

18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

  
**The Methodist Church**

**South Warwickshire Circuit**

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

The Gospel reading set for today describes one of Jesus' appearances to the disciples after the resurrection. He shows them the wounds on his body, he eats a piece of fish and reminds them of the prophecies which said that the Messiah must suffer and die. And then we are told that he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

We human beings love to debate, and argue, and persuade and convince. But many of the decisions we make are not made based on pure logic or rational thought. They are made with our hearts, our gut, our feelings. We can study and learn many things, but there are some things which can only be known through experience. They come to us in a mysterious way, and once known, they cannot be unknown. What does love feel like? You can try to express it, but your words will never do justice to the felt experience.

This is what faith is fundamentally about. People can argue for and against the existence of God, the deity of Christ, the reality of the resurrection – and perhaps you have taken part in some of those arguments. But when you know, you know. If you have met the post-resurrection Jesus – however fleetingly, and however long ago – it is something you will never be able to shake. Remember that experience – as I'm sure the disciples remembered their encounter with him for the rest of their lives.

In the reading, Jesus appears suddenly, while they were talking about the experience two of them had had on the road to Emmaus. We do not always know where God will meet with us. We assume it will be when we are consciously seeking him, but that is not always the case. Have your eyes peeled and your heart ready to be opened. Be ready to welcome him, for you do not know when or how he will come to you. Perhaps it will be as you read through this service today?

Every blessing,

Rev Barbara Greenwood

### **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 the 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/live>

### **Circuit Service**

The Circuit continues to provide a pre-recorded service each week, via YouTube, Facebook and our website – see below for details:

**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: [tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist](https://tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist) or if this doesn't work, try the long version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvwxjE93MqkTWQomY>  
If you regularly watch the Circuit Service, do consider subscribing to the Channel

Rev Jemima, Michael Sharman & Graeme Russell have created **Family Worship Time** video which is available from 9:15 am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month through our YouTube Channel – and can be accessed here: [tinyurl.com/SWC-FWT](http://tinyurl.com/SWC-FWT) again if this doesn't work, try the longer version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQsCToUfQ3sforT5J7geU2-D>

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 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.

*(The times of the TV services can alter, please check the times)*

BBC 1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am,

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

**Daily prayers** at 10am are led by members of the circuit via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/328494818> All members of the Circuit are invited to join, **you do not need a zoom account** to join. You can also join by **telephone**. 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.**

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