

Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Service

29th March 2020

Introduction and Psalm 130:

<https://youtu.be/8wp1DPAGOBw>

1st hymn: STF 364 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Prayer

<https://youtu.be/138UK22nqto>

Reading: John 11: 1 – 45 The raising of Lazarus

Link

https://youtu.be/Qr9IX_yQvGM

2nd hymn: Wake up, O sleeper and rise from the dead.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xesxQLSNn80>

Reflection

<https://youtu.be/yIk7RjgTQw4>

3rd hymn: STF 370 Breathe on me, breath of God

Prayers of intercession

Lord's Prayer

<https://youtu.be/poh14Lq2D4s>

4th hymn: STF 350 I cannot tell

Blessing:

May you know the deep peace of the God

who knows and perfectly loves you.

May you 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

Introduction:

So, we come to our second Sunday of finding new ways to worship in these strange and uncertain times and welcome to our service today. Maybe you'll be joining in from the comfort of your beds – and why not?! - or over your breakfast. However and wherever you find yourselves, I pray that you will feel blessed by God today.

The lectionary Psalm for this 5th Sunday in Lent is **Psalm 130** which seems particularly pertinent.

The Passion Translation calls it *A song of the stairway (i.e. the stairs up to the Temple)*

Very appropriate for the times we find ourselves in

¹ Lord, I cry out to you out of the depths of my despair!

² Hear my voice, O God!

Answer this prayer and hear my plea.

³ Lord, if you measured us and marked us with our sins,
who would ever have their prayers answered?

⁴ But your forgiving love is what makes you so wonderful.

No wonder you are loved and worshipped!

⁵ This is why I wait upon you, expecting your breakthrough,
for your word brings me hope.

⁶ I long for you more than any watchman would long for the morning light.

I will watch and wait for you, O God, throughout the night.

⁷ People of God, keep hoping, keep trusting, and keep waiting on the Lord,
for he is tender-hearted, kind, and forgiving.

He has a thousand ways to set you free!

Prayer of thanksgiving:

It's easy for us to focus on the problems and the worries that surround us, but even in the most difficult of times there are so many things for which to give God thanks and praise. As our pace of life has had to change and our worlds have become smaller, our eyes are drawn to the little things – which in the end may turn out not to be so little after all.

Lord God,

We give you thanks for the beautiful sunshine
and the spring warmth which is making everything fresh and new.
We see it in the earth that was bare only a few weeks ago
as the bulbs compete to show off the yellows and blues of spring.

As the noise of the traffic dims, we hear more clearly the birdsong
and marvel that such sweetness and clarity can come from such small creatures.
We give you thanks that we can step outside and breathe in the fresh air.

Maybe we're able to go for a walk – and take some time just to be one with nature.
We see people – strangers – and the prescribed physical space between us
is lessened by the smiles and the looks that say, hey, we're in this together.
We're linked by something that is beyond us to fathom or give description to – but we
recognise the common bond.

Made in the image of God, each one of us.

We thank you that we are part of a common humanity.

We thank you Lord for the many small kindnesses being shown –
the acts of altruism that far outweigh those of selfishness.

We give you thanks for our families and our friends,
for all whom we love and who love us,
even as we pray for their protection and safe-keeping.

We thank you when we have enough to eat –
and we pray for those who don't
and ask that they may be helped by us or by others.

We thank you for the gift of time –
its preciousness a jewel which is so often overlooked.

Lord God, you have blessed us in so many ways,
help us take the time to count those blessings and give thanks for them.
Most of all, that we can worship you – even as we seek new ways to do so.

Lord, we thank you, we praise you and we adore you. Amen

Prayers of intercession: from www.methodistchurch.org.uk *worship during coronavirus:*

Let us 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 town, 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...

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
Lord of all, Lord for all, Hear our prayer AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Blessing: *from www.methodistchurch.org.uk worship during coronavirus:*

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