

Beckminster Methodist
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
Worship... Service ... Witness ... in the name of Jesus

Beckminster Welcomes You

Check Out Our Website @ www.beckminsterchurch.co.uk


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Worship and Fellowship 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 7 February 2021

What's On This Week....

Monday 8 February 9.30 - 11.30am Office Closed 7.00pm Church Council Meeting on Zoom (See Notices)
Tuesday 9 February 9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
Wednesday 10 February 9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed 9.00am Zoom Prayer Meeting (See Notices)
Thursday 11 February 2.00 - 5.00pm Office Closed
Friday 12 February 9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
Saturday 13 February

Collect for the Day

To ponder and pray
Loving God, the light of minds that
know you, the life of the souls that love
you, and the strength of the wills that
serve you: help us so to know you that
we may truly love you, and so to love
you that we may truly serve you, whom
to serve is perfect freedom; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Come and join us on
Sunday, 14 February 2021
on Zoom
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev. Dr. Paul Nzacahayo**

**10.30am Morning Service
led by Rev. Peggy Heim**

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is love, and where true love is God himself is there.

Loving Father, be with us now, renewing us with your creative love.

Loving Son, be with us now, bringing forgiveness through your saving love.

Loving Spirit, be with us now, strengthening us with your sustaining love.

Loving God, Father, Son, and Spirit, as we worship may we be built up in love. **Amen.**

StF 28 Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son, who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hands of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

**Due to Covid
restrictions this
service and
future services
will be on
zoom until
further notice.
For further
information
please contact
Sue Lorimer.**

Stowlawn

Not open for worship but you are welcome to join other acts of worship around the Circuit.

Stratton Street

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am with Revd Christopher Collins. For zoom details please contact Revd. Chris Collins.

Upper Ettingshall

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available on request from Revd Steve Jackson.

Wombourne

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Rev. Rachel Parkinson. Zoom link available on request from Janet Fenney or Revd Teddy Siwila.

Fallings Park

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am led by Rev. Sam Hagerman. Zoom link available on request from Revd Sam Hagerman.

Fordhouses

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am led by Rev. Sam Hagerman. Zoom link available on request from Revd Sam Hagerman.

Hurst Hill

Sunday service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available on request from Revd Steve Jackson.

Lanesfield

Not open for worship but you are welcome to join other acts of worship around the Circuit.

Rakegate

Not open for worship but you are welcome to join other acts of worship around the Circuit.

St. Andrew's

10.30am there is a simple weekly YouTube service that is pre-recorded and lasts about 30 minutes. The YouTube channel is "ST ANDREWS CHURCH SEDGLEY" and is accessible during the week. www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrwvypBKFcY

St. John's

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available on request from Revd Steve Jackson.

Springdale

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Rev. Rachel Parkinson. Zoom link available from Janet Fenney or Revd Teddy Siwila.

PRAYERS

How shall we pray this morning?
What will this day bring, O God? We don't have a clue!
But you are not only the author of the mystery of life,
you are that very mystery itself:
for your beauty does not reside in the heavens
but is among us in the bluejays on our lawns,
the pear trees blossoming in our backyards,
the hawks circling in the sky.
May we be a part of your mystery this day.

How shall we pray this morning?
What will happen during this day, Brother Jesus, we wonder.
We could wallow in loneliness – show us how to care for others.
We could think only of ourselves – teach us new songs
to sing to our neighbours.
We could sit, and sit, and sit – help us to get up and move:
yoga on television, a walk around the neighbourhood,
a bouncy dance with our grandkids,
a good, long stretching routine.

How shall we pray this morning?
What will we hear this day, Breath of our life?
Will we focus on the wanderings of politicians
or listen to the whisper of the breezes?
Will we hear the anger, the fear, the worries offered endlessly
or the songs of your heart offering trust and grace.
Will we simply stuff our ears with the cotton of uncertainty
or open ourselves up to every word of hope, of love, of life?

How shall we pray this morning?
Walk with us this day, O God,
so we may discover our part in the mystery,
share the wonder of life
and listen to your heart in every moment. **Amen**

(How shall we pray this morning? For what shall we pray this night?
Thom M. Shuman Wild Goose Publications)

God of grace, forgive our self-concern, forgive our lack of love, forgive
our ill-judged thoughts.
God of mercy, forgive our impatience, forgive our hard hearts, forgive
our harsh words.
God of peace, forgive our wasting conflict, forgive our wounding
pride, forgive our careless deeds.

Silence

God forgives us: God makes peace within us: we claim this promise in
faith and hope. **Amen.**

READINGS:

Isaiah 40: 21 - 31 read by Colin Peterson

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1: 29 - 39 read by Wendy Peterson

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

Worship on Sunday, 7 February 2021*Beckminster*

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Rev. Peggy Heim. Zoom link available on request from Sue Lorimer.

Bilston

Sunday Service on Audio Phone at 11am with Wendy Gould. Telephone Number and Pin available from Revd William Davis, Jonathan Mtsambilwa or Andy Dale.

Bradley

Not open for worship but you are welcome to join other acts of worship around the Circuit.

Brewood

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Nadine Brown. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

Codsall

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Nadine Brown. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

Coven

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Nadine Brown. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

Cranmer

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am led by Rev. Sam Hagerman. Zoom link available on request from Revd Sam Hagerman.

East Park

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am with Revd Christopher Collins. For zoom details contact Revd. Chris Collins.

"SOUL SPACE" a Sunday evening gathering for quiet and reflective worship lasting about forty minutes. We will share simple prayers, readings, poetry, quietness and reflective music. We meet on Zoom at 6.30pm. For further details contact Rev. Chris Collins.

Opportunities for Worship and Prayer around the Circuit

*If you need help accessing information for on-line worship, please contact Revd Christopher Collins:
christopher.collins@methodist.org.uk*

Midweek Opportunities

Circuit Morning Prayer

Available on the Circuit Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/500469540084007>) at 8.00am each morning Monday-Saturday. The video is also available.

Circuit evening prayer

Available on the Circuit Facebook page (as above) at 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - Saturday

Brewood

Evening Prayer on a Tuesday and Friday at 7.45pm, online or by phone. Details from Helen Share.

Codsall

Evening Prayer on a Tuesday and Friday at 7.45pm, online or by phone. Details from Helen Share.

Coven

Evening Prayer on a Tuesday and Friday at 7.45pm, online or by phone. Details from Helen Share.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' ³⁸ He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

REFLECTION

*May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be acceptable to you Lord, our strength and our salvation. **Amen.***

I am eternally captivated by the power of words. I have a Facebook friend who regularly posts little bits of humour, often word play. These words have the power to make me laugh which is extremely helpful these days. I am able to have video calls with my grandchildren and their words have the power to warm my heart. The words of the Bible have the power to comfort or to challenge me.

A former colleague of mine recently said that Isaiah 40 is one of his favourite chapters in the Bible. It begins with the words: 'Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.' and ends with the assurance that 'those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.' Comforting words indeed. An assurance much needed when our strength is at a low point, we feel weighed down and unable to walk much less fly, and we are indeed very, very weary. Isaiah offers us words of comfort in a very challenging time.

Last week I listened to The Reverend Canon Dr. Jennifer Smith of Wesley's Chapel in London preach on the passage immediately preceding today's reading from Mark's gospel. Jen told us that Mark was her favourite gospel...if we are allowed to have a favourite. She spoke of the energy and speed that fuel Mark's telling of Jesus' 'holy human story.' I had to smile because I had a supernumerary minister

in one of my churches in Hastings who was also passionate about Mark. We had very good natured debates about Mark and Luke. You see I can get pretty passionate about Luke. Give me his storytelling, his insight into human nature and his slower, steady pace any day. The speed with which Mark tells the story wears me out. Did you know that the word immediately is used 27 times in the 16 chapters of Mark's gospel? That compares to 26 times in the 73 chapters of Matthew, Luke and John combined. Jen convinced me...with probably a little help from my supernumerary friend...that I needed to pay attention to Mark's intensity and carefully chosen words.

The passage from Mark's gospel is complex. Seemingly unconnected events happen in quick succession. It is early days in Jesus' ministry. He has just called Simon and Andrew, James and John. It is the Sabbath and Jesus and the four disciples go to the synagogue in Capernaum. As Jesus is teaching he is interrupted by a man with an unclean spirit. Jesus stops what he is doing and heals the man. Those present are left wondering: 'What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.' 'As soon as' they leave the synagogue they go to the house of Simon and Andrew. In the space of two short verses Jesus is told that Simon's mother-in-law is ill, he touches her, the fever leaves her and she begins to serve them. It is a very compact healing story. The immediacy of healing is evident in her ability to serve them. Her response to Jesus' touch is to serve him. In his carefully chosen words Mark is telling us that our response to Jesus' touch in our lives is to serve. In a sense Jesus called Simon's mother-in-law into discipleship with that touch...just as he had called the fishermen a few verses earlier.

Simon's mother-in-law is healed in the presence of only a few but paired with the healing at the synagogue in the presence of many – the news is out – as soon as sundown comes and the Sabbath is over the 'whole city' gathers outside the door. Many come to be healed. The need was great. Jesus responded to that need.

The third part of the passage is difficult. It is not hard to accept that Jesus rose early, sought solitude and prayed. It is easy to see why everyone came looking for him considering the events of the previous day. But we need to understand why Jesus' response to Simon is to move on to the neighbouring towns. Jesus had no interest in becoming the local healer in Capernaum. He did not seek to draw attention to himself. I believe his prayerful response to Simon is a reflection of his intention to do his Father's will. He was to proclaim to all the good news of God's all-embracing love. It was not a mission that could be achieved standing still in one place. The healings were not an end in themselves but part of the proclamation of the

CHURCH COUNCIL. There will be a Zoom Meeting of Church Council on Monday, 8 February at 7.00pm. Details will be sent out at a later stage to members of Council. However, all church members are welcome to join us since our business is relevant to all and we welcome everyone's views. In the last months, a Strategic Planning Group has been meeting to consider honestly and radically the options for our church in the future: that group's report is to be examined and discussed at our Church Council Meeting. Members wishing to participate in the discussion should contact me in advance, so that I can send you the relevant link.

Another item of business at the February meeting is to confirm post holders for another year. Generally, members simply inform me if they are **unable** to continue in post. Unless I hear from you, I shall assume (with immense gratitude) that you are willing to fulfil the tasks for which you have volunteered previously. John Ashwood.

CHURCH OFFICE is closed at the present time so if you need to contact me ring on my home number or email. Many thanks. Sue.

ROGER FELLOWS. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret, Simon, Rebecca and the family following the death of Roger on 3 February 2021.

ZOOM PRAYER MEETING on a Wednesday at 9.00am. All are welcome and for further details please contact Sue.

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT, 22 February – 7 March 2021. W-ton Fair Trade Partnership will be hosting an online event on Tuesday, 23 February at 7pm. We are following the Fairtrade Foundation's theme highlighting climate change and the global South.

Choose the World You Want. An online presentation about climate change and sustainability in India, followed by Q&A session. Tuesday, 23 February at 7pm. To register please contact Brenda Shuttleworth 01902 330002 brendaks@hotmail.co.uk

LENT in a BAG. For Lent we will be distributing a 'Lent in a Bag' resource to you all at home. In the bag you will find a walk through Lent using a variety of symbols which we suggest you source on the relevant day to ponder over their meaning for you and your life. There will be some simple thoughts about each symbol to help you focus on what you can learn from Jesus' life and example and to think on how relevant his life and example is for this century. Beckminster Leadership Team.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Chorus

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

Chorus

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Chorus

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

Chorus

CLOSING PRAYER

When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid. The
new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we
are brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it.
(*The Hill We Climb*, Amanda Gorman)

Unless noted otherwise prayers are from *The Word in the World*
compiled by Donald Hilton, National Christian Education Council.

presence of God...the God of creation, the God that the prophet
Isaiah speaks of with such passion...the God who 'sits above the circle
of the earth'...the God who loves us as the unique individuals we are
and 'renews our strength' giving us 'wings like eagles.'

Each night as we watch the news about the efforts to tackle the
spread of the corona virus, the pressures on the NHS, the frustrations
of key workers, the despair of those who have lost their livelihoods.
We hear of protests against discrimination and injustice. We learn of
coups and unrest. We see pictures of refugees and the plight of the
homeless. We might ask, How do we respond to Jesus' touch in our
lives? Where is the strength? Where are the wings?

Two and a half weeks ago I sat in front of my television watching
what I perceived to be good news as Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
were sworn in as President and Vice President. I was full of
anticipation and prepared for the unique inauguration that it was to
be...or so I thought. My expectations were blown away when a 22
year old black woman stood at the podium to recite a poem she had
written for the occasion. I have read Amanda Gorman's poem 'The
Hill We Climb' many times and more meaningfully I have watched the
video of her performing the poem many times. It is the voice of a
prophet for our times. It is a voice that does not shy away from the
challenges that face not only my homeland but our world. But it is a
voice that sees hope. Let me read just a few passages from that poem
in the hope that we might find strength and fly...in the hope that we
might find insight into how we respond to Jesus' touch.

'When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find light in this
never-ending shade? The loss we carry, a sea we must wade. We've
braved the belly of the beast. We've learned that quiet isn't always
peace, and the norms and notions of what 'just is' isn't always justice.
And yet, the dawn is ours before we know it. Somehow we do it.'

'We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing
else say this is true: That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as
we hurt, we hoped. That even as we tired, we tried.'

'When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only
we are brave enough to see it, if only we are brave enough to be it.'

I began by talking about the power of words to give us joy, love,
comfort and challenge...and hope. Whether it be in the words of
Isaiah, the touch of the Word made flesh or the words of a young
contemporary prophet may we find our strength to fly, may we find
our strength to be light.

StF 706 Longing for Light,

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

***Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.***

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing, for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Chorus

Many the gifts. many the people,
many the hearts that long to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Chorus

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, your Kingdom is a kingdom of justice and mercy. We pray for the leaders of the nations, that they might rule fairly and with compassion respecting the rights and needs of all people and promoting peace. We pray especially for our leaders at this time considering the difficult decisions they must make during the pandemic. Give them wisdom and integrity.

Your Kingdom come. ***Your will be done.***

Loving God, your Kingdom is a kingdom of hope and joy. We pray for those whose lives and livelihoods have been turned upside down this year. We pray for those in sorrow and need. We remember the bereaved, the anxious and the lonely, the hungry and the homeless whether they be across the street or around the world. Today we pray especially for those who reach out to meet the needs of others in so many ways. May we each do our part.

Your Kingdom come. ***Your will be done.***

Loving God, your Kingdom is a kingdom of love and unity. We pray for our church, our circuit, and the Methodist Connexion. We pray for our brothers and sisters in our community, our nation and around the world. May we work together to be witnesses of your love, compassion, and mercy in these challenging times. Today we pray especially for those who work to build bridges between denominations and faiths.

Your Kingdom come. ***Your will be done.***

Loving God, your Kingdom is a kingdom of light and life. We pray for ourselves, that you will guide so that we might follow in your footsteps and do your will.

Your Kingdom come. ***Your will be done. Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

With the confidence of the children of God...

PRAYERS FOR GIFTS

Loving God,
Our Creator, who gives us life and meaning,
Our Saviour, who gives us wholeness and hope,
Our Comforter, who gives us peace and joy,
We make our gifts to you:
The things we have, the time we spend, the people we are.
Use us to show your love to all the world. In Christ's name. **Amen.**

StF 409 Let Us Build a House

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*