

Circuit Service – Sunday 27 December 10.30am

Led by Rev Paul Timmis, Rev Emma Cusack, and Deacon Dawn Canham

Watch on YouTube: youtu.be/7I_zHDYAx8c

To join the Service through Zoom,
please email contact@stoneleighmethodist.church for the Meeting ID and Passcode..

On your home phone, dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement and enter the meeting ID followed by # (hash) when prompted; just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID; and when prompted, the passcode followed by #.

And that's it: you should be connected and are able to listen into the service.
Simply hang up when the service finishes, or whenever you want to leave.

To unmute yourself during the post-service chat time, press *6

Welcome & Introduction

Rev Paul Timmis

Call to worship

Rev Emma Cusack

Let us all, here, young and old,
be like Anna and Simeon –
nurtured in the place of prayer,
and looking to the world for the signs of God's presence.
Held together by this beloved truth,
we turn together to worship
the one who calls us all
in prayer and practice
towards the works of love. **Amen.**

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Hymn: Singing the Faith 215

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years!

*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

Say, ye humble shepherds, say,
what's your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light:
angels, singing "Peace on earth,"
told us of the Saviour's birth.'

Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy child,
by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee
in thy sweet humility.

Edward Caswall (1814–1878)
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God our Saviour: A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Rev Emma Cusack

God our Saviour,
as Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple
to present him before you,
we, too, come just as we are,
with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts,
to offer our lives to you, our gracious God. **Amen.**

As one year ends and a new one is about to begin...
As the year draws to an end we reflect on this past year.

What a year it has been.

We think about all we did and said that caused harm or upset.
We think about all we did and said that brought peace or joy.
We think about all we didn't do and say that might have made a difference.

Lord, we come before you now,
as we offer you all the things we hope to do and say next year.
Help us to speak words to bring peace and joy.
Help us to act with a spirit of generosity
so that you will be recognised through all we do and say.

Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (MSG)

Deacon Dawn Canham

I will sing for joy in God,
explode in praise from deep in my soul!
He dressed me up in a suit of salvation,
he outfitted me in a robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom who puts on a tuxedo
and a bride a jewelled tiara.
For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers,
and as a garden cascades with blossoms,
So the Master, God, brings righteousness into full bloom
and puts praise on display before the nations.

Regarding Zion, I can't keep my mouth shut,
regarding Jerusalem, I can't hold my tongue,
Until her righteousness blazes down like the sun
and her salvation flames up like a torch.
Foreign countries will see your righteousness,
and world leaders your glory.
You'll get a brand-new name
straight from the mouth of God.
You'll be a stunning crown in the palm of God's hand,
a jewelled gold cup held high in the hand of your God.
No more will anyone call you Rejected,
and your country will no more be called Ruined.
You'll be called Hephzibah (My Delight),
and your land Beulah (Married),
Because God delights in you
and your land will be like a wedding celebration.

The Message, Eugene H Peterson
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Hymn: Singing the Faith 187

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name:'
most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say,
'Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)
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Address: Hopes for a New Year

Rev Paul Timmis

My hopes for 2021...	Simeon's hopes for the world in 2021...

Hymn: Singing the Faith 204

In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him,
nor the earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
God, the Lord Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air —
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Belovèd
with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him —
give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894)
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Prayers of Intercession

Deacon Dawn Canham

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 206

It was on a starry night
when the hills were bright,
earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still;
then in a cattle shed,
in a manger bed
a boy was born, King of all the world.

*And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.
And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.*

Soon the shepherds came that way,
where the baby lay,
and were kneeling, kneeling by his side.
And their hearts believed once more,
for the peace of all;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.

Joy Webb
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It's not over, this Birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which God can throw stars.

When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God
that we can box Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time when God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.

Those who wait for God
watch with their heart and not their eyes,
listening, always listening,
for angel words.