

Dear Friends,

Here is my weekly email for everyone at Hayes End. Those who don't have an email address should receive it either by hand or via the post. If you are in touch with anyone at church who doesn't get it, then let me know and I will add that to the list.

You can also keep in touch with the church through our website: www.hemc.org.uk and Facebook pages www.facebook.com/hayesendmethodistchurch. There is also a WhatsApp prayer group which Ajayi, Johnson and Nicola help to run. Let one of them or me know if you would like to join it.

Two videos this week.

A Methodist minister's retelling of the Gospel reading for today (John 20:19-31)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFoiUD60Hhg>

And arising out of that passage, my thought for this week - 'The power of the home' -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cE9gOvSmB0g&feature=youtu.be>
(You can also read a version of it below.)

The power of the home

When you think of Easter Sunday, we can remember being in church singing Easter hymns and rejoicing in the gift of new life. Or we think about the accounts of the Easter Garden, the empty tomb, a new day and a new beginning.

But the first Easter wasn't anything like that. It was full of fear. The women approached with tomb with trepidation, early in the morning – not least because there would be far fewer people around.

And John 20:19-23 tells us about that evening. It's not outside. The disciples are stuck inside – presumably in someone's house. The doors are locked and they are afraid. Ring any bells?

They wanted to believe what the women had told them, but it seemed unreal (even though Jesus had told them it would happen). They were full of despair and fear. All that they had hoped for had vanished. If they left their homes, they felt their lives would be in danger.

But into this place, Jesus comes. He doesn't criticise or condemn them for what they are doing or how they are feeling. Rather he acknowledges it. His first words are the traditional greeting, "Peace be with you." And he repeats it a few verses later – "Peace be with you." And this is what he says to you – where you are – in your homes, and wherever you are – wherever your home may be: "Peace be with you."

Many people have been struggling or still are struggling with not being able to be in church, even though we accept that for the moment this is the way it has to be. But after his resurrection, Jesus doesn't turn up in a church, in a synagogue or in the temple. He appears in someone's home. And he is in our home too.

But more than that, it is from the home that Jesus builds or brings into being the church. It begins with disciples, with us. There is the presence of the crucified yet risen Christ with his promise of new life, there is the gift of God's Holy Spirit (verse 22) – a spirit of comfort, of empowering and strength, of guidance and support, of love and peace. Here in John's account, the Holy Spirit is given to the disciples where they are – in their home (just as in Acts, Luke says it took place in a house (Acts 2:2).

And it's from the home that Jesus sends people out – "As the Father sent me, so I send you." This doesn't mean that we can leave our homes to be the church. But at this time, we can be the church from where we are. For example at the age of 99, Captain Tom Moore has raised over £18m (so far) for the NHS from his own home, attracting the attention and love of the nation. When you speak to someone on the phone, send a letter, you are being the church where you are. When you pray for the NHS, the carers, all the key workers, all the things on your heart, all the people you know, then you are being the church. Jesus was sent by the Father to show God's love for the world, so Jesus invites us and sends us to show God's love too. And we can do it from where we are. Because wherever we are and whenever we do something then God is present, and we are God's church.

A prayer for this week

Lord Jesus, we are your disciples
who need to meet you today.
Help us to hear your voice,
convince us that there is a calm
 at the heart of the storm
and feed our faith on the certainty
 of your presence and all your promises. Amen.

A way to pray: Jesus with you

Jesus met the disciples where they were, in a locked room in someone's home.

In your own home, take a chair and put it next to where you are sitting. Now, imagine Jesus has come into the room to join you. He sits down in that chair and asks you how you are. What do you reply? What do you tell him? And Jesus listens.

When there is a break in the conversation, he tells offers you peace, just like he did to the disciples. And he tells you that he has come especially for you, and intends to stay with you for the rest of your life. "You can talk to me whenever you'd like to," he says, "because even when you've left this room I will be with you."

Giving together (from John Chamberlain)

Church life is going to be unrecognisable for a while. Obviously, our main concern is the continued well-being of all connected to the church. But wearing my treasurer's hat, we can't ignore the impact the Coronavirus will have on the church's finances. Fortunately, with the summer coming, our heating bill will be lower. But with no Sunday Services or letting income we could be losing around £2,500 per month in income.

If you are able, please contact me by email at:

jechamb1934@gmail.com

or by phone on 020 85573 3607

I am sorry to raise these matters at this time, but I have to look at ways to reduce the financial impact on our church of the Coronavirus.

Compass Hymns

Recently I was asked what my Compass Hymn was.

A Compass Hymn? This is similar to your favourite hymn, but not quite the same thing (although the same hymn can be both). A favourite hymn is one you enjoy singing, but a Compass Hymn is one that you draw strength from or that grounds you. It's a hymn you return to, so you can refocus yourself. In fact, it may not be a hymn at all. In our group, someone chose a song from *The Greatest Showman*, and another Sonnie and Cher's pop classic, 'I got you Babe'.

My Compass Hymn is Fred Pratt Green's 'When our confidence is shaken' (StF 644, H&P 686) with the first and last verse:

*When our confidence is shaken
in beliefs we thought secure;
when the spirit in its sickness
seeks but cannot find a cure:*

*God is active in the tensions
of a faith not yet secure.*

*God is love: and he redeems us
in the Christ we crucify:
this is God's eternal answer
to the world's eternal why.
May we in this faith maturing
be content to live and die!*

For me, this hymn reminds that God is better and greater than our understanding can ever be. But that doesn't matter. What matters is that God's love – which is stronger and deeper than we can ever comprehend – and to live in that.

What's your Compass hymn? And why? It would be good to share them together in future weeks. Email (ken.kingston@methodist.org.uk) or ring me (020 8756 0567) to tell me yours.

Sunday on the BBC

8.10am Radio 4 (93.5FM)

Sunday Service, reflecting on the disciple's experience when Jesus met them in the locked room

10.00am BBC 1

Sunday Worship from St David's Cathedral

1.15pm BBC 1

Songs of Praise, connecting The Beatles and Christianity at Strawberry Fields, Liverpool

Sunday Services on the Web

- Contemporary worship from Swan Bank Methodist Church: www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank
- Worship from the ministers at Westminster Central Hall, London: www.youtube.com/user/MCHWevents/videos
- Worship from Wesley's Chapel, London (which also has daily prayer at 10.00am and 12.45pm): www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA
- *Sthie [at home]*– from the Isle of Man, a different style of worship taking place at home: youtube.com/andyfishburne

26 April readings: Luke 24:13-35; 1 Peter 1:17-23

Take care, stay safe and God bless,

Rev Ken

The Revd Ken Kingston

Minister - Hayes, Hayes End and North Hillingdon Methodist Churches

Tel: 020 8756 0567

Email: ken.kingston@methodist.org.uk

