

3rd Sunday after Easter

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

Are we getting used to things as they are now? Many people have settled uneasily into a new way of living. Some are finding it very difficult indeed. Others are 'managing', putting on a brave face and carrying on as best they can. Will things ever be the same? Most of us doubt it. We are hearing that we will all have to get used to a new reality. Living with change is one of the most difficult things about being human. All too often we find change too hard to bear and we cling to the old ways to feel safe and secure. This is understandable, especially when the way ahead is uncertain. We doubt that things will return to normal and we don't know how life will be. Perhaps that's why we cling to the rock of a God that never changes, a God that stays the same. We I do know is that God is with us. The message of Christmas comes to mind, Emmanuel, God with us. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we see God and know God in ways that make it possible for us to carry on. For we feel that Jesus is with us, not just when life is good or when its bad, but when we have to face change. This week's Gospel reading from John 10 is a wonderful reminder that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who care for the sheep and will not lead them astray. It ends with a wonderful promise that means so much to us in difficult times. John 10.10 'I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly'.

All of our church buildings remain closed, but we have been allowed to open them for one or two activities that support the most vulnerable across our community in these testing times. You might like to pray for Kenilworth sewing group that are using the hall at Kenilworth Church to make PPE for use by local hospital and nursing home staff. Four people sewing at any one time, one in each corner of the church hall to keep a safe distance. At Stratford the Talking Newspaper continues to use the premises to produce their weekly news to send out to those who are blind and partially sighted in the community. Stratford has also become the host of the town Food Bank as the premises are more readily suited to offer that ministry safely.

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am,

BBC1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am,

Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Mon-Fri,

BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.

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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Rev. Peter Powers 07941328155 revpeter.mwc@gmail.com

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