

Notices for Sunday 21st March 2021
Ponteland Methodist Church
Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)

LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

5th in Lent , Passion week // Love Everlasting

MESSAGE FROM JONA

The set gospel reading for this week is **John 12:20-33**; in the reading Jesus says this: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24).

The pattern of loss and renewal Jesus is talking about runs throughout our lives and our world. You know it's true, you've lived and experienced it, sometimes by choice and other times by chance. Either way it's undeniable. Look at the way this pattern is present in your life. Have you ever fallen in love and committed your life to another? If so, you had to let parts of your old life go and something of your single life died so that you could be with that other person. How about parenting? If you are a parent you know that there are sacrifices of yourself and your life to be made in order for the new life of your child to emerge and grow.

This same pattern is also seen in nature. You can see it in the changing of the seasons, falling leaves and new blooms, and the setting and rising of the sun. Or think about the scriptural stories of loss and renewal. We see it from Adam and Eve through the stories of Abraham and Jacob. We see it in the story of the Exodus. As Jesus called James and John, they left their father, boats, and nets to follow him. Jesus taught his disciples through stories of loss and renewal and he once said to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again” (Mark 9:31).

The pattern of loss and renewal, dying and rising, letting go and getting back, leaving and returning is everywhere. It's at the core of our belief system:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We need to trust that this pattern is true for us; we need to trust that God will bless when we let go. What in your life do you need to let go of today? What might you need to leave behind? What needs to die so that something new can arise? What might we need to leave behind in the church? What can die so new things can arise?

Rev Jona Sewell Newcastle West Circuit 01661 822057 @WanderingRev

LECTIONARY

**Jeremiah 31 : 31-34, Psalm 51 : 1-12, or Psalm 119 : 9-16,
Hebrews 5 : 5-10, John 12 : 20-33.**

The following questions are from today's Lectionary using the NIV version:-

- 1) When God said to Jesus "you are a priest forever, in the order of..." who?
- 2) Add the missing words to this verse "But I, when I am up from the , will draw all men to" You will find the answers on the back page.

LIVE FAIR FOR LENT

"Does fair trade make a difference?" Find out the answer on **Tuesday 23rd March** at **8pm**, with **Matt Oliver from Traidcraft**. Please let me know in advance if you intend joining us on Zoom. Use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89790205200> or Meeting ID: 897 9020 5200.

There will be an opportunity to place Traidcraft orders, whether or not you attend, by sending me your requests (including product code) **by 12 noon on Thursday 25th March** and I will confirm arrangements for payment and delivery. A few paper copies of the Traidcraft catalogue are available on request, but if possible please access the digital version using this link:

<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/traidcraft-catalogue>

Thanks for your support.

Bev

pmc.pastoral@sky.com

LENTEN TUESDAY STUDY GROUP

The next 2 studies of the Tuesday Lenten study group at **2pm on Zoom** are :-

Session 5 on **Tues 23rd March** - In the Garden of Gethsemane - Matthew 26:36-46 & Luke 22:39-46 - "yet not your will but yours be done" - Luke 22:42, Mark 14:36 & John 18:1.

Session 6 on **Tues 30th March** - On the Cross - Luke 23:26, 32-34 & Matthew 27:45-54 - "Father into your hands" - Luke 23:46.

The "ZOOM" details are the same each week and are :-

Meeting I.D. 891 4101 3107 Password 160159

Chris Cogan

WEEKLY CIRCUIT SERVICE

This week's service is led by **Rev Juliet Wriglesworth**, the theme being "**A time to lament**" The Bible Readings are **Psalm 13 and Mark 14 : 32-42**.

EASTER GARDEN SERVICE

On Easter Sunday, we intend to hold a Service in the Church Garden at **11am**. This proved popular last September and October, so, weather permitting we are planning again. Because of limited numbers, it is essential to book a place. Pete Cowey is taking bookings and can be contacted on 07771857574 [or](mailto:mrpetecowey@btinternet.com) mrpetecowey@btinternet.com

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Committee meeting planned for 22nd March has been cancelled. *Bev*

CORNERSTONE

The April edition should be published in time for Easter so if you have any articles or items to submit, please do so **before Friday 26th March**. Please forward to Andy on andrew73anderson@gmail.com or call 871844

CORONAVIRUS

We are invited to light a candle again at **7pm on Tuesday 23rd March**, the anniversary of the introduction of the first lockdown.

We invite you to continue in reflection, prayer and lament between Passion Sunday (21st March) and Easter. You may choose to pause and light your candle each day.

PRAYERS

Come to us, O Christ, as the wind that blows the autumn leaves, as the song that soothes the troubled child, as the melody that lifts the anxious spirit. Fill us with affection for you that is unbounded, desire for you that is unrestrained and a yearning for you that throws caution to the winds, and this for your own love's sake.

Amen

Architect of all we know, we stand in amazed silence, for we were not there when you spoke all that is into being, and the heavens rejoiced.
Was it in a burst of wonder and glory that everything came forth from nothing?
With your compasses and levels you drew the edges between life and death and set in motion the ticking hearts of atoms.
O maker of me, you thought and plants unfurled, creatures teemed into the corners of all the world, more than we can ever name or know.
And all of this a house for us!

Amen

Show us, O God of mercy, that no sin is so great that it cannot be confessed; no wound so deep it cannot be healed, and no sinner so lost that grace cannot bring them home.

Amen

Light of the World,
you shine for me always,
whether I am strutting my stuff in the footlights,
or caught like a rabbit in the headlights;
when lightning strikes twice in the same place,
or all the lights go out.
Draw me in to your firelight,
search my heart with your candlelight,
may I live in your sunlight,
until every dark place in my soul is illumined by you.

Amen

**Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Friday, 1pm.
Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL
or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com**

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) Melchizedek Hebrews 5:6) 2) lifted, earth, myself (John 12:32)