Let Us Worship God

*A gathered Church in isolation, full connexion and communion*

10th May 2020

5th Week of Easter

Service offered to all by North-of-the-Clyde Methodist churches

**Joining our gathering:**

**By phone:** **Option 1:** Dial in using **01223 320 694.** An automatic operator will ask for the pin/conference/room number so just dial **270651#.**

Once the service starts (11am) after the introduction music, please refrain from talking or making background noise, as everyone will hear you and you will stop others to hear the service. Using several devices at the same time will likely create echo that everyone will hear. This line uses the Daily.co system.

**Option 2:** Dial in using **0131 460 1196.** An automatic operator will ask for the meeting ID number just dial **332 213 6392#.** Then it will ask for your Participant ID but just dial **#** again.

The quality of the line should be better than Option 1. All participants will be muted from 11am then unmuted during at the end of the service and during hymns. It will allow to not hear background noises such as barking dogs, echo, water running or discussions in the background. This line uses the Zoom system.

**Online:** join us either using

* linking on Trinity Methodist Church (Shettleston) website: <http://trinity-methodist-shettleston.org.uk/worship/>
* Or “East Kilbride Methodists” or “Shettleston Trinity Methodist Church” pages or click on:  [bit.ly/EGSunday](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FEGSunday%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2Z20xGo4Hjo8n-cfBwppzRHrF0JrMlMJroXfCa655MYWpnvPjqtqBd5pU&h=AT1D_qQnehOrW7KqFqWNZnA2QBojrjmgUu8Cvosf_AxmSPCQswQ2Yex3TIs65EPRz_zxeAvgcyqAn5Ecol-3fENoNnqy7f-FIDDpGpXxAZ48qQGmeFlrV0UPIOz_ynNd-HVusRhXYd0d2K9blr90gh3p0_1nISFa0ujIe6IJt4DIAyH6qkFs75H_rdIiz_ul8HvLmLSmERpsDnLUjLnhEq8JB5IcyZo4Qm9lvmIh9tbB7OTBosnF2R-eKOpl2qYm2LkIJsuWrGm6uId_izswTAY7_77yJqIxXVmwKxkRMQgoPQZm--wFGgP6Z4Vj6GbVM6DIXPsvA-tzj62w8jq3PjczUsy7dlrdnr5Ha350BZq3bJJUIIwCYIaX2XyIYxkCJsu8cKpRcT7wxwjyBfRRXskJIBFc8iD3zYAF0gqRafAc53uRLBRDJBPz7OHoEp3uzxW2Ol4KOj5aOhRSee43jSp6d-6kFA6V-72CjJe9a41eEuOc-fPYS7Vsh7ujeAomx8tgHz8VWNC6b2cXgHBUqYFcWSHpV9FU6bm3K5TIrU0XqkOGlYGDRf9GV1OCNroKiE0renwjB3f2GUvy_i99d5B1ixyQnr6EB_dHbwWZ5Y99Dxtv7klFklgycqpzyFTinXpe) (beware this link may bring you to last week’s service unless you have “refresh”).
* Or “Trinity Methodist Shettleston” or click on: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnO-QR4uiYdPHHWVNsRGq6A>

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***Call to worship and Lord’s Prayer*** *by Andrew*

We are looking for a way through life which is true. We hear the calm words of Jesus: I am the Way, the Truth, the Life. We have come to worship God.

***Lord’s Prayer***

***Prayers*** *by Anne*

Let's draw together as we pray, Father, we come to worship You today from our places of 'Lockdown'. We ask that You would help us to see our future, Not through the keyhole of a closed door but through the window of Your cross. Thank you that because of the cross our future is good. It's full of promise and hope, captured beautifully in this verse from a hymn, "Green Pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen; bright skies will soon be o'er me, where darkest clouds have been; my hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free; my Saviour has my treasure, and He will walk with me." By Your Spirit, keep our eyes drawn to the cross and the promise it holds and through it to what lies beyond.....New life, love and laughter to come. Fill us now with Your Spirit, lift our hearts in wonder, in worship and in praise for all You are, for all You have done, and all that is yet to be. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

***Singing the Faith 309 See, what a morning!***

*1 See, what a morning, gloriously bright,  
 with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
 folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,  
 as the angels announce Christ is risen!  
 See God's salvation plan,  
 wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
 fulfilled in Christ, the Man,  
 for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!*

*2 See Mary weeping, ‘Where is he laid?'  
 as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
 hears a voice speaking, calling her name;  
 it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
 The voice that spans the years,  
 speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,  
 will sound till he appears,  
 for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!*

*3 One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
 through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty;  
 honour and blessing, glory and praise  
 to the King crowned with power and authority!  
 And we are raised with him,  
 death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;  
 and we shall reign with him,  
 for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!*

*Stuart Townend (b.1963) and Keith Getty (b.1974)*

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***Reading: John 14:1-6*** *by Liz*

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

***Testimony*** *by Margaret*

Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me, these are words of comfort from John’s gospel that we often hear spoken at funerals. Whenever I hear these words, I picture Jesus sharing a meal together with his disciples. He is looking at each one of them and they are looking intently at him. Jesus knows that he is about to face arrest, trial and crucifixion and he is trusting in God, he knows what the disciples are about to face also and he is asking them to believe in him, to trust in him. I am quite a fearful person, a worrier, but someone once told me that being brave is not having fear but rather its carrying on despite feeling fear. While On pilgrimage in Israel in November last year our party was due to walk the Via Dolorosa, the path Jesus walked in Jerusalem carrying the cross. It was a very crowded often very narrow path that we had to walk and I am fearful in crowds but was determined to walk the path so I fixed my eyes firmly on Lynn from Netherton who was in front of me and was aware of an occasional hand on my shoulder from Jane of Milton behind me and that reassurance was enough for me to complete the walk. One of my favourite hymns has these lines, “the winds may roar about me, my heart may low be laid but God is round about me and can I be dismayed”. God was with me that day through the concern of my fellow travellers. Also, in that chapter in John Jesus said I go before you and prepare a place for you that where I am you will be also. It was not just a place prepared in heaven for us that Jesus was speaking about but a place here on earth as well. Resurrection brought not only life from death but light and hope to the world. Captain Tom, the amazing 100-year-old fund raiser, said about the present crisis: tomorrow will be a good day. As a country and in our individual lives we are worried and we are fearful and unsure of what the future will bring perhaps we need more than ever to put our trust in God, to put our trust in Christ. He is the one who goes before us and assures us that he is with us. Along with these verses I have already quoted from John 14 we often quote another verse later in this chapter that Jesus spoke directly to his disciples. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let not your hearts be troubled and do let them be afraid.

***Poem from a hill by Loch Lomond*** *by Eric*

Lord, we come in need from isolation and despair, from fear and foreboding  
to a place we do not understand; to a world, confusing,  
 distorted by events, disturbed by greed, disrupted by lies.

Yet there are many who stand and proclaim, “I am the way.”  
but their paths are not true and not of Your making, borne from human pride, ego and self interest.

So we hesitate - continue to climb  
in search of a new vision, a mission secured through sacrifice and resurrection.

And atop the hill we see through time  
a creation of wonder, fresh blossom on trees, new birth in fields  
where sun and wind confirm the constancy of Your presence; Your promise to all.

You, Lord, are set in our consciousness  
Your Way; Your Truth; Your Life is set before us,  
an open invitation shielded from doubt and delusion.

How can we miss you, Lord?

How can we forget Your Word?  
So our hearts are warmed and lifted to new potential  
born not of pride but in humility and love

This, Lord, is the naked Gospel  
stark and fulfilling, sufficient yet overflowing, an invitation in our greatest need.

***Reflection*** byJill:Anyone who knows me well knows that I have very little sense of direction. So, it must be God’s sense of humour which led me into pilgrimage and situations where I am responsible for finding the way, not just for myself, but for a group of pilgrims who put their trust in me. Some years ago as I left the house to lead my first group up the coast of the north-east of England to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Andrew said to me, ‘I have a blessing for your pilgrimage, may the sea be always on your right!’ It was just what I needed! Here in John’s Gospel we are coming towards the end of Jesus’ life on earth and the followers of Jesus are worried about finding the way to Jesus after his death. In response to Thomas’s anxiety Jesus tells them clearly, ‘I am the Way’. What a blessing that must have been for them… But what on earth does it mean? How can a person, even Jesus, BE the way? He doesn’t say ‘I will show you the way’ or ‘I will leave a trail of breadcrumbs for you to follow’, he says ‘I am the Way’ (and the Truth and the Life). Of course, this little phrase, ‘I am’ is of huge significance throughout the bible, starting from the ancient story of Moses encountering God in a burning bush. In response to his question, Moses is told that the name of God is ‘I am’, or ‘I am what I am’, or ‘I will be what I will be’… it’s a mysterious beginning! In John’s Gospel Jesus picks up and uses this phrase, this name, on a number of occasions; ‘I am the Bread of Life, ‘I am the Light of the World’, ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life’… They are some of the best-known passages in the gospel, perhaps because they all create visual images in our minds. (We’ll be looking at more of them in the coming weeks). So, as I think of Jesus as the Way, I recall being in the Judean wilderness, surrounded by barren, featureless stone and sand and seeing a path, a way, running into the distance. To a traveller lost in the desert, that path would be the way to food and drink, to shelter and safety, it would be the way to life. Here we are in 2020 in the wilderness which is Covid-19. All around the world, along with all the rest of the human family, we may feel as though we have been dumped in the wilderness with no clear idea of which way to turn or what to do next. The familiar mileposts of Sunday worship, family gatherings, meetings with friends, even a shopping trip, hair cut or visit to a café have all been obliterated by the sandstorm of the virus, and the landscape can look bleak and featureless. Where do we turn? What shall we do next? It is our human instinct to find ways to survive, coping mechanisms, strategies… whether it’s regular phone calls with friends, walking round the block every day, skipping in the garden or over-indulging on box sets, we are looking for ways to cope. And into this, Jesus still says, ‘I am the Way’. And I still say, ‘What do you mean by that, Jesus?’ For Thomas and the other disciples, this conversation takes place before the experience of the crucifixion and resurrection. We have a different perspective; we are in the season of Easter; we sang a few moments ago of Mary at the tomb. Twice in that story as told by John in chapter 21 we read that ‘Mary turned’. Twice, she realised she was facing the wrong way; she turned from the grave to speak to the gardener, as she thought, then must have looked away again for, when Jesus spoke to her, she turned again, towards him. What if the Risen Jesus is here with us in this lockdown wilderness, gently speaking our names and encouraging us to turn to face him?

* To turn and believe that he is alive, whatever that means in the mess which faced Mary or the mess which faces us.
* To turn and see in his face that we are loved, and that it is a love stronger than death.
* To turn and commit ourselves again to keeping the face of Jesus in focus through these long days and nights of isolation.

‘How do we know the way?’ asks Thomas, ‘I am the Way’ replies Jesus. It’s not a clear set of travel directions, it’s just enough for us to know which way to turn, and look into the face of our living Redeemer. Amen.

***Singing the Faith 303 I know that my Redeemer lives***

*1 I know that my Redeemer lives —  
 what joy the blest assurance gives!  
 He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
 he lives, my everlasting Head!*

*2 He lives, to bless me with his love;  
 he lives, to plead for me above;  
 he lives, my hungry soul to feed;  
 he lives, to help in time of need.*

*3 He lives, and grants me daily breath;  
 he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
 he lives, my mansion to prepare;  
 he lives, to lead me safely there.*

*4 He lives, all glory to his name;  
 he lives, my Saviour, still the same;  
 what joy the blest assurance gives,  
 I know that my Redeemer lives!*

*Samuel Medley (1738–1799) Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 303 .*

***Prayer*** by David:  The smallest moment of hope: We believe in God who takes our smallest moment of hope and grows it forth like a tree with spreading branches for the sheltering of new life. We believe in Jesus Christ who walks tall among us, seen in our faces, felt in our hearts, bedded deep in the longing of our souls for all that is true, just and full of hope. We believe in the Holy Spirit who waits on our moments of openness and springs into the unknowns with joy and delight that we might be called on beyond where we thought we could go where every step is walked on holy ground. Lord, our strength and our rock, our guide, our mentor and our friend, be our light of hope in the days to come. Amen

***Blessing:*** The blessing of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon us today, this week and forevermore. Amen

***News*** from Gillian Gibb, Eileen Martin, Tim and Kay Thorpe

Strathclyde Circuit

Methodist Church in Scotland

