

THE LINK

The Magazine of Portsmouth Methodist Church

Minister : Rev John Mills

Email : millses89@gmail.com 02392 731858

Week 2 – March 29th 2020

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding” – Proverbs 3:5

I hope and pray that you are all keeping safe, and you have what you need to cope with the new situation – physically, mentally and spiritually. This edition of The Link again contains some information and worship pointers.

Information

The pastoral visitors and others in the church have been doing sterling work keeping in touch with everyone and in some cases shopping etc. There are some offers to add items in for people in on-line food delivery orders. A reminder to get in touch to the addresses above if you now need some help with anything. The HIVE is co-ordinating the response in Portsmouth, so you could also call them on 12392 616. The HIVE is also the place to register as a volunteer if you are not in vulnerable categories yourself.

Those of you on-line will have found all sorts of useful advice by now but a reminder to check out the Methodist Church website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/> where you'll find much good stuff, including how to be part of an online Methodist choir! Keep sending us any good information or links you come across.

Worship

The Methodist Church website has links to daily morning prayer and Sunday worship services. Some churches locally are also live streaming – certainly the Cathedral and Harbour Church (please let us know of others).

There is a Sunday worship on BBC 1 at 11.30 this Sunday. Songs of Praise is on at 1.15pm.

Radio 4's Morning worship this Sunday comes from Wesley's Chapel and is on at 8.10. It's also worth checking out local radio. Our own Rev Bill Stilwell was doing Thought for the Day last Sunday on Angel Radio, but at time of writing there isn't a published schedule for this Sunday. Below is the worship at home service for this Sunday – Passion Sunday.

Opening Prayer

As we come to worship you might like to have a time of silence and light a candle.

Then pray: Holy and Loving God I come to worship you, as I do remember that I am a part of your church in my community and in the world, and I take comfort from the fact that I am not alone. Come by your Holy Spirit and help me to worship you in spirit and in truth.

Amen

Hymn: StF 370 Breathe on me breath of God

Let us pray together

Holy and Loving God, all life comes from you, and in you all things hold together. As we remember this, we pause to give you thanks and Praise. As we remember this, we are reminded that you hold the end from the beginning, and that nothing is too large or too small for you. As we remember this, remind us that as all things are held, so we are held by you, in love. Help us in our anxious thoughts. Help us in our day to day lives.

Help us in this time of deep uncertainty. We acknowledge that at times we are selfish, at times we do not seek you first. But we know that you are always faithful, merciful, gracious, and forgiving.

(Silence)

We receive your mercy and forgiveness faithfulness and grace. In the name of Christ. Amen

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Today's Gospel Reading: John 11: 1-45

Reflection

A beautiful and poignant passage, which includes 'Jesus wept', the phrase showing the depth of Jesus's compassion for Martha and Mary and the very human reaction to the death of his friend Lazarus. I believe that it's Christ's compassion that inspires the many acts of kindness that we are hearing about today, whether or not those who carry them out claim a Christian faith or not. Let us give thanks for God inspired human compassion. Compassion exemplified to an heroic level last week by Father Giuseppe Berardelli, 72, and Italian priest in Bergamo, Italy. He fell ill with CV. His parishioners bought him a ventilator, but according to the hospital he died in, he had given it up so that a younger man could have it. One of the doctors said "I'm not an atheist anymore". May he rest in peace and rise in glory. And for us, in all the everyday ways, we already are let us reflect the compassion of Christ. Amen. J

Take a time to sit quietly - **A time of prayer**

Let's pray

Holy and Loving God we pray for your world, for the leaders who are making difficult decisions as every day brings new changes and challenges. Lord of all, Lord for all - Hear our prayer

We pray for our nation, that decisions might be made with wisdom and care for the benefit of all.

Lord of all, Lord for all -Hear our prayer

We pray for our city. For all who live here that your peace might reign and that your perfect love might settle our fears.

Lord of all, Lord for all -Hear our prayer

We pray for frontline workers, Drs, nurses, carers, shop workers, refuse collectors, postal workers.

Lord of all, Lord for all -Hear our prayer

We pray for our loved ones, those we know who may be ill, those who are struggling, those who are confused and conflicted... (you might like to name names here)

Lord of all, Lord for all -Hear our prayer

And finally, we pray for ourselves, you know what is on our hearts and minds, and so we offer that to you (again you might like to name your own prayers and concerns)

Lord of all, Lord for all -Hear our prayer. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

A hymn you know or have words for

A prayer of blessing

May you know the deep peace of the God who knows and perfectly loves you.

May take the yoke of Jesus upon you, knowing that he bears your load with you.

May you know the indwelling Spirit bringing you wisdom and peace.

Amen. Original Materials by [Rev. Sally Coleman](#)