in medium sized boxes, anything that looks festive

Selection boxes/chocolate coins

Pringles, cheddars or similar crisps in a cardboard tube (easier for packing)

Bottles of fizzy grape juice or similar

Tins of Salmon

Tins of Ham

Sachets of instant custard

Small boxes of crackers/biscuits for cheese

Boxes of Mince Pies (without brandy). These often have a short shelf life

Everything should have a sell by date after 25th December 2020

If you would like me to collect from you please phone me on 0114 473 1998 (or email me at peter.ann.smith@gmail.com) and then leave a bag outside your front door for collection by 9 a.m. on Monday 16th November.

**Although food donations are important and very much appreciated please do not put yourselves at risk of contracting COVID-19 by shopping for the Food Bank. Stay safe.**

Thank you

*Peter*

**Please send any items for our "Weekly Update" to the Baileys by TUESDAY evening.**

**Telephone: 235 1085. Email: john.bailey23a@btinternet.com**

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**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Remembrance Sunday)**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – The Vine at Home**

### **Call to worship**

Gracious God, on this day closest to Remembrance Day, we pause to remember those who have died because of wars and violence.

Let us be still for a moment now.

*[Quiet].*

We will remember them. **Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker

## Hymn: 696 STF – For the healing of the nations

- 1 For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2 Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.
- 3 All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.
- 4 You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009) Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 696  
Words: (c) 1968, Stainer & Bell Ltd, 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ [www.stainer.co.uk](http://www.stainer.co.uk) CCLI 554990

### Opening Prayers

Loving God, we come this morning to remember.

We come together with our individual and collective memories.

We remember that you are with us, indeed that you have called us here.

We come with memories that are painful and difficult, we come with debates and politics that are complex, we come with our limited understanding of wars past and present.

Loving God, we come to remember those who have died in wars, and we come to give thanks for the gift of life.

Gather us as we remember.

Forgive us as we remember.

Accept us as we remember.

**Amen.** <sup>2</sup>

### We now say the Lord's Prayer

#### Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids<sup>[a]</sup> took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids<sup>[c]</sup> got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids<sup>[d]</sup> came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup> But he replied,

'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reflections on the reading.**

*Today's reflection is offered by Lansford Penn-Timothy, the Deputy Superintendent at Westminster Central Hall.*

There is a very famous Nigerian proverb that says, "The spider that knows what it will gain sits waiting patiently in its web".

Our Bible passage today invites us to think about the words 'WAIT' or 'waiting', and to think about what we will need in the waiting time.

In today's passage, Jesus told the parable of the ten bridesmaids. The core message of this parable is "to be ready", to be prepared for a long or short waiting time.

From the parable we see that they were all on the same journey, they all had lamps, they were all waiting expectantly for the same bridegroom. They all had one responsibility, and that was to make sure they kept their lamps burning until the bridegroom came.

They waited and waited for the bridegroom, but I quote "the bridegroom was a long time coming". As a result of the long delay, the bridesmaids were tired; they became drowsy and fell asleep. Five were ready for a long wait; they took extra oil with them. Jesus refers to them as "wise". The other five were not quite as prepared, they did not take extra oil with them. So when the bridegroom arrived, their lamps had gone out and they were locked out of the wedding banquet.

For us today, it feels as though we all need to have extra oil for the waiting time. How long can we wait to return to total freedom and normality; if we can remember what normality is? How long can we wait for God's healing and deliverance?

In the place of waiting, we too can get drowsy and fall asleep. I am sure some of us have been or are in that place where we feel as though we have been waiting on God, praying and asking God for help, but 'he is a long time coming'. In a place of waiting, we can get tired. Some of us are extremely tired. We want God to come and sort things out for us; things need sorting out in our lives, our homes, business, relationships, jobs, in the nation and the world.

What we are going through, will one day become a thing of the past. So let us wait on him, the bridegroom of the Church, the healer, the deliverer.

The Prophet Isaiah further encouraged us with these words, I quote; "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint."

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<sup>2</sup> Bible Text is from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved

When John Wesley was asked what he would do if he knew his Lord would return at that time the next day. He said in effect, “I would go to bed and go to sleep; wake up in the morning, and go on with my work, for I would want Him to find me doing what he had appointed.”

As we wait for the arrival of the bridegroom, may our strength be renewed and our lamps refilled, as we step out doing what he has appointed; doing good, and sharing the good news and God’s resources with the needy and the deprived in our community.

As we wait for the arrival of the bridegroom, may our strength be renewed and our lamps refilled as we engage in prayer, reflection and meditation on God’s word.

As we wait for the arrival of the bridegroom, may our strength be renewed and our lamps refilled as we wait on the Lord for our healing, deliverance, blessing, freedom and answers to prayer.

From the time of our salvation and the time of our meeting with the bridegroom, all we have got to do, brothers and sisters, is to keep refuelling, recharging, refilling and renewing our relationship with God, so that we continue to shine for Jesus in this world which can feel like a dark place sometimes.

As we pray and wait patiently for God’s healing and deliverance, let us keep our lamps burning and take encouragement and strength from Paul’s last words to the Corinthians, in 1 Corinthians 15:58. “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain”.<sup>3</sup>

Some questions for reflection / discussion:

- What about you, can you remember a time you had to wait patiently? How did it make you feel?
- To what extent does this time of Coronavirus feel like a ‘waiting time’, and how does Lansford’s reflection help us with processing that?
- What is it that you can do in your community, family or neighbourhood, whilst waiting?

## **Prayers of intercession**

As we pray today I invite you to use your poppy, either by detaching it or holding it where it is. If you don’t have a poppy with you, please picture one in your mind.

Let us pray.

First, we hold one of the petals of the poppy. Father, the red of this petal is like the red of the blood shed by so many in the wars of the last century. We remember members of our family who were directly involved in those wars, some in the armed forces, some left behind. We remember injury, trauma, death, courage, fear – lives changed forever. We give thanks for so many who were prepared to pay the highest price of all . . . .

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<sup>3</sup> Reflection written by Lansford Penn-Timothy

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Now we take hold of another petal on our poppy. In doing so, we hold before God the violence and warfare of our own times. We pray, Father, that you will give us politicians and military leaders equal to the huge tasks they face – wise in judgement, calm in spirit, makers of peace.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Now we touch the centre of the poppy, the place where the seeds are kept, ready for new life. Lord, take the seeds of peace which lie in the hearts of your people everywhere, and cast them generously over every continent and nation. Let those seeds germinate, grow and flourish.

Beat our swords into ploughshares, our spears into pruning hooks and our weapons of mass destruction into technologies for peace.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Now we hold the green leaf (or the green stem) and remember the green and growing hope which comes from faith alone, faith in a God for whom everything is possible, even in the darkest hour. May hope guide our politics, our nation, our thinking and our lives. May hope draw us ever nearer to that day when the world shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In your mercy, forgive our foolish ways,  
In your mercy, help us to listen before we fight,  
In your mercy, hold back the men of war,  
In your mercy, save the innocent,  
In your mercy, hear us,  
In your mercy, In your mercy.

**Amen.**<sup>4</sup>

**Hymn: 463 STF – Deep in the shadows of the past (Tune: Klingsfold)**

1 Deep in the shadows of the past,  
far out from settled lands,  
some nomads travelled with their God  
across the desert sands.  
The dawning hope of humankind  
by them was sensed and shown:  
a promise calling them ahead,  
a future yet unknown.

2 While others bowed to changeless gods,  
they met a mystery,  
invisible, without a name:  
'I AM WHAT I WILL BE';  
and by their tents, around their fires,  
in story, song and law,  
they praised, remembered, handed on  
a past that promised more.

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<sup>4</sup> Taken from The Second Intercessions Handbook by John Pritchard

3 From Exodus to Pentecost  
the promise changed and grew,  
while some, remembering the past,  
recorded what they knew,  
or with their letters and laments,  
their prophecy and praise,  
recovered, kindled and expressed  
new hope for changing days.

4 For all the writings that survived,  
for leaders, long ago,  
who sifted, copied, and preserved  
the Bible that we know,  
give thanks, and find its story yet  
our promise, strength and call,  
the model of emerging faith,  
alive with hope for all.

Brian Wren (b. 1936) Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 463  
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## Blessing

May the God who mourns with his people, the Son who sacrificed his own life that we might experience the depths of God's love and the Holy Spirit whose presence of peace never leaves us, bless us all today, tomorrow and forever. **Amen.**<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Taken from Gathering Prayers for Remembrance Sunday by Christine Dutton