



2nd August 2020

Number – 1079

Riverside Weekly

Online Resources for home worship

Zoom Circuit Service 10:30 Sunday (meeting open from 10:00)

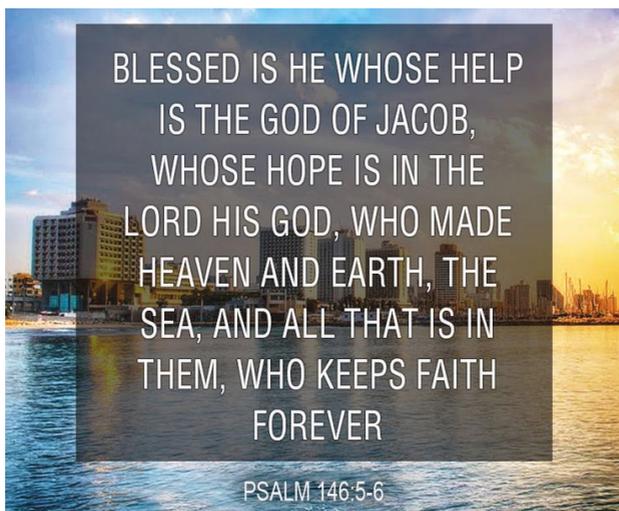
Zoom Meeting ID: 878 5676 7394

Please see links from home page of Methodist Website

www.methodist.org.uk

Coffee and a Chat after the Zoom Service

Beginning this coming Sunday morning we'll be leaving the Zoom meeting room open after the service so that those who want to can stay behind for a chat and a catch up. We will split you up into smaller groups if necessary, so that you can chat together more easily and perhaps get to know some folk from around the circuit a little better. You'll need to provide your own drinks of course so we'll give you a few minutes to get the kettle on after worship finishes!



Methodist Bible Study

Reading

John 10:11-21 'I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.' (vs. 16-17)

Psalms 90

Background

The good shepherd is instrumental in God's good plan. There is a dig at the 'hired hand'; perhaps there are various hired hands of differing qualities. Again, we should be careful about identifying each character in an allegory, or getting too worried about 'the wolf'. I have a particular interest in 'the other', hence today's selected verse. Who are these 'other sheep'? In a first century context, in a Gospel written in Greek, it is reasonable to think that the other sheep are Gentiles. Jesus does have a rather global outlook in John's Gospel. There is a big challenge for us in reading the text as inclusively and universalistically as possible. There was no boundary to Jesus' outlook, there were no constraints from any religious institution. It is difficult for us to engage with the text, in its context, as if we were listening to Jesus as he spoke these words (or shared in the experience of the writer which fuelled the reflections that became

You spoke — and a universe burst into existence.

You breathed — and an ocean broke against shore.

You laughed — and a wild goose flew across the horizon.

You sang — and a love song was played for the world.

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Jesus' unusually long speeches, unlike the Synoptics). Our Christian history and of the Church through the ages gets in the way, Jesus is not addressing the Church when he speaks. Everything is rather more fluid than we are used to or are comfortable with.

The Liberation Theology tradition opened, or re-opened, our eyes to God's bias to 'the poor' (disadvantaged and ostracised are better), which is the theme of Jesus' first sermon/manifesto. Alongside this, perhaps restating it differently, we have Jesus' radical openness to otherness. Jesus was Other ('the Word was with God' in John 1) and became other ('the Word became flesh', John 1:14). We can only understand who, what and where we are if we embrace the other. Jesus didn't come to establish a special group or an in-crowd, quite the opposite. We cannot put limits on Jesus and if we follow him (and 'we' are not the only ones who follow him, as many Muslims will tell us) then surely we should be radically open too, there can be no limits to openness. All the criticisms of Jesus were closed criticisms.

To Ponder:

What might it be like to think of yourself as a 'hired hand'?

Where does wrestling with radical openness take you?!

Bible notes author — Julian Bond

Worship on Radio & TV

Radio Wales Sunday 7:30 & 18:30— Celebration

Radio 4 Sunday 8:10 — Sunday Worship

Radio 4 long wave weekdays 9:45 — Daily Service

TV BBC1 Sunday 10:45 — Sunday Worship

TV BBC1 Sunday 13:15 — Songs of Praise

TV S4C Sunday 11:00 — Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol

TV S4C Sunday 7:30 — Dechrau Canu Dechrau

Changing Lockdown !

It's a Good Thing to Hope for Help from God

I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness,
the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed.
I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—
the feeling of hitting the bottom.
But there's one other thing I remember,
and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:
God's loyal love couldn't have run out,
his merciful love couldn't have dried up.
They're created new every morning.
How great your faithfulness!
I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over).
He's all I've got left.

Lamentations Chapter 3 verses 19 to 24 from the Message

Fears — we all have different fears and worries!

We see all the visitors milling around our town — we are afraid
of getting infections from them — where have they come from?
We hear of Covid-19 in Wrexham — we don't want to go there
— not even for hospital appointments.
We fear the future — for our loved ones and ourselves.
And many more

Let's not be ashamed of our fears or pretend we have none
We can join Jeremiah in knowing that our trust in God will bring
us through this crisis — “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Circuit Messy Church

Messy Church met last Sunday afternoon with 11 children from
around the circuit joining in with songs and crafts based on the
story of Ruth. Thanks to everyone who helped to organise the
session and also to those who came along to support and help.
We're looking forward to another session in August so please
pray for Trish and her team as they prepare the session and stay
in touch with everyone from home.