

20th March 2022


The **Methodist Church**

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Dear Friends

On this third Sunday of Lent the theme of repentance rings out from the gospel. That is the call from Jesus to societies and their individuals to turn from ways that lead to the diminution and destruction of life toward the life-giving ways of God.

In recent weeks we have seen horror unfold in Ukraine. We have also seen the virtues of Philippians 4:8 - that which is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy.

Despite the feeling of helplessness in the face of such deepening turmoil most of us, if not all, will have been constant in our prayers for peace. We will have given money, visited collection points with useful items or clothing. At the time of writing this letter (9th March) the DEC appeal stands at well over £100 million. We have seen people nearer to borders who, moved by the plight of strangers, have opened their homes as places of sanctuary. We have been humbled by the politicians, medics, priests, carers, firefighters, and many others who have chosen to stay in the place of danger with those whom they serve rather than look first to their own safety. In the midst of the deepening turmoil we have seen the virtues of Philippians 4:8 displayed by ordinary people.

This Lent the life-giving ways of God to which we are called shine in stark contrast to the ways that diminish or destroy life.



Every blessing

Audrey

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Sunday Worship and Daily Prayers

There are plenty of opportunities to join in worship if you have the internet, eg Methodist Central Hall (London) streams worship each Sunday (<https://mchw.live/>)

Livestreaming of worship takes place at other venues associated with the Connexion – for more details see <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Circuit Service

The Circuit now provides a pre-recorded service each month (on the first Sunday of the month), via YouTube, Facebook and our website – see below for details:

Please access the YouTube video by clicking the following link or typing it into your browser:

[tinyurl.com/SWCplaylist](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMTQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY)

or if this doesn't work, try the long version:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMTQvpCroUvvxjE93MqkTWQomY>

If you regularly watch the Circuit Service, do consider subscribing to the Channel.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SW.Methodist/>

Website: www.methodist-swc.org.uk

Additional pre-recorded services will be provided by the Circuit for special feasts (Easter, Christmas etc)

A full text of the pre-recorded service is available on the website, and is being sent by post to all those people who do not use the Internet so they can join in too.

In intervening weeks, the Circuit will be using the service provided by the Methodist Church.

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am,

Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Mon-Fri,

Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.

(The times of the TV services can alter, please check the times)

Daily prayers at 10am are led by members of the circuit via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/328494818> - all zoom meetings are now protected by password – please contact Michael Sharman (see below) for the password.

All members of the Circuit are invited to join, **you do not need a zoom account to join**. You can also join by **telephone**. Please contact Michael Sharman on 07412 401988 if you'd like help getting in.

Pastoral Support

A reminder that if you are in pastoral need of any kind please contact your own Minister direct by email or phone. We may also be able to arrange practical help with shopping and so on. Our details are below.

If in any doubt, please contact Rev Dr Iain Ballard and he will link you up with help locally to you.

Rev Dr Iain Ballard
(Day off – Friday)

07368 875790

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Rev Sally Jones
(Day off – Monday;
Study day – Friday)

01926 740846

sally.jones@methodist.org.uk

Rev. Jeongsook Kim
(Day off – Tuesday)

Rev Jeongsook is on sabbatical until 31st May 2022

Rev. Audrey Simpson
(Day off – Friday)

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Rev. Jemima Strain
(Part-time)

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