

Church at Home

East Leake Methodist Church June 28th 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.

Call to worship

The steadfast love of the Lord is established for ever.

His faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

The Lord invites us and welcomes us.

Let us worship the Lord.

Hymn StF 24 Come now is the time to worship

Prayers: Let us pray

O God, your Spirit draws us into your presence,
and so we come – drawn by love, upheld by grace –
to encounter Jesus, our Saviour.

We know him as our master.

We know him as our friend.

In him we see the Father, whose love sent Jesus to us.

Spirit, Son and Father,

we draw close in faith to offer our praise and worship.

Amen.

We are sorry, dear Lord, for the times we judge others and find them wanting.

We are sorry that we turn away from your children in their need.

We are sorry that we think we are too busy.

We are sorry for the times our welcome has been lukewarm.

Forgive us, and help us to remember the warmth of your welcome, and to be inspired to share that warmth with all people.

Amen.

You, O Lord, are the glory and the strength!

Happy are those who know the festal shout:
who walk in the light of your countenance.

Your love is secure and unending.

Happy are those who know the festal shout:
who walk in the light of your countenance.

Your righteousness and mercy are without measure.

Happy are those who know the festal shout:
who walk in the light of your countenance.

Accept our praise and adoration, Lord, we pray.

Amen.

Let us join together in the Lord's Prayer, Our Father.....

Reading

Recall the story of Ruth or you can read it in your Bible.[takes about 12 mins] There is also a play version attached

Address

Every year when Bible month comes around I have been tempted to ask how can we spend four weeks looking at James, Jonah and this year Ruth. I have listen into several web based presentation about the book of Ruth and from all that Angela and Roger have already said, you will be aware that this story is of a Moabite woman who stands by her mother in law, returns with her to a foreign country and follows her God. She then goes on to provide for them both, she is supported by Boaz, goes on to marry him and in so doing carries on the family line which leads to King David and through to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The story can be looked at from many angles- the actual times in which it took place. The position of women in that society, power, sacrifice. How people of different races and ethnicity were treated. Care, compassion and responsibility. Cultural differences, Genealogy, Migration. The way God works through people. Where we are in own own lives, in our world today and so I wonder.....

Who do you relate to in the story?

Let us have a quick look at the main people involved

Elimelech- husband of Naomi, took his family to Moab when the famine struck the Promised land. Died in Moab.

Mahlon- went with his parents to Moab and married a Moabite woman- Ruth and he dies in Moab

Kilion- as his brother, went with his parents to Moab and married a Moabite woman- Orpah and died in Moab

Naomi- wife of Elimelech, mother to Mahlon and Kilion and mother in law to Ruth and Orpah- returns to her homeland. Bitter about her circumstances and blames God. Arranges a second marriage for her daughter in law -Ruth.

Orpah- married to Kilion, decides to remain eventually with her family in Moab when Naomi decides to return to her homeland.

Ruth- Moahbite woman married to Mahlon, decides to go with her Mother in law to her homeland, worships God. Looks after Naomi, Meets and marries Boaz and has a son Obed

Boaz- relative of Naomi/Elimelech, helps Naomi and Ruth. Marries Ruth, they have a son Obed.

Man with no name relative of Naomi and Elimelech.

Who do you relate to?

Having looked at many various aspect of this story what comes out to me is the love of God [although there is little mention of God] shown through the various characters, the way they live their lives and how they care and treat others. The use of their skills and talents to carry our their faith in their time and place.

We have the importance of our faith, being available for everyone to share the love of God, through the Ruth and Orpah the woman from a different race.

The Care, compassion and faith of Ruth and Boaz when looking after Naomi. And for the way in which Ruth is treated by Boaz, with respect, care, love and his sense of responsibility for his relatives and people generally, his workers and society.

It is an excellent example of how we can follow the example that was developed further by our Lord Jesus Christ. We are all called

to love God and to treat our neighbours[everyone] as we would want to be treated ourselves.

We have come across many examples of the work of God through this pandemic, may we be strengthened by our faith in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and may he use our skills and talents, as he sees fit, to further his work in our world.

I am reminded of Hymn StF 482 There is no moment in my life. Do read it through. [I am not sure of the tune] Amen.

Hymn StF 504 May the mind of Christ my Saviour

Prayers of intercession : Let us pray

Lord Jesus,
we pray in your name and in the name of peace
for the worn torn countries of the world,
for countries where violence is rife,
for communities where tensions run high.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray in your name and in the name of sorrow
for the people of Reading,
as we remember James Furlong, Joe Ritchie-Bennett and David Wails,
for those who tried to save them,
for those who grieve for them.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray in your name and in the name of justice
for the marginalised people of the world,
for those who are discriminated against,

for those who are trafficked.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray in your name and in the name of compassion
for the animals of the world,
for those that are hunted,
those that are exploited,
those that are endangered.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray in your name and in the name of gratitude
for those who stand up for the oppressed,
for those who kneel down for the victimised,
for those who speak out for the silenced.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray in your name and in the name of love
for children and young people.
for those who are vulnerable,
for those with special needs,
for those who are carers for their parents and siblings.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray in your name and in the name of hope
for economic challenges to be overcome,
for opportunities to be embraced,
for changes to be long lasting.

Lord hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray in your name and in the name of faith
for your church throughout the world,
for those entrusted with leadership,
for congregations reaching out to their communities,
for one another to live as we pray.

Lord hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray in your name and in the name of thankfulness
for businesses and venues preparing to open again,
for families preparing to meet up again,
for friends preparing to socialise again;
and we pray for all in government as they continue to monitor and
measure
the levels of infections around the UK.

**Lord hear our prayer, for you are our strength and our
inspiration and in you we trust. Amen.**

Hymn Stf 470 Lord of the years

Blessing;

Go in the name of Jesus, to follow the way of Jesus,
to love with the love of Jesus,
and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus.

Amen.

*This Services was prepared by Chris Watkins. Local Pastor at
East Leake Methodist Church.*

Prayers are from Roots on the Web

Church reopening.

Bryan and Greg have been working very hard to prepare our premises for
reopening and I would like to thank them for all their diligence and care
on our behalf.

We have to wait for guidance from the Methodist Church Conference
which is taking place this weekend but it seems unlikely to allow
reopening before August and possibly later.

Be assured we will let you know as soon as we are able to use our
premises again. Take care and keep safe everyone. Love to you all.
Chris.