



Dear friends,

All being well, 28 March will be our last joint Sunday service on zoom. All being well, from Easter Sunday there will be face-to-face services in our three churches (9.30 am at North Hillingdon, and 11.00 am at Hayes and Hayes End). We would love to see you in person as long as you feel happy and confident to be there.



This weekly letter, the worship material and the video sermon will continue until 21 June at the very least.

In the meantime, you can join our Palm Sunday worship Zoom service at 11.00 am. And the Revd Steve Poole leads the zoom circuit service which begins 15 minutes earlier at 10:45 am. You can join from your computer, mobile phone or landline by following the instructions overleaf.

Turn over too for details of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services also on Zoom.

Take care and stay safe

Rev Ken

(020 8756 0567) (ken.kingston@methodist.org.uk)

PS Don't forget to turn your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night.

Laid Bare

This time of year I have to make a choice every time I go out – do I wear a coat or not? For months it hasn't been an issue. The answer has been yes (obviously), but now the days are warmer.

Coats or cloaks have a part to play in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The crowds laid down their coats and cloaks on the road as Jesus rode into the city on a donkey. Shouts of joy and celebration fill the air – "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord", and the mood is full of generosity.

Coats feature elsewhere in the Gospels. They are precious items – and worth suing someone for (if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well - Matthew 5:40). They are also worth repairing and patching properly (Matthew 9:16).

So coats in biblical times were valuable items (don't forget all the fuss and expense of Joseph 'technicolour' coat in Genesis). I guess they would have given the wearer a sense of status. So lying them down on the ground was have been an act of extravagance and sacrifice.

And taking the coat off would have made you vulnerable to the cold and the elements.

Extravagance, sacrifice and vulnerability are threads that you can follow throughout Holy Week – the last week of Jesus' life.

You can see it in Palm Sunday. Jesus was viewed as a dangerous man by the authorities, so entering the city of Jerusalem in such a public fashion would have been an act of extravagance (rather than going in quietly through a side passage) and an act of vulnerability as his actions were there for all to see – both his supporters and his enemies. Everything was laid bare and in full view.

Jesus' love made himself vulnerable to the point of death on the cross. His love was laid bare for us. That love was so deep, so strong and so extravagant that it was sacrificial, in that it cost him his own love.

When we take off our coat or leave our coat at home, it can make us vulnerable. What does it mean to be vulnerable and laid bare before God? But each one of us is already laid bare

before God. Psalm 139 tells us that God searches us and knows us to the point of when we sit and rise up, and is familiar with all our ways. There is nowhere we can escape or be beyond God. God knows us before we were even born. We are laid bare before God, whether we like it or not.

But when we acknowledge that, we are also laid bare to the extravagance of God's never-ending love, God's unquenchable grace and God's unconditional forgiveness. This is the good news of Holy Week, this is the good news of the Gospel. And this is the good news for each one of us.

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus,
thank you for your vulnerability and sacrifice,
and for the extravagance of your love.
May we be open to all that you offer us,
live in the light of that grace
and share your love with all we meet. Amen.

Zoom Services on Sunday

To join our 11.00 am zoom service, go to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84122013845?pwd=Qno3Y2ZqOEczbDdCczhrUTBZallSZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 2201 3845 Passcode: 2021

(The Circuit Zoom service starts at 10.45 am. To attend go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/join>.

Meeting ID: 886 0143 3540 Passcode: 611964)

You can also join the service through your phone.

1. Dial 020 3481 5237 or 020 3051 2874.
2. Enter meeting ID (see above) then # key
3. You will be asked to enter your participants ID. Ignore this, and just press the # key
4. Enter the password (see above) then the # key.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

On Maundy Thursday (1 April) at 7.30 pm, there is a sectional service on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5410641107?pwd=S0tybUUvWndYczR4elRqQIE1UnhQdz09>

Meeting ID: 541 064 1107 Passcode: 010421

And there is a Good Friday circuit service (2 April) at 10.45 am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86962200122?pwd=KzZwTW5PSHkwT2RZeE95ZmQvZHZpQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6220 0122 Passcode: 397597

Lent Liturgy (Week Six: Faithfulness)

We are near the end of our Lent journey, and as disciples of our Lord we remember the events of long ago, when the 12 disciples entered Jerusalem with Jesus, but then deserted him a few days later. We remember that in our lives, when things go well we often know God is with us, but when we are afraid or feel at risk, we may abandon our faith.

Light a candle as a symbol of our trust in Jesus Christ that God will always remain faithful, even when we lack faith.

Holy One, you have journeyed with us through the valley of the shadow of death and will see us through to the other side. Help us to remain faithful to you, even in times of deepest doubt. Amen.

This week on the BBC

Sunday 28 March

8.10 am **Sunday Worship** Radio 4 (93.5FM)

Methodist minister the Revd Dr Calvin Samuel leads a celebratory service with a dramatic gospel reading of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

11.00 am **Sunday Service** BBC 1

A service from All Saints, Hale Barns, nr Altrincham.

1.15 pm **Songs of Praise** BBC 1

People share stories of hope, including a leading scientist behind the COVID vaccine.

Wednesday 31 March

8.45 pm **Lent Talks** Radio 4

'The Fragrance of Hope' - Bishop of London and former Chief Nurse, Sarah Mullally, considers the small acts of service and self-giving witnessed across communities during the pandemic.

Woven and Lent Bible Study Groups

This week, we reach the end of our Lenten Zoom discussions we have dived deep into Scripture to discover what it means for us. It's not too late to join us if you want.

Monday evening at 7.30 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86153555930?pwd=dUJYQ0tXeG5zdUdQMfNwZW1MV2FTQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 5355 5930 Passcode: 220221

Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83723378719?pwd=bmdiS2g4UnFHZmErekE2VTc5Mklkdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2337 8719 Passcode: 2400221