

Church at home

East Leake Methodist Church - 10th May 2020

Sit comfortably in a quiet place and prepare, start with a brief period of silence, turning your mind and spirit towards God. You may want to have a cross or candle in view as a focus.



Christian Aid week May 10th - 16th

Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

Christian Aid's response

Together with our local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

- We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.
- We are providing essential soap, water and handwashing training.
- We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.

- We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

With your help we can do even more.

**E- envelope donations are possible through the Christian Aid website
if you would like to donate. [Sadly no cakes.]**

A prayer from Christian Aid.

Let us pray

Love never fails, Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer. **Amen.**

The other event which should have taken place this weekend is our Church Anniversary. We look forward to being able to celebrate together when the restrictions are lifted. In the meantime Take care, Stay Safe.

Call to worship

Jesus said, I am the Way – come!

Jesus said, I am the Way and the Truth – come and receive.

Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life – come, receive, and respond.

Dear Lord, as we gather in your name,
listen to us and bring us peace;

be our rock and our refuge, that we may be made strong;
let your face shine upon us, that we may show your love. **Amen.**

Hymn StF252 Jesus the Lord said...

Prayers

Together, Lord, we come to seek the 'Jesus way'.

May your truth fill us with wisdom to see your presence
in all that we do.

And may we receive new life, that we may serve you
in all that we are.

Gracious God, you are the rock of our lives.

Your strength sustains us. Your power delivers us.

Your mercy brings forgiveness to us. We come to you in adoration, praising
you that our whole life is in your hands – held, sustained, protected.

Glory be to you, merciful Lord,
glory, honour, majesty and worship,
in the name of your Son, our redeemer.

Amen.

A prayer of confession

Forgive us, loving Lord, that we have strayed from your way.

Forgive us for the times our lives have not been shaped by
your truth.

Forgive us for denying your life in us and in others,
by the way we have lived.

In the name of Jesus, the way, the truth and the life, we pray.

Amen.

Let us join in the Prayer which our Lord taught us -**Our father.....**

Readings: John 14: 1-14

Address,

Our lives are very different at the moment but the message we receive this
week is very much as it was to the disciples over 2000 years ago. Jesus had
used several phases beginning **I am...**

The Gospel reading today, often used at funeral services also has other important phrases today we look at- **“I am the way, the truth and the life-”** Jesus was commissioning his disciples as he commissions us to follow him today.

He tells us that we are never alone- something which has been very poignant at this time, especially for those of us who live alone.

,Jesus on this occasion tells us :

I am the way- the map which we can follow and the compass to guide us, a sign post to direct us and the support we are given when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ- think of the Footsteps poem by Mary Fishback Powers, which is attached

I am the truth – following the example of Jesus in the way he maintained his relation with God through prayer, and following his guidance. I have attached a finger labyrinth for a time of reflective prayer – [you could imagine that Jesus is walking this labyrinth with you]and also the Prayer journal for Thy Kingdom Come.-

I am the life- following the life Christ showed us when he was here on earth. A life of care, compassion and love. One of the good things which has come out of this pandemic is the love and care in our churches and also in our communities. A life of caring for those who are marginalised, those who are vulnerable.

May we all follow the example of Christ Jesus our Lord as we live out our lives. Just as the disciples were told. We need to put our faith into the Lord Jesus Christ and ask all things in his name

The Rev Martin Swan has been giving us encouragement through the Christchurch prayer chain each day and he shared his experience of climbing the 3 peaks challenge and being daunted at the beginning of his first climb of Ben Nevis and two others to go but was reminded of an old Chinese proverb “each journey starts with a single step.” we have to step out, be inspired by our faith following the Lord Jesus Christ, for he will help and support us.

A friend sent me this earlier in the week I don't know the source but here are the words:

When you're hurting deep inside and you cannot find a place to hide. Pray.

When your lonely and depressed and the world seems so oppressed. Pray.

When you are afraid and full of fear and no voice of comfort you can hear. Pray.

Trust in the Lord and follow his example, ask for all things in his name for he is **the way, the truth and the life.** Amen.

Hymn StF503 Love divine, all loves excelling

Prayers of intercession

In a world where there is warfare and violence and a pandemic,
many people live in fear of the bullet bomb and virus
many have had their lives and livelihoods destroyed;
many grieve for loved ones who have been died.

That they may know your strength and peace, loving God:
be for them a rock and a stronghold.

In a world where harvests have failed;
where there have been droughts and floods;
many do not have money to pay for food or power;
many are reaching the end of their tether.

That they may know your strength and peace, loving God:
be for them a rock and a stronghold.

In a world where many people are alone;
many do not know where to look for comfort and encouragement;
many see no purpose or future; some cannot see the point of anything.

That they may know your strength and peace, loving God:
be for them a rock and a stronghold.

In our lives when we struggle and doubt; when we don't know what to say or do; when life overwhelms us and we turn to you.

That we may know your strength and peace, loving God:

be for us a rock and a stronghold.

Let us spend some time in silence bring to you our prayers and concerns

Silence

In the name of the living Lord Jesus, our Saviour and companion.

Amen.

Hymn StF How sweet the name of Jesus sounds,

Blessing

May God bless you, guide you and direct you.

May God bless you, give you strength and the assurance of his love.

May God bless you and fill your life with his presence –
today and always.

Amen.

Prayers from Roots on the Web [with adaptation] and Christian Aid.

This service was written by Chris Watkins -Local Preacher and Local pastor at East Leake Methodist Church.

Foot steps in the sand by Mary Fishback Powers

One night I dreamed a dream.

As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,

One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,

I looked back at the footprints in the sand.

I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,

especially at the very lowest and saddest times,

there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,

You'd walk with me all the way.

But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,

there was only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you

Never, ever, during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints,

It was then that I carried you."

Thy Kingdom Come-

A time of prayer and reflection between Ascension and Pentecost-May 21st- 31st 2020. Prayer journal attached to print off if you haven't already got a copy in the Connexion magazine.

Praying with a Labyrinth

...Walk humbly with your God... Micah 6:8

- Be still and gently pray: I place myself in your presence O Lord, my God.
- When you are ready... walk into the labyrinth or on a finger labyrinth slowly trace the path with a finger, use a finger on the hand that you do not write with, just let your thoughts come to the surface and let them flow... Jesus is with you every step of the way, you are never alone. You are always loved by God.
- When you reach the centre...consider your thoughts...
- ...stay in the centre for a while and spend some time in prayer and reflection receiving God's love and blessing.
- When you are ready... return along the same path... return gratefully, prayerfully ...
- As you exit the labyrinth give thanks and praise to God: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.
- If you keep a prayer journal you may like to write down words, symbols or phrases to acknowledge and remember this time of prayer.

