



Newsletter

24th January 2021

Daily Bible Readings

- Monday 25th:** Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
- Tuesday 26th:** Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25-46:7; Acts 5:33-42
- Wednesday 27th:** Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a
- Thursday 28th:** Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18
- Friday 29th:** Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17
- Saturday 30th:** Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1

The funeral of Joyce Mumford is being held on the 2nd February at 3.30pm at Basildon Crematorium - anyone wishing to attend should contact Beverly in advance on 01375 670214 or 07835088309 due to Covid number restrictions.

This week's zoom service details if dialling in by phone are:

- Call : 0203 901 7895
 - You will be asked to enter the meeting ID: 841 6644 9486
 - You may be asked for a participant ID or passcode: 322853
- If not just press the # key

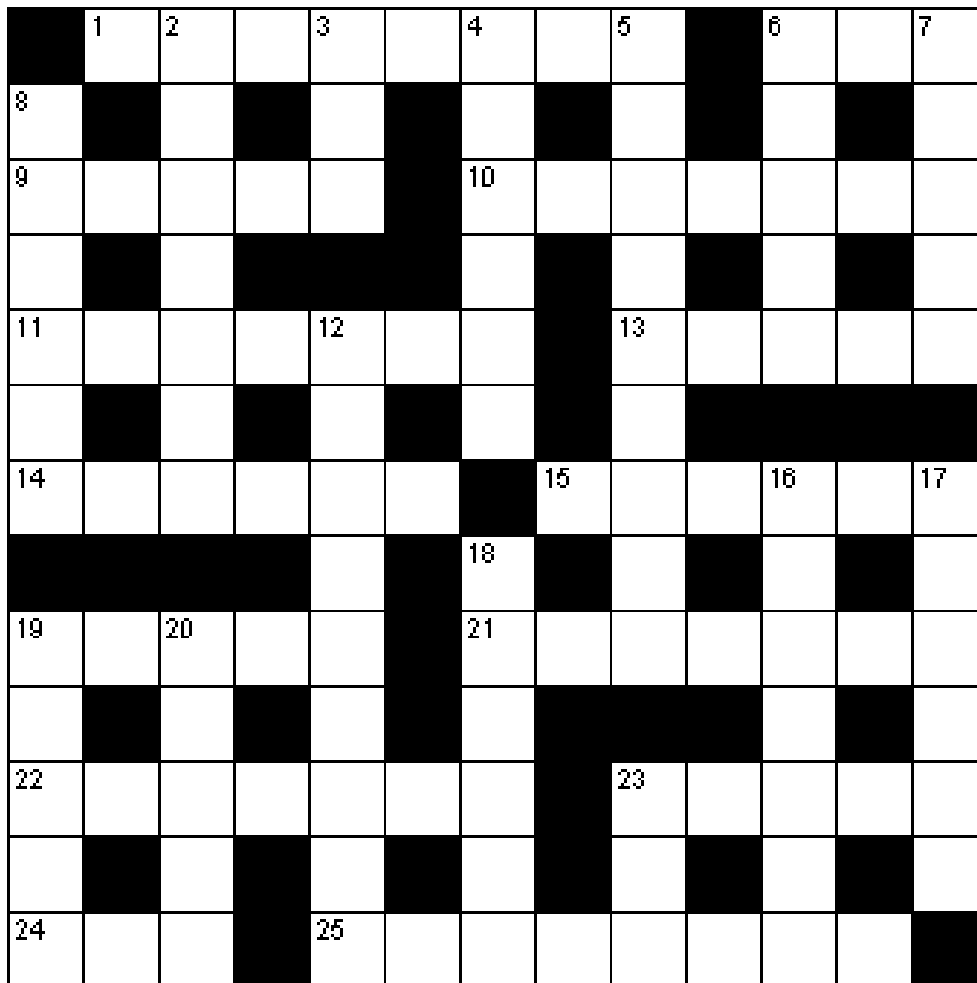
It was with great sadness that we received the news that Ruth Circus passed away last week. She will be greatly missed by so many. Please keep Ruth's family in your prayers. Funeral arrangements are being made and we will let you know when these have been organised.

On a brighter note - Rev Michael Moon has been offered a post as part time Pastor at a Church in Peterborough. Last week he and Jane looked at properties and have found a bungalow which they are very happy with. There is no definite moving date but it is likely to be the beginning of March. We wish Michael and Jane every happiness in their new venture.

Look after yourselves and hopefully as more and more people receive the vaccine we will have good news that the virus is beginning to decrease.

Jacquie

Daily Crossword



Across

- 1** Friendly (8)
- 6** Encountered (3)
- 9** Very pale (5)
- 10** Obstructed (7)
- 11** Sardonic (7)
- 13** Hold-up (5)
- 14** Doglike (6)
- 15** Walk with long steps (6)
- 19** Relating to sight (5)
- 21** Puzzling questions (7)
- 22** Huge (7)
- 23** Salt solution (5)
- 24** China's 'Great Helmsman' (3)
- 25** Wholly (8)

Down

- 2** Red Indian style haircut (7)
- 3** Tin (3)
- 4** Card game for four players (6)
- 5** Speeded up (9)
- 6** Pattern (5)
- 7** Toy bear (5)
- 8** Road-surfacing material (6)
- 12** Freedom from guilt (9)
- 16** Animosity (3-4)
- 17** Religious festival in spring (6)
- 18** Clergyman (6)
- 19** Narcotic derived from poppies (5)
- 20** Musical speed (5)
- 23** Exclude (3)

Inauguration!

Hello from the Manse!

Don't worry I'm still here and haven't emigrated. It's amazing whilst being in lockdown what we have time to watch. I have to admit that like many people I have been holding my breath this week. I didn't know what was going to happen this week and quite honestly, I expected one last twist in the Trump presidency. The moment that many people have been waiting for to happen and Joe Biden became 46th President of the United States of America.

It struck me how much of the inauguration in this secular age was based on the Christian faith. The oath that the President swore started with the words "Before God and all", also ended with the words "So, help me God". It reminds us that God is so benevolent, God watches over us but does not judge us, He helps us instead. An important message that stands the test of time that we often forget, benevolence of God.

If you saw the inauguration, how many times did the President say "we have been tested"? I think we all agreed that the world has been tested this past year with a once in a century virus. The answer in response to this testing time for the President was to rely on faith that God would be graceful in times of distress. That this time will pass but God's grace stands forever. All summed up in the words Amazing Grace sang to us by the country singer Garth Brooks

The final part of the inauguration which I want to mention was a wonderful phase that the Methodist Minister from Wilmington, Delaware said "We gather under the duty of Holiness to be empowered by Holiness of duty". For the president he doesn't seek the office of the most powerful person in the world for power, money or fame but to serve God, to obey God and love thy neighbour. That loving your neighbour is an act of Holiness. That a country divided by recent times needs an act of Holiness to heal it. The best way to be healed is for everyone to do their duty. Apt words for our time. Duty is a word we don't like but it's an important word. Sometimes the things we don't like are what we need the most. Our duty now is to stay at home, our duty as Christians is the same as the President to follow Jesus' words to love one another. God's duty as creator was to look after what he created, and our duty was to give thanks by worshipping him. Duty isn't a bad thing and maybe they are right, it's what will heal this world.

My prayer this week is that we learn from lessons of this week, benevolence of God, empowered by Grace and Holiness of duty that protects us.

God Bless

Pete

Sunday 24 January 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

As we prepare for worship this morning – let us sing or say-

Hymn: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

<https://youtu.be/UnX1hRZi0-w>

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face
and the things of earth will grow strangely
dim

In the light of his glory and grace.
Helen Howarth Lemmel (1863-1961)

**Hymn: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
(Stf 495)**

<https://youtu.be/WqOnjmr9Ah0>

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

Dear Lord and Father of mankind
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,

interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Let us pray together

Lord God, despite the restrictions placed upon us and the circumstances in which we are living in these days, we are thankful that we can turn our eyes upon you to praise and worship you the living God, drawing comfort in the knowledge of your gracious and compassionate nature.

We are conscious Lord of those who have not been able to meet with others, concerned perhaps not to be in other people's company because of health reasons. We think of them now, think of them sitting where they normally would be on a Sunday in church.We ask you Lord, to bless them, just where they are now, uniting us together through the love of Christ. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, you offer us new life in Christ, yet so often we try to live in our own way and in our own strength. We stray from the paths you want us to follow. Forgive us for our half-hearted efforts, our self-centredness, our selfish prayers. Challenge our minds and hearts and lead us towards your truth.

Hear good news. For all who put their trust in Christ. Jesus says: 'Your sins are forgiven.'
Amen. Thanks be to God

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Time to Reflect

Just as Jesus called Peter and Andrew, James and John, so he calls us to follow him. Just as they had to make a decision to do so, so do we. He calls us because he wishes to make us more useful to him, to make our lives more fruitful in the changing world around us. It's a challenge because to follow him, means letting him take the lead. If he says do it, we do it. If he says don't do it, we don't do it.

Following Jesus means accepting him as the way, as far as our lives are concerned, taking him as the truth. God's truth to us. It means accepting that he is the life, our life, and without him there is no life as God intended it to be.

So, if that is the case, the question is.....How are we doing - answering his call and following him?

You see, following Jesus is a transforming work, a continuing work because the day we came to the Lord was only a beginning of a conversion process that started and goes on and on. It really means 'our becoming something we were not'.

So, are we further forward now than when we made that commitment to be a follower?

We can answer that question for ourselves because we know, if over the years, we have been able to do things that before we just couldn't do. Like, talk to other people about our Christian experience, discuss God's word with one another, share our doubts as well as our joyful discoveries; being aware of the knowledge of God's help at our side at difficult times.

Can we say now that, looking back, we have known his presence and direction in our lives? Do we continue to do so? And what about the future? Those disciples Jesus called had no idea where his call would take them. They just went with him and continued to follow him which is what he expects of us too.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Lord God, throughout history you have called people to respond to your challenge to follow you, undaunted by the task to which they were called believing that you would guide and lead them, inspire and enable them to fulfil the work to which they were called. We give thanks for those whose faithful discipleship and friendship encouraged and guided us. Help us to learn from their example and to respond faithfully and willingly whenever you call. Help us to have faith to follow wherever you lead.

We ask these prayers in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and share together in the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come.....
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom

The power and the glory
For ever and ever
Amen

***Hymn: Spirit of God unseen as the wind,
(Stf 394)***

<https://youtu.be/uGiCOx1obNg>

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

Margaret V. Old (1932-2001)

A prayer of blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us in his love
as we answer his call to follow and serve him
in the world today. Amen

Original Materials by Keith Edlington

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI 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. We aim to continue to provide these resources until the end of August 2021.

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So, Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God: they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea-for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Crossword Answers

	¹ A	² M	I	³ C	A	⁴ B	L	⁵ E		⁶ M	E	⁷ T
⁸ T		O		A		R		X		O		E
⁹ A	S	H	E	N		¹⁰ I	M	P	E	D	E	D
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¹¹ M	O	C	K	¹² I	N	G		¹³ D	E	L	A	Y
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¹⁴ C	A	N	I	N	E		¹⁵ S	T	R	¹⁶ I	D	¹⁷ E
				O		¹⁸ P		E		L		A
¹⁹ O	P	²⁰ T	I	C		²¹ R	I	D	D	L	E	S
P		E		E		I				W		T
²² I	M	M	E	N	S	E		²³ B	R	I	N	E
U		P		C		S		A		L		R
²⁴ M	A	O		²⁵ E	N	T	I	R	E	L	Y	