

Sunday 19th April 2020

Sunday after Easter

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Whatever befalls the earth, we live in the days of the risen Christ. Marking Holy Week and Easter each year is part of our discipleship to remember Jesus and all God has done through him. It is part of the pattern of the Church Year. Of course, we often find it hard to live in the knowledge that everyday since that first Sunday morning is lived and will be lived in the risen life of Christ. So, although we particularly remember and mark it on Easter Day, we live each day in his risen life. In the scriptures one of the most enlightening images of the church is given to us by Paul, the body of Christ. Specifically, 'we' are the body of Christ. His risen body alive on the earth renewed in each generation to worship and serve him in the world or our day. There is no doubt that the world will not be the same in the time following this present health crisis. Lots of things will be different and that will be true in our churches as much as in other walks of life. We are learning anew what it is to be 'the Body of Christ'. We have no buildings and our faith has been re-planted in our homes. We prepare worship from our homes and we share it together but apart in our homes. This isn't easy for some and yet, for many, there is gift being unwrapped as week by week we strive to keep our worship life alive. In doing so we are discovering that God wants to give us new insights, new opportunities and new signs of his grace. We are being set free from our dependence on our buildings and invited, no forced, to embrace new ways of being church, ways that will, I am sure, set deep within us a new understanding of what it means to be the Body of Christ.

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am, Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Monday-Friday, Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm
BBC1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am, BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

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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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/>

In addition, we will be offering services online on the Circuit's own FaceBook page and on YouTube. The links are below: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=142865293925553&id=110929903785759

A full text of this service is also available at this 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

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