

**Notices for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**

**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**Easter Week // Lord of Life**

**MESSAGE FROM JONA**

I'm writing this on Maundy Thursday. We're not certain of the origin of 'Maundy'. A strong possibility is that it comes from the Latin 'Mandatum' - from where we get the word 'mandate'. One of the things the Christian church remembers on Maundy Thursday is Jesus washing the disciples' feet. According to John's Gospel after he'd done this he said:

"A new command (mandate) I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

Love permeates the gospels in the same way sponge is saturated when it is dropped into water. Love is the culture of Jesus' ministry. Even in the times when Jesus seems difficult and confrontational, I believe it always comes from a place of love because sometimes love has to challenge injustice, indifference or hypocrisy, as much as it should seek understanding, compassion and to build peace.

Paul writes: 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' (Romans 5:8) The crucifixion, and Easter itself, should be understood in the context of love. I don't believe Jesus died because God was angry, but because 'God is love' (1John 4:8), and God is desperate for his beloved children to know and be in communion with him.

Let us resolve to do our utmost to 'love one another' because 'anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.'

Happy Easter.

*Jona*

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## DISTRICT EASTER MESSAGE

Dear Sisters & Brothers

Just before Holy Week all the Northern Church Leaders gather for an ecumenical retreat, usually at Hinsley Hall in Leeds but this year it was on Zoom. The Archbishop of York hosts it, with senior leaders from Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Free Church, Methodist, Salvation Army and URC denominations joining together for prayer, study and reflection. This year Professor David Ford, New Testament theologian and lecturer took us through his twenty-year study of St John's Gospel. His commentary comes out in December this year and is an amazing collaboration from many different disciplines over these two decades.

Two things struck most of us who attended. Firstly, David's utter dedication to understand as best as possible the implications St John wanted to convey to his readers about God's complete and utter love for each and every one of us. And secondly, David's energy and passion for his subject, which after twenty plus years working on this commentary is no small thing. Sometimes when things get tough it's easy to doubt you are on the right road, but I was impressed at David's deep dedication and energy for the Gospel. Here was a man who after a lifetime of study and reflection was still as passionate about Jesus as the day Christ first called him. David was perhaps too modest to say but I believe it is principally due to his unswerving commitment to read, study and pray the scriptures, wrestling with the questions and dialogue with those who hold contrasting views. One of the most notable things I remember David sharing was from John 6:63b Jesus saying to his hearers "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." John is trying to convey to us a sense of the abundance of God's love. That abundance is not just for us, it is to be shared. The affect on our lives is to be radiated out to the wider world. Peace bestowed on us is peace to the wider world. So let's not be hoarders.

Peace and Blessings

*Rev Stephen Lindridge*

### LECTIONARY

**Acts 10 : 34-43, or Isaiah 25 : 6-9, Psalm 118 : 1-2, 14-24,  
1 Corinthians 15 : 1-11, or Acts 10 : 34-43, John 20 : 1-18, or Mark 16 : 1-8.**

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

- 1) What is the Aramaic word for 'teacher' ?
- 2) On the mountain, the Lord Almighty prepared a feast for all peoples. A feast containing what?

You will find the answers on the back page.

## **EASTER SERVICES ON ZOOM**

For our convenience I've set up a once only zoom login for the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Sunday services on zoom. Please feel free to share this email with whomsoever you are led too.

**Maundy Thursday – 6:00pm**, we will watch together the circuit service brought to us by Rev Jona, with an opportunity afterwards for fellowship prayer and reflection, ending around 7:30pm

**Good Friday – 3:00pm** – Rev Colin Barrick will lead us in our Good Friday Service.

**Easter Sunday - 10:30am** – Rev Colin will lead us in celebrating this Easter Day. The walls of our individual chapel, over this past year, have certainly disappeared as we have endeavoured to support fellowship through this lockdown and pandemic. Your presence for the first time or as a regular will be a blessing.

Steve Philipson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Easter Services

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85023500417?pwd=NzFBL1kwckh0UkpTb0RoZEVC Mm80QT09>

Meeting ID: 850 2350 0417

Passcode: Hehasrisen

God bless.

*Steve Phillipson*

## **MARK, THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS**

Easter Sunday marks the beginning of the period traditionally called the great 50 days. On the first day we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, on the 50<sup>th</sup> day we remember the day of Pentecost, sometimes called the birthday of the church. It is a time of hope and celebration. We hope that you have now received copies of Mark, The Great 50 Days and that these have been distributed ready for use from Sunday.

There are further ways to share this resource and to join in the conversation:

You can receive the reflection for each day by email each morning. If you are not already registered to receive The Great 50 Days emails you can register here.

<https://r1.dotmailer-surveys.com/3b1d400f55951a3ebvi14e4289e46264bb7-1d5c99a2fbec571d41fd273fceb55afd4500> (hover over the link and press/hold down 'control' and then click)

You can follow the reflections on Facebook (Search for TheGreat50Days)

## **PRAYERS**

God of all hope we call on you today. We pray for those who are living in fear: Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them. May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace. We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty. For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others. For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend. Grant us your wisdom. Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. *Amen*

Awaken us, O God, to that faith which dies unless it clothes the naked, feeds the hungry, comforts the sorrowing, shelters the destitute and binds up the broken; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Dear God, we are your people meeting together in your Church, in that part called Methodism. We believe we are called to worship you, to care for others and to spread the gospel. Please help us to mould our Methodist structures to meet the challenges of today. Guide us as to how your mission can be fulfilled through your Church at all levels: connexion, district, circuit and church. Show us how the Church should be set up so that our structures, our standing orders, our disciplines, theology and traditions can be enablers of your mission. Help us to see what needs to be done and inspire us to know how best to implement the changes. *Amen*

Gracious God, let the light of your face shine upon us; your peace rule in our hearts and your strength be our song. By the gift of your grace let us take up the cross and follow in the steps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Awesome God, thank you for giving us this wonderful earth and all its resources. We praise you for the amazing ways you have set everything to work according to your perfect plan. Thank you for touching the hearts of humans with the beauty of your earth. Thank you that the earth gives us so much joy and excitement for adventure. May we always be grateful for your blessings. *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](mailto:Geoffandangela@btinternet.com)**

**Bible Quiz Answers**:- 1) Rabboni (John 20:16)

2) the best of meats and the finest of wines (Isaiah 25:6)