

*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 Revd Teddy Siwila. Zoom link available from Janet Fenney or Revd Teddy Siwila.

*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 Revd Teddy Siwila. Zoom link available on request from Janet Fenney or Revd Teddy Siwila.

#### RAISING MONEY FOR THE EASTER OFFERING

Revd Chris is going to walk around all the churches in the circuit during Easter week (w/c 5 April) and is looking for sponsorship to raise money for the Easter Offering. The Easter Offering was badly impacted by the lockdown restrictions in 2020. The Easter Offering raises money for the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain and funds are desperately needed to help our partner churches and organisations around the world to recover from the impacts of Covid-19. Chris is also doing this walk this year to mark his final year on the Connexional World Church Sub-Committee responsible for awarding grants out of the World Mission Fund.

To sponsor Chris, get in touch with him directly or contact Shirley in the Circuit Office (01902 422100). More details on route and timings will be available shortly.

You can sponsor Chris by sending a cheque to the office made payable to The Methodist Church Wolverhampton Circuit or pay directly into the Circuit bank account, details of which can be obtained from Sue Lorimer with the reference S/Walk.


*Worship... Service ... Witness ... in the name of Jesus*

## Beckminster Welcomes You

Check Out Our Website @ [www.beckminsterchurch.co.uk](http://www.beckminsterchurch.co.uk)


**MINISTER: Rev. Dr. PAUL NZACAHAYO**

Email: [paulpetit7@hotmail.com](mailto:paulpetit7@hotmail.com)

 (Office) 344910 or 07952206407

**Administrator & Safeguarding Co-ordinator: SUE LORIMER**

Email: [info@beckminsterchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@beckminsterchurch.co.uk) (Room Bookings)

 (Office) 344910 (Home) 761322

## Worship and Fellowship

### 5th Sunday in Lent

**21 March 2021**

#### What's On This Week....

<b>Monday 22 March</b> 9.30 - 11.30am Office Closed
<b>Tuesday 23 March</b> 9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
<b>Wednesday 24 March</b> 9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed 9.00am Zoom Prayer Meeting (See Notices)
<b>Thursday 25 March</b> 2.00 - 5.00pm Office Closed 7.00pm Lent Group
<b>Friday 26 March</b> 9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
<b>Saturday 27 March</b>

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

#### Collect for the Day

**To ponder and pray .....**  
 Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Come and join us on  
 Sunday, 28 March 2021**

**on Zoom**

***Palm Sunday***

**10.30am Morning Worship  
 led by Rev. Dr. Paul Nzacahayo**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**HYMN StF 271**

Come, wounded Healer, your sufferings reveal –  
the scars you accepted, our anguish to heal.  
Your wounds bring such comfort in body and soul  
to all who bear torment and yearn to be whole.

Come, hated Lover, and gather us near,  
your welcome, your teaching, your challenge to hear:  
where scorn and abuse cause rejection and pain,  
your loving acceptance makes hope live again!

Come, broken Victor, condemned to a cross –  
how great are the treasures we gain from your loss!  
Your willing agreement to share in our strife  
transforms our despair into fullness of life.

**PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

Lord Jesus Christ, you called your disciples to go forward with you on the way to the cross. Since you first walked that road countless millions have followed you. In all that we do as your disciples, save us from rushing ahead to the joy of Easter morning and taking this journey for granted. May we never presume to step into your shoes, but may we wear our own as we walk step by step in your footsteps.  
**Amen.**

*Brewood*

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Alan Eccles. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

*Codsall*

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Alan Eccles. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

*Coven*

Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Alan Eccles. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

*Cranmer*

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am with Maddy Coope. 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.

*Fallings Park*

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am with Maddy Coope. Zoom link available on request from Revd Sam Hagerman.

*Fordhouses*

Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am with Maddy Coope. 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrwvypBKFcY)

**"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](mailto: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 from 22 March on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday and Saturday morning. The video is also available.

***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.

**Worship on Sunday, 21 March 2021 - 5th Sunday in Lent**

***Beckminster***

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

***Bilston***

Sunday Service on Audio Phone at 11am with Revd William Davis. 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.

**Psalm 51 Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,

***according to your steadfast love;***

according to your abundant mercy

***blot out my transgressions.***

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

***and cleanse me from my sin.***

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,

***and my sin is ever before me.***

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned,

***and done what is evil in your sight,***

so that you are justified in your sentence

***and blameless when you pass judgement.***

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,

***a sinner when my mother conceived me.***

<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;

***therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.***

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

***wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.***

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;

***let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.***

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,

***and blot out all my iniquities.***

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,

***and put a new and right spirit within me.***

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,

***and do not take your holy spirit from me. Amen.***

John 12: 20 — 33 read by John Ashwood

**Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus**

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be

glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

#### Jesus Speaks about His Death

<sup>27</sup> 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

#### REFLECTIONS

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

Jeremiah is an astonishing book of prophecy written to the people of Israel in exile. The words of Jeremiah 31 in which God approaches his people with comforting words of a new covenant, a new relationship, would have given hope to a people in despair. We speak these words in our annual covenant service to remind us that God unilaterally reached out to the people to restore and reconcile. The Torah, the law, was at the heart of the covenant but rather than something imposed on the people it was to be willingly embraced. It was to be 'written on their hearts.' God set down a covenant of mutuality. 'I will be their God and they will be my people.' The community of faith would **know** God. To **know** God means to have an intimate and trustful relationship, to acknowledge his sovereign authority over all life and to have at the heart of one's being a consistency...a life which in word and deed is in keeping with the will of God. To know God is inclusive and egalitarian. It involves the whole community from the least to the greatest! To **know** God also means to acknowledge that the new relationship has nothing to do

**ANN ANDERSON.** Our thoughts and prayers are with John and the family following the death of Ann on Wednesday, 17 February 2021. Ann's funeral will take place on Friday, 26 March 2021 at Telford Crematorium. Private invites only. Donations to Compton Care via funeral directors [www.perryandphillipsfunerals.com](http://www.perryandphillipsfunerals.com).

**ROGER FELLOWS.** Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret, Simon, Rebecca and the family following the death of Roger on 3 February 2021. Roger's funeral will take place on Wednesday, 31 March 2020 at 9.00am at West Chapel, Bushbury Crematorium. If you would like to view the service these are the details: [www.obitus.com](http://www.obitus.com) Username: siwo5920 Password: 613921

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families at this difficult time. As you will appreciate, only family members are allowed at the funerals but we will have them in our thoughts especially on the day of the funerals.

**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.

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

**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AND EASTER OFFERING:** We hope that you are continuing to save money during Lent to support the work of Action for Children. Some of you will be using the "Count Your Blessings" leaflet. When we re-open Beckminster for worship, hopefully on Easter Day, we hope that you will bring a cheque for Action for Children with you. If you qualify for Gift Aid and do not have the leaflet, please enclose a signed and dated note, giving your name, address and post code indicating that you would like AFC to claim Gift Aid.

On Easter Day, the Easter Offering envelopes will be available for collection and should be returned 2 weeks later. Please give generously: all charities have suffered greatly from a loss of income during the last year.

**Beckminster Methodist Church**  
Birches Barn Road,  
Penn Fields,  
Wolverhampton WV3 7BQ  
Tel. 01902 344910

**OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

Thank you God that you call us to be a part of your Kingdom. Thank you God that you call us to come with you, to follow your way and to live out our lives in your company. Accept the gifts we offer and bless them that they might help to build the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**HYMN StF 273**

Here hangs a man discarded,  
a scarecrow hoisted high,  
a nonsense pointing nowhere  
to all who hurry by.

Can such a clown of sorrows  
still bring a useful word,  
when faith and love seem phantoms  
and every hope absurd?

Yet here is help and comfort  
for lives by comfort bound,  
when drums of dazzling progress  
give strangely hollow sound:

Life, emptied of all meaning,  
drained out in bleak distress,  
can share in broken silence  
our deepest emptiness:

And love that freely entered  
the pit of life's despair,  
can name our hidden darkness  
and suffer with us there.

Christ, in our darkness risen,  
help all who long for light  
to hold the hand of promise  
till faith receives its sight.

**CLOSING RESPONSES**

Leader: God has called us to journey for a season through the wilderness places;

**All: And so, as Jesus did before us, we will set out once more to wander in an uncomfortable landscape and wrestle with its challenges, that through the tempering action of the Spirit, we may emerge to do the work of the Kingdom. Amen.**

with the actions of the people and everything to do with God's forgiveness. Through the prophet Jeremiah God says: 'I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.' The people would dwell in the heart of God and God would dwell in the hearts of the people.

I remember a television advert in America that challenged the listener 'to be all that could be.' The advert encouraged us to join the US Army for the educational opportunities, the travel, and the experience. I have always remembered that challenge but in a faith context. I have a favourite prayer of confession that I use often. In part it calls us to 'rise to the full height of our humanity.' It calls us 'to be all that we can be in Christ.' As we approach Holy Week we should each prayerfully consider how we can fulfil the purpose for which God created each of us as unique individuals. We should each prayerfully and carefully consider how we can rise to the full height of our humanity and be all he created us to be.

St. John's gospel tells us the story of some Greeks who were in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover. They approach Philip and ask to see Jesus. Philip checks with Andrew and the two go to tell Jesus. The Greeks may be converts to the Jewish faith and choose Philip from among the disciples because of his Greek name. They ask to **see** Jesus. The Greek word used indicates the request is more than curiosity. They want to **see** the one in whom God is revealed. Jesus' response to Philip and Andrew is interesting. He responds to the news saying: 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.' We do not even know if the Greeks did see Jesus or what their response may have been. To Jesus the 'heart of the matter' is that the hour has come.

Today's reading follows the triumphal entry into Jerusalem that we will celebrate next week on Palm Sunday. In verse 19 we read that all the fanfare, all the celebration, all the adulation prompts the Pharisees to say to one another: 'You see you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.' In a sense the Greeks symbolise the world coming to Jesus. Jesus answers Andrew and Philip's message about the Greeks by explaining what it means to **see** him and to follow him. Between the adulation and the plots to kill him, the Greeks come to **see** Jesus. Jesus knows that the moment is at hand when God's plan will be revealed and that, despite his teaching, despite his efforts to prepare the disciples, they will struggle to **see** God's hand in the events as they unfold. The agony of Gethsemane is echoed in verse 27: 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – 'Father, save me from this hour?' The hour is the revelation of Jesus' relationship with his Father, the revelation of God's plan of redemption. It is the revelation of what it means to **see** Jesus.

Jesus willingly chose to accept his role in God's plan. As verse 27 continues Jesus answers his own question: "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour."

The disciples had a choice to make. We assume the Greek seekers had a choice to make. We have a choice to make. Do we want to **see** Jesus? Will we willingly walk through the days of Holy Week with our eyes wide open? Will we accept our part in God's plan? Will we acknowledge God's covenant relationship with us? Will we **know** God through Jesus? Will we respond accordingly by 'being all we can be.' Will we 'rise to the full height of our humanity.'

Jesus says, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me...' Were the disciples willing to follow? Were the Greeks willing to follow? Are we willing to follow?

During Lent we talk of travelling the road to Jerusalem with Jesus. We speak of following in his footsteps. We acknowledge the difficulty of that journey and our inability to do it on our own. When we walk with open eyes, not only during Lent, but each and every day we begin to **see** Jesus, we begin to bear fruit. Then we may rise to the full height of our humanity and be all that we can be.

**HYMN StF 272**

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled,  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

***This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.***

There in the garden of tears  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

***This is our God, the Servant King,...***

Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

***This is our God, the Servant King,...***

So let us learn how to serve  
and in our lives enthrone him,  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

***This is our God, the Servant King,...***

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Strong covenant God, save us from being self-centred in our prayers  
and teach us to pray for others.

We pray for our global community especially as we all struggle  
through the pandemic...

We pray for peace and peacemakers...

We pray for our country and our community...

We pray for our leaders...

We pray for those who live in poverty and homelessness...war and  
chaos...

We pray for our church family...

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit...

We pray for the bereaved, those who are lonely and anxious and  
those facing challenge and change...

May we be so bound up in love with those for whom we pray that we  
may feel their needs as acutely as we feel our own, and intercede for  
them with sensitivity, with understanding and with imagination. This  
we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy  
kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever  
and ever. **Amen.**