

5th July 2020

The **Methodist Church** 

South Warwickshire Circuit
Registered charity no. 1154830

***Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
(Matthew 11: 28)***

Warm greetings to you, sisters and brother in Jesus Christ, and welcome to this week's letter and printed service.

The psalmist writes with confidence of the works of the Lord, looking towards a time when his kingdom will come and praising as if it has already begun. The everlasting kingdom has always been here and will continue to endure it; in it the Lord is not remote like earthly kings but present to support his people. For Paul, the contest for authority is not between kings and their subjects but between his mind that wants to do good and his body that leads him into sin. It is a battle for control that we still fight every day.

The people of Israel have been waiting centuries for the Messiah and then two candidates seem to come along at the same time. They catch a glimpse of the promise fulfilled but something doesn't seem right: John comes exhorting them to seek forgiveness (even though they are already the children of God) and Jesus' tactic is to have parties with 'sinners'. John, they think, is too austere; Jesus is too jolly. Even John's expectations about the Messiah and the kingdom he would bring were thrown off course, and from prison he asks for clarity. Jesus can see the people's dilemma and responds by saying, 'I'm here: this is what I'm offering. You'll find it's good, though not always easy.'

Although the government has announced that the lockdown measures will be eased from 4th July we await the official guidance from the Methodist Church and accordingly clarification on the Circuit Coronavirus Action Group's guidelines.

While you are enjoying your newly found freedom on beaches, in parks or other beauty spots, please remain cautious and follow the social distancing rules -- take care of each other!

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>

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://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9E0b5XWCv-SB0co6kiL5AyIbMJ77Q_MN

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.

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.

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

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

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

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

Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.

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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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