



18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

**O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Psalm 96 verse 1**

How easy is it to think of singing a new song at this time? As I write we have had an extremely soggy weekend and the weather is still unsettled. The news of COVID19 seems to get worse all the time and the nights are drawing in. It feels as if we need a psalm of lament rather than this praise psalm which is set for this Sunday. But do we?

The psalmist goes on to remind us that God is great, that he made the heavens, and all creation praises him. God is at the centre holding the world 'The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved'.(10) Such words of confidence, which remind us that the Creator God is the one who holds us. That gives us hope, something to hold on to even in the darkest times.

This is not meant to be a trite response; life is difficult for many just now. There are times when we need to lament with the psalmist or shout at God with Job. Even as we do, the same God who is holding the world is holding us, and will continue to hold us until the storms pass and we can see again.

Or as Psalm23 puts it, 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me. (ps23:4) Let us remind each other of that light in the darkness as we travel together.

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

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

**Sunday Worship and Daily Prayers**

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, 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=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvxxjE93MqkTWQomY>

If you regularly watch the Circuit Service, do consider subscribing to the Channel.

In addition, we will be offering services online on the Circuit's own FaceBook page or via the Website:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SW.Methodist/>

Website: [www.methodist-swc.org.uk](http://www.methodist-swc.org.uk)

A full text of this service is available at this FaceBook link and on the website, and is being sent by post to all those people who do not use the Internet so they can join in too. These 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 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Mon-Fri,  
Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.

BBC 1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am,  
BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm  
*(The times of the TV services can alter, please check the times)*

**Daily prayers** at 10am are led by members of the circuit via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/328494818> Please contact Michael Sharman on 07412 401988 if you'd like help getting in.

## 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 Dr Iain Ballard and he will link you up with help locally to you.**

Rev Dr Iain Ballard	07368 875790	<a href="mailto:iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk">iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk</a>
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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*