



# Dore Methodist Church Weekly Update 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.



## Pause for thought and prayer.



*As long as it is day we must do the works of Him we sent me (John 9:4)*

“What a difference a day makes;” says the song - What a difference a year makes!

There have been many books written during this last year, and I am sure many more will be written. If you were writing one, I wonder what chapter headings you would give? In thinking about the future, I was challenged by these guidelines for writing a book. They encourage the author to continually look at the story as a whole. Continually asking the question - have you kept the spotlight on your basic theme and character, not letting sub plots detract. Does every chapter take the action forward, is it enriching the account? Perhaps some good guidelines for us as we begin to vision what might be included in this our new chapter in the life of Dore Methodist Church. So let us sustain the momentum of the Gospel story as we continue to unfold the plot, let us make sure that each new chapter builds on the past; but above all let us make sure that nothing overshadows the one who is at the centre of this the greatest story ever told!

**We pray together:** Jesus teach us to live each day in the light of your Glory. Unite us in love and equip us in service so your story may unfold in our story. **Amen.**

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## **Worship.**

We continue to meet for worship each Sunday at 10-30 a.m. in church. Pre-booking of seats is still required and you can now book seats for the four Sundays in June. To do this please contact the Baileys – details below.

For those not yet able to return to worship our “Worship at Home” material follows these notices.

## **COVID-19 Food Bank Collection Anniversary**

One year ago, on 1st June 2020 the first Dore Methodist Church COVID-19 Food Bank collections were made from your front doors. The Government had just recently decided to allow these collections, having deemed Food Banks to be “essential”. Since then, you (and some non Churchgoers) have provided over 250 bags and boxes full of foodstuffs. This is a remarkable and generous achievement and one for which many people in the Gleadless/Lowedges area will have been very grateful.

When we eventually get back to normal it is unlikely that you will want to carry those heavy bags and boxes to Church each week so the fortnightly collections from your front doors will continue. It is equally unlikely that the needs of the food bank will diminish in the foreseeable future, if ever. Thank you for your continued support. *Peter.*

## Church Magazine.

It is hoped that we can produce the Summer edition of our magazine towards the end of June. Although some weeks off early notice is given so that everyone has plenty of time to “put pen to paper” and submit items for this edition.

**WEEKLY UPDATE – *Please send contributions to the Baileys by Tuesday evening.***  
***(Tel 2351085 or email john.bailey23a@btinternet.com)***

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## The Vine at Home -Trinity Sunday.

### Call to worship

You call us into relationship, with you and with each other.  
Today we come, to hold together by your Spirit,  
To meet with our communities and connect with our global neighbours.  
Come amongst us as we worship you, triune God. **Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

### Hymn: 28 STF Jesus calls us here to meet him

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| <p>1 Jesus calls us here to meet him<br/>as, through word and song and prayer,<br/>we affirm God's promised presence<br/>where his people live and care.<br/>Praise the God who keeps his promise;<br/>praise the Son who calls us friends;<br/>praise the Spirit who, among us,<br/>to our hopes and fears attends.</p> <p>3 Jesus calls us to each other,<br/>vastly different though we are;<br/>creed and colour, class and gender<br/>neither limit nor debar.<br/>Join the hand of friend and stranger;<br/>join the hands of age and youth;<br/>join the faithful and the doubter<br/>in their common search for truth.</p> | <p>2 Jesus calls us to confess him<br/>Word of life and Lord of all,<br/>sharer of our flesh and frailness,<br/>saving all who fail or fall.<br/>Tell his holy human story;<br/>tell his tales that all may hear;<br/>tell the world that Christ in glory<br/>came to earth to meet us here.</p> <p>4 Jesus calls us to his table<br/>rooted firm in time and space,<br/>where the Church in earth and heaven<br/>finds a common meeting place.<br/>Share the bread and wine, his body;<br/>share the love of which we sing;<br/>share the feast for saints and sinners<br/>hosted by our Lord and King.</p> |
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John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958) Reproduced  
from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 28 Words: From Love From Below (c) 1989, WGRG, Iona Community,  
Glasgow G2 3DH Scotland. www.wgrg.co.uk CCLI 554990

### Opening Prayers

Holy God,  
We gather in your name today,  
Connecting again through the miraculous nature of your Spirit flowing through us.

<sup>1</sup> Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

God who created the universe,  
Christ who walked amongst us and continues to hold the cosmos together,  
Spirit who moves, inspires and uplifts us,  
We give you the thanks and praise this day.

Come Lord Jesus.

Loving God,  
We know we have not always lived up to your hopes for us.  
We have fallen short of your glory,  
We have missed opportunities and made mistakes,  
We have said, thought and done things we regret and which have hurt others.

We bring all that guilt with us today, and hand it over. We let it go.

And we hear your voice, reassuring us, accepting us. Our sins are forgiven. *[Pause]*.

Come amongst us today, Lord, as we worship you. **Amen.**<sup>2</sup>

**Let us now say The Lord's Prayer**

**Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 - A Vision of God in the Temple**

**6** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. **2** Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

**4** The pivots<sup>[a]</sup> on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. **5** And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

**6** Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. **7** The seraph<sup>[b]</sup> touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” **8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”<sup>3</sup>

**Psalm 29 - The Voice of God in a Great Storm - A Psalm of David.**

**1** Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,<sup>[a]</sup> ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**2** Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.

**3** The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

**4** The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

**5** The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**6** He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**7** The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**8** The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

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<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

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- 9** The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,<sup>[a]</sup> and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”  
**10** The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.  
**11** May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!<sup>4</sup>

### **Romans 8:12-17**

**12** So then, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— **13** for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba!<sup>[b]</sup> Father!” **16** it is that very Spirit bearing witness<sup>[c]</sup> with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ— if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.<sup>5</sup>

### **John 3:1-17 - Nicodemus Visits Jesus**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”<sup>[b]</sup> **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.<sup>[c]</sup> **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You<sup>[d]</sup> must be born from above.’<sup>[e]</sup> **8** The wind<sup>[f]</sup> blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

**11** “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you<sup>[g]</sup> do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>[h]</sup> **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>[i]</sup>

**16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17** “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.<sup>6</sup>

### **Reflections on the readings**

If we think back over the past year, we have found many different ways to worship God. When your church building was closed, or not open as often as it had been previously, how did you worship God? Did you join in with online recorded worship, worship on Zoom or Facebook, or

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perhaps used the Vine at Home from TwelveBaskets? Perhaps you also found a new pattern of daily prayer, or joined in with other online prayer groups? Or found ways to worship through music, song, and an online choir?

Did you use the time and space of lockdown to take a step back and look at your relationship with God? Were you aware of God's presence and did you come closer to God?

Trinity Sunday brings our relationship with God 'up close'. It is a week after the Bible readings of Pentecost when the apostles received the powerful gift of the Holy Spirit and were given the confidence to speak to the crowds (Acts 2: 1-21). Today gives us the opportunity to think about the Doctrine of the Trinity and what it teaches us about relationships, with each other as Christians, about the relationships within our local communities, and with God.

As we identify with Jesus, our lives change. When we come to love Jesus, we are forgiven for the past and the Holy Spirit helps us in the future, to change. We have a new relationship with God, The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. But we need to want to be a part of it, and to respond, which asks for commitment.<sup>7</sup>

### **What are you being called to be?**

Is the God of relationship speaking to you today? Use this time to reflect on *[and discuss – if appropriate]* how you might be being called to respond, using some of the questions posed by today's reflection.

- Do some things need to change, so that God's mighty power and glory is seen and known by all?
- Do we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us? And how can we enable that to happen?
- How do we share the Good News of Jesus with others?

### **Prayers of intercession**

Triune God,

We pray for our world today, knowing that all is not as you would have it be.

In a moment of stillness, we bring you all the things that are weighing heavily on our hearts today, all the sad news and difficult situations in our own lives, our families, our church and our world.

We take a moment to unburden.

*[Hold a silence of a minute or two. It might be helpful to have some quiet, reflective music playing whilst you do so].*

Lord you know the hurts we carry with us in our hearts.

You know the pain of loved ones,

You know the discomfort we feel ourselves,

You know the brokenness in our relationships,

You know the fears we have about the future.

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<sup>7</sup> Written by Ann Fox

And Lord, you know the sorrow of a world that is far from perfect.

You know the tears of the abused, the struggles against poverty, injustice, corruption and human greed.

Lord, you know our hurts.

As we hold these situations in prayer, we pray that your Spirit will move in our hearts, that we might be motivated to be an answer to prayer for someone today, this week, and in the months ahead.

Let it begin with me. **Amen.**<sup>8</sup>

### **Hymn: 94 STF To God be the glory**

1 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!

2 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:

3 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)  
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number

### **Blessing**

As we rise and head out into the world, we go to meet you, Lord God,  
To discover where you are already at work, and to get involved. **Amen.**<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Tim Baker

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<sup>9</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker