

9<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The **Methodist Church** 

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

## Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.

Greetings all. As I write we are seeing images and hearing stories of those who went to Spain for a holiday or to visit family who face quarantine on their return. I am sure I am not alone in having mixed feelings about their plight – sympathy for those who wanted to be with family after at least 20 weeks apart some of whom will have been bereaved, empathy for those who have worked through lock down and need a holiday, support for the hospitality providers and airlines hit so hard economically. Somewhat different feelings about those who have been furloughed for months but still wanted to go on their annual binge of sun, sand and sangria without thinking through the possibility of short notice restrictions in these highly unpredictable days. Disbelief as one holiday maker, a hair dresser, said she would have to try and contact her clients to cancel their bookings while she was compulsory self-isolating for a fortnight. I thought she ought to at home trimming lockdown hair growth after weeks of enforced 'leave' from her clients.....

But then I don't know her circumstance – just a 30 second clip in the news. Perhaps this holiday was booked long before lockdown and there would have been no refund, or many other good reasons that mean her clients will have to wait a little longer, perhaps another half inch! Its so easy to jump to conclusions and judge others as being less worthy than ourselves. Jesus warns against judging others and has harsh words for hypocrites...

Lockdown news reporting has reminded how complex society is and that issues are never simple. I welcome the Black Lives Matter campaign as it raises real issues of racism and bias some of which is enshrined in institutions. But it too obscures and ignores other injustices. Racism is experienced daily by non-black people on a daily basis. Villagers resent 'new comers', regions dislike and distrust other regions within a country, nations blame 'foreigners' for the problems they face and so on. Issues are never simple matters of good/bad; right/wrong. In this pandemic there are so many losers – bereaved families, job losses, mental health and delayed physical health treatments. But there are a few 'winners'. While most producers and retailers have been hit catastrophically others have made a fortune. The largest baked beans factory, for example, increased production and sales by 50 percent. On-line shopping sites have profited on an unprecedented scale – the two biggest are also most adept at avoiding Corporation, employment and council taxes! As Christians we should be concerned about injustices and pray for those in power to govern with wisdom. In our conversations, perhaps at the hair-dressers(!), we need to bring balance, enhance tolerance and be agents of healing this broken world.

Today's gospel reading focuses on being calm and trusting our Lord even on troubled waters.

Richard Wilde

### Sunday Worship

There are plenty of opportunities to join in worship if you have the internet. We are encouraging everyone to link up with the live stream worship being offered by the **Birmingham District** via FaceBook on Sunday mornings at: <https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/live>

#### **Change of YouTube account:**

Please note, the Circuit now has its own YouTube account (it's no longer piggy-backing off Peter's), which means that the URL has changed. Please access the YouTube video by clicking the following link or typing it into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY>

In addition, we will be offering services online on the **Circuit's** own FaceBook page or via YouTube:  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759)

A full text of this service is also available at this FaceBook link and is being sent by post to all those people who do not use the Internet so they can join in too. These two worship opportunities will be available and sent to you every Sunday. We will be offering worship in a similar way each Sunday as the health crisis continues.

**TV & radio opportunities for worship:**

**Radio 4**, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am,  
**Radio 4 (LW)**, Daily Service, 9.45am Mon-Fri,  
**Radio 3**, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.

**BBC 1**, Sunday Worship, Sunday usually at 10.45am,  
**BBC 1**, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

*(Please check times as these can alter)*

**Prayer**

**Daily prayers** at 10am are led by members of the circuit via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/328494818>  
Please contact Michael Sharman on 07818 118979 if you'd like help getting in.

**Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church**

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514  
Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

**Pastoral Support**

A reminder that if you are in pastoral need of any kind please contact your own Minister direct by email or phone. We may also be able to arrange practical help with shopping and so on. Our details are below.

**If in any doubt, please contact Rev. Peter Powers and he will link you up with help locally to you.**

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|------------------------|--------------|--|
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**Keep safe. Keep caring. Keep praying. With every blessing to you and yours.**

*The Ministers and Stewards of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit of Churches*