

Collect for Today

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human
family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Readings for Today (may vary)

Exodus 2.1-10
(Psalm 34.11-20)
2 Corinthians 1.3-7
Luke 2.33-35

Next week's Readings (may vary)

Ezekiel 37.1-14
(Psalm 130)
Romans 8.6-11
John 11.1-45

Prayer and Reading Diary

Monday

Read: Ezekiel 37.1-14,
Prayer: Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer and Reading Diary

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 130,
Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

Wednesday

Read: Romans 8.6-11,
Prayer: God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thursday

Read: John 11.1-45,
Prayer: For those who are ill
Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer and Reading Diary

Friday

Read: Lamentations 3.19-33,
Prayer: For hospital staff & medical researchers
Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to
health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Saturday

Read: Matthew 20.17-34,
Prayer: From one who is ill or isolated
O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday

Prayer: For the Christian community
We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen

Notices:



• The clergy and readers of the Northmoor Team want you to know that we are praying for you and that we want to support you in any way we can in these strange times. **All church services are cancelled** but we are working hard to think of creative work-arounds so that worship can continue in a variety of ways. We will look to see what other places are doing and import best practice. We want this to be a time of learning how to do some new things which we will want to continue once more normal life resumes.

PLEASE Contact us: ring us, email us, write to us, send smoke signals or a carrier pigeon DO NOT be lonely and afraid. We may not be able to be with you in person but we want to do all we can to be there for you in other ways.

If you know of someone who is ill, or struggling with the situation please tell us. All sorts of networks are being created to reach out and support.

Our parents' generation had their finest hour: let this one be ours.

Love from us all.

• We are still waiting for guidance on matters like funerals, weddings and AGMS. As soon as these things are worked out we will let you know. Please be patient in the meantime.

• Christ and the Chocolaterie

The Lent Course at Bridestowe Methodist Chapel on Monday evenings has been suspended until further notice.

Future Events:



• **Saturday 28th March:** Inwardleigh Coffee Morning

This is now cancelled.

• **Saturday 4th April:** All Saints Easter Fare

This is now cancelled.

Church Services:



Please note all Church services are currently cancelled.

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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Mothering Sunday

22nd March 2020



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

I think we are all a little fearful at the moment: fearful for our own health or that of loved ones and fearful for the fate of businesses large and small in our local economy. We wonder what sort of world we will emerge into when this is eventually over. We are used to being insured and assured and this unprecedented crisis offers no insulation. We can't even turn to each other for comfort in the normal way: this is something we are being asked to face in "isolation".

This is Mothering Sunday and I am reminded of a verse from the Bible: Isaiah 63:1. "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, and you will be comforted." Wonderfully this disease seems to have little impact on children but nevertheless they will have picked up on the concerns of the adults around them and will be asking for reassurance. There will be many adults holding their children and telling them that it will all be alright. Most children have a simple trust in the ability of adults to protect them.

Fearfulness brings out the little child in us: that's OK; it is a part of us that needs to be comforted. The adult in us needs to speak to the child: "It's OK, I'm here, and we will get through this together." It is at times like this that we need to know the enfolding embrace of Almighty God, who was and is and will be, comforting the child and bringing out the adult so that we can stand tall and face each day as it comes.

Stephen