

THE LINK

The Magazine of Portsmouth Methodist Church

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Week 23 – August 23rd 2020

Text: “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” John 4:13-14

Information

This Sunday, August 23rd the Portsmouth Methodist Church Holy Communion takes place at Trinity. All are invited to share around the Lord’s table. The first time in months!

As Copnor and Trinity are now open for worship (and Eastney will follow soon) the weekly Link with worship materials will stop at the end of August. This is a last reminder to let us know if you would like to receive weekly worship materials if you are unable to get to church at the moment.

The monthly Link will recommence in September. There will be copies in churches, for those who don't receive it by email but if you are unable to get to church and would like the Link delivered please let John, Ralph or Christine know.

Worship materials for Sunday August 23rd

When we see only trouble **Jesus, be our vision**
When we feel only uncertainty **Jesus, be our rock**
When we hear only bad news **Jesus, be our hope**
In all the circumstances of our lives
Jesus, our Companion, be a light to our path

Hymn: One more step along the world I go (StF 476)

Let us pray together

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mindful, compassionate, constant, thank you for loving us through every season of our lives. May we believe that you call us into a new day, that you call each of us by our name, that we belong to you. And gathered or scattered, you hold us together in love.

Generous and merciful God, the only way to come to you each day is in truth, for you know us completely and love us as we are. Shine your gentle light on us so that we can know ourselves to be real, honest and forgiven. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 51 1-3

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 4 1-14

Time to Reflect by Jean Hudson

In November, we moved house. It set me thinking how old and new need to exist together. A different house, same old furniture; meeting new people, keeping old friends. Old and new together enrich our lives. And it happens all around us in different ways.

Grandparents and grandchildren bridge the generation gap. In nature in autumn and winter, already buds are on the seemingly bare branches, nurturing life for another spring. In our north east culture, ancient Celtic sites co-exist with new developments. St Peter's Church by the River Wear bears witness to many centuries of Christian life, now surrounded by a modern university. But I suspect the Venerable Bede would have welcomed new ways of learning, exploring, discovering.

What does Jesus say about this? Many are tempted to think Jesus discarded all that was old giving us licence to do the same. Yes, we have his words about new wine and old wineskins that destroy one another when they are put together. But in the wilderness, whenever Jesus was tempted away from love and vulnerability, he found his resistance in words from the scriptures with their timeless wisdom and relevance.

Jesus held within himself the wisdom of the ages, God the Ancient of Days, 'the rock from which we were hewn' with the effortless ease he had of living with his contemporaries in fresh and creatively new ways.

During lockdown, we have learned of necessity to hold familiar songs and prayers with new ways of experiencing and expressing them. To be able to hold old and new is something we need to take into an uncertain future, as we abide in the timelessness of God, 'ever old and ever new' but allowing Jesus continuously to bring new life to birth in us, bubbling up with laughter, love and possibility.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Holy and gracious God, we pray for others, prayers that bring to mind the world's realities. Please teach us not to be afraid,

because it is here we find you, sharing this deeply troubled world with us.

Please bless all who are continuing to make a difference: scientists working faster than ever before to find cure or vaccine for covid-19; chefs, volunteers, entertainers, neighbours and countless more. **May they know your laughter and love.**

We ask you to bless all who are there to care for those who are at their lowest, especially in health and care services. **May they know your persevering strength.**

We pray for the hundreds of thousands who are grieving here and across the world: for the loss of loved ones, loss of livelihood, loss of confidence and hope, loss of any sense of wellbeing. **May they know your comfort, strong and everlasting.**

We pray for people who need the world to be a more just and equal place, and for those who have power to make changes. May it happen quickly and peacefully. **May they know your righteousness.**

We pray for all who need the world to remember them: refugees and asylum seekers, all living in poverty and suffering from climate change. **May we remember; may they know your provision through us.**

Thank you for all, profoundly known and loved, who enrich our lives every day.

The Lord's Prayer

A prayer of blessing

Generous God, please fill your holy gift of life with grace; please bless your fragile gift of life with joy; please help us always to cherish your precious gift of life. Amen.

Original Materials by Jean Hudson