

Church at home

East Leake Methodist Church 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.

May 24th 2020 Aldersgate Sunday by M E Pugh

Call to Worship Psalm 68:4

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him - his name is the Lord.

Hymn StF 54 8 Blessed Assurance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuyf1YQvcwY>

Prayer

Father God,
You are in every moment
Where we are, you are,
Where we go. you go.
You are above and beyond us and yet you are within us.
Even in our doubt and denial you keep us close

Thank You for giving us the assurance that You are a dependable God,
That Your love for us all is to be found in your Son, Jesus Christ
That You strengthen and sustain us through the Holy Spirit
In all our yesterdays, in our today and all our tomorrows may we show our love of
You in all we do, all we say and think,
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Reading Mark 12:28-37

Prayer of confession and intercession

Loving Lord

We try to mirror your love

And yet we know our efforts can only be a shadow in your presence.

We are sorry for all we do that does not bring you glory.

Forgiving Lord

We try to forgive as we are forgiven

As we look upon our world today we see pain and sorrow.

Grant comfort to all in despair

As we look upon our country today we see confusion and fear

Grant wisdom to all in authority

As we look at our community today we see loneliness and panic

Grant hope to us all

In Jesus name. Amen

Reading Romans 5: 1-11

Hymn StF 454 Where shall my wondering soul begin?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EVroDWJGiQ>

Message

Heart warming stories have been told throughout the last few weeks, from people providing meals and collecting shopping for neighbours, carers in care homes and hospitals going the extra mile to help others, rainbows in windows and a weekly community demonstration of gratitude to all working in the NHS and other key workers. Doubtless you could add to the list.

John Wesley used the term that his heart was ‘strangely warmed’ when he had a special experience, a life-changing moment at a meeting in Aldersgate Street, London. The Wesley brothers were blessed by God in the same week, in 1758???.

They were already very devout Christians and yet were moved on in their spiritual journey. They were born again. Their heart-warming experience led to the launch of Methodism, remembered in May each year on Aldersgate Sunday.,

In this time of uncertainty, when news is full of gloom, there have been stories full of hope and encouragement. Isolation seems to be the norm for many of us. How reassuring is it then to consider the constant presence of God.

‘...since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.’ (Rom5:1-2)

Indeed John Wesley’s final recorded words -

‘Best of all God is with us’ -

are something to hold onto as we come to terms with a world full of anxiety.

Andrew Pratt uses the phrase 'Best of all God is with us' as the first line of his hymn which celebrates John Wesley's life and the assurance of God's presence in everything that spurred Wesley on to a new kind of ministry.

'hearts are challenged, strangely warmed'

Here we are in 2020 challenged in a way we could never have anticipated, and we find that amongst all the strangeness our hearts can still be warmed and we can know that 'best of all God is with us.'

Hymn StF 610 Best of all is God is with us (suggested tune All for Jesus)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWOAORsE8S0>

Closing Prayer

Hearts warmed, let us go on in our faith
to the glory of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen
