

**Notices for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Ponteland Methodist Church**  
**Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)**

**LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN**

**26<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time // In the Beginning**

**MESSAGE FROM JONA**

This week our online and printed worship will see us celebrate Harvest Festival. I associate this service of thanksgiving with all ages coming together to celebrate God's goodness and provision, and with the generosity of the people as gifts are received and shared.

Even though we are not physically together it is still important that we come together 'in spirit' and remember to thank God for the harvest, our farmers and food producers, and all who work to provide our food and keep our shop shelves supplied. It's so easy to take these things for granted so it's important to remind ourselves of just how fortunate we are.

It is also vital that we continue our usual Harvest generosity. Many Foodbanks and charities rely on the extra donations that usually come in at this time of year and will struggle without this. I believe that generosity is a spiritual discipline, and I encourage each of us to reflect honestly and give what we can to support a charity that might be struggling at this time.

I'd also like to gently remind you that Monday lunchtime is the deadline to return the questionnaire about worship that was issued last week.

*Jona*

**LECTIONARY**

**Exodus 17 : 1-7, Psalm 78 : 1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2 : 1-13, Matthew 21 : 23-32.**

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

1) Where did the whole Israelite community camp after they set out from the Desert of Sin?

2) Where was the authority of Jesus questioned?

You will find the answers on the back page.

## **GARDEN SERVICE**

On **Sunday Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am**, we are holding our second service in the church garden (behind the car park).

23 people attended the first one and many more shared it later on youTube.

This, our first act of live corporate worship, was significant and meaningful.

If you would like to attend on the 18<sup>th</sup>, please give your name to **Ann Cooper on 01661 824347, or email [anncooperx@gmail.com](mailto:anncooperx@gmail.com)**

You will be seated 2m apart so will not need to wear a mask during worship, but please wear one on arrival in case you get within 1m of each other. You will be seated close to anyone in your household or support bubble. Jona will be preaching and the service will last no more than 40 mins. Wear warm clothes – maybe bring a blanket. If rain is forecast bring a brollie – we may provide some gazebo cover. Contact Ann if you have any queries. Let's pray for one another as we prepare this service and as we each consider attending. God is blessing us even in these testing times.

*Ann*

## **THANK YOU**

Once again, many thanks for all the phone calls, gifts of plants, flowers and tomatoes. I will never forget your kindness to me and my family during these last few weeks.

*Pat Turner*

## **CORNERSTONE**

A reminder that articles for submission into October's magazine need to be with me by **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**. It will be available from next Sunday, complete with staples this time!

*Andy*

## PRAYERS

In our devotion to the needs of others, O God, let us not neglect the wisdom of your counsel. In the midst of our work let us not lose sight of your great purposes. In our path of service let us not snatch the management of the world from your hands. *Amen*

God of breeze and sunshine, bless us;  
God of wind and rain, refresh us;  
God of gale and hail, invigorate us;  
God of cyclone and snow, renew us;  
God of creation, grant new birth to all your earth,  
in Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

O God, since without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Gracious God, the world you have made is one of beauty and bounty, a plethora of colours and textures and sights and sounds, all reminding us of your generous and creative nature. We rejoice that we are part of your glorious creation but confess that we have not always treated it with the love and care it requires. Forgive us and help us to live in ways that enable us and all your people to care for your world, enjoy its wonders and share its resources wisely. In the name of Christ, *Amen*

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 other  
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*

Loving God,  
If we are ill, strengthen us.  
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.  
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.  
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.  
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,  
See the good in others,  
And remember there is just one world, one hope,  
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,  
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,  
In whom we trust these days and all days,

*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) Rephidim (Exodus 17:1) 2) the temple courts (Matthew 21:23)