

# CHRIST CHURCH PORT SUNLIGHT WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Sunday 11 July 2021

## Inside this Issue...

### WORSHIP & STUDY

WORSHIP	2
REFLECTION	6
OFFERTORY PRAYER	8
FORTHCOMING WORSHIP	9
REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS	10
OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP	11

### ACTIVITIES

COFFEE & CONVERSATION	7
STEWARDSHIP	8
FOODBANK DONATIONS	9
MESSY CHURCH	12
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	14
<b>GUIDELINES</b>	
ZOOM DETAILS	15
WORSHIP GUIDELINES	16

**THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICE  
IS IN THE AFTERNOON AT 3.00PM  
(IN CHURCH & ON ZOOM)**

*Our mission is to offer our best to God  
through worship, fellowship  
and care for the community*



# Worship for Sunday 11 July

*This worship material is designed for you to use at home. Some elements may differ from the service livestreamed from Christ Church.*

## Opening Words

Before the earth was formed,  
we were chosen by God  
to be God's people.  
God gathers us together  
that we might  
sing of joy and hope,  
as God's beloved.



Before the stars glittered  
in the night sky,  
we were chosen through Christ  
to be God's family.  
Christ gathers us together  
that we might  
carol the good news of redemption.

Before the rivers flowed to the seas,  
we were chosen by the Spirit  
to serve creation.  
The Spirit gathers us together  
that we might  
dance in the fields of peace  
with our sisters and brothers.

## Hymn

*A recording of this hymn from Songs of Praise at Paisley Abbey can be found at*

[https://youtu.be/iuLmDye\\_5ys](https://youtu.be/iuLmDye_5ys)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored,  
forgiven,  
who like thee his praise should sing?  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Praise the everlasting King!*

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Glorious in his faithfulness!*

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Widely as his mercy flows!*



Angels, help us to adore him,  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before  
him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Praise him! Praise him!*  
*Praise with us the God of grace!*  
*John Goss*

## **Prayer of the Day**

Every moment, we have the chance  
to breathe in your goodness and  
grace;  
every hour, we have opportunities  
to share your love and hope;  
every day, we have occasions  
to rest in the comfort of your heart.  
In you, we discover the fullness of  
time,  
Delight of the Ages.



In every challenge we face,  
we can find the strength to  
persevere;  
in every person we meet,  
we can find the blessing you have  
sent;  
in every need we encounter,  
we can find the help you would have  
us offer.

In you, we discover the fullness of  
life,  
Companion of our days.

In every conflict of our lives,  
there is your healing we can offer;



in every brokenness we experience,  
there is that reconciliation we can  
receive;  
in every difficulty which makes us  
stumble,  
there is that dance of hope you  
would teach us.  
In you, we discover the fullness of  
faith,  
Promised Spirit.  
God in Community, Holy and One,  
in you we discover the fullness we  
long for.  
Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Old Testament Reading:**

2 Samuel 6 v1-5, 12b-19

### ***Pause***

### **Epistle Reading:**

Ephesians 1 v3-14

### ***Pause***

## Gospel Reading:

Mark 6 v14-29

### *Pause*

## Reflect on the readings

using the material on page 6

## Prayer of Confession

We toss and turn at night,  
unable to sleep because of  
the tunes running through our  
heads.

But, if we listen carefully,  
we will discover that it is God  
singing to us,  
of that hope, that joy, that mercy  
offered to us,  
if we will but open our lives to the  
forgiveness and healing  
which is God's desire for us.  
Let us confess our out-of-tune lives!

We would sing praises to you, the  
composer of our lives,  
but we remember the harsh words  
we used towards a friend this  
week.

We would learn your healing hymns  
of grace,  
but the broken chords of our anger  
and pain echo deep within us.  
We would dance in the circle of your  
love,



but we recall how quickly we turned  
and ran  
when offered opportunities to serve  
your people.

Forgive us, God of every blessing.  
Open our hearts and fill us with your  
mercy.

Open our ears that we may hear the  
songs of grace  
you would teach us to share with the  
world.



Open our eyes that we may see the  
hope we have  
in Jesus Christ, our Lord and  
Saviour, our inheritance of love  
and joy.

### *Silence*

Before the earth was shaped, God  
created the music of grace  
which sets our hearts, our souls, our  
feet to dancing with joy  
in the hope God has given to us.

It is God who has created us,  
it is God who has redeemed us,  
and it is God who sends us out  
to live as brothers and sisters of  
Christ.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.  
Amen.

## Hymn

A recording of this hymn from St Barnabas Church, Dulwich, can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/mOrkdW5NAM0>



The kingdom of God  
is justice and joy,  
for Jesus restores  
what sin would destroy;  
God's power and glory  
in Jesus we know,  
and here and hereafter  
the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God  
is mercy and grace,  
the prisoners are freed,  
the sinners find place,  
the outcast are welcomed  
God's banquet to share,  
and hope is awakened  
in place of despair.

The kingdom of God  
is challenge and choice,  
believe the good news,  
repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners  
brought Christ to his cross,  
our crisis of judgement  
for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,  
the gift and the goal,  
in Jesus begun,  
in heaven made whole;  
the heirs of the kingdom  
shall answer his call,  
and all things cry 'Glory!'  
to God all in all.

*Bryn A Rees*

## Closing Words

We are sent by God,  
to be God's people in the world,  
So we go to sing of God's joy and  
hope to all.

We are called by Christ, adopted  
into God's gracious family,  
so we go to share the good news of  
Christ's grace for everyone.

We are chosen by the Spirit to care  
for and serve creation,  
so we go to join hands with our  
sisters and brothers in every  
moment.



# Bible Reading and Reflection for Sunday 11 July

## Readings:

2 Samuel 6 v1-5 & 12b-19,  
Ephesians 1 v3-14, Mark 6 v14-29

## Reflection:

In this week's Old Testament and Gospel readings we get a glimpse into the lives of two royal families. Neither has a happy, fairy tale ending. Both may leave us wondering what it might really mean to be part of a royal family.

The first couple, in our first reading, is King David and Michal, his wife, who was the daughter of King Saul. If we know the backstory of Michal and David, there's a line in this passage that really stands out. It's when Michal looks out the window and sees David dancing before the Lord. And then we hear, *"and she despised him in her heart."* The line should break our hearts a little because this is not the happy story that their romantic beginnings foretold.

King Herod, in our Gospel reading, has other troubles in the marriage and family department. He has divorced his first wife and married Herodias, his brother-in-law's wife. Since his brother-in-law was still alive at the time, this was against Jewish law, and John the Baptist calls him on it. Herod is supposed to be keeping Jewish law, not flouting it. But neither Herod nor



Herodias like John the Baptist criticizing their marriage in public, so John the Baptist rots in jail.

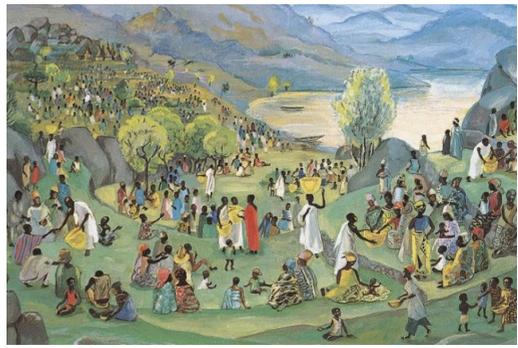
That is until King Herod throws himself a birthday party and makes a promise that is supposed to make him seem like a big man, a powerful man. He promises to give his stepdaughter whatever she asks because her dancing has pleased him so much. Herodias sees her chance, not to change her husband's mind about John the Baptist, not to practice good conflict resolution skills and see if they can come to some compromise about John, but to get rid of this meddling prophet once and for all.

In the Epistle reading, we hear God's plan for an alternative family, a different kind of royal family in which we are adopted as God's own children through Jesus Christ. Our inheritance as members of this family is

redemption, forgiveness, knowledge of God's will and God's desire to gather all things on heaven and earth together in Christ.

No divisiveness, no abuse or manipulation. No discarding of people or disregard of feelings. No using of others. Love that endures. Love that shows forth, not in empty promises or dangerous ones, but in praise. In baptism, we have been adopted into God's family, the ultimate royal family. As members of God's family, we are loved beyond all knowing and with a love that can reach out in love and service to others, even to the puzzling person we're seated across from at the dinner table every night.

What happens next in Mark's gospel, immediately after today's reading, right after Herod's horrible feast, is that Jesus throws a party. It's the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and it's completely different from Herod's



feast. There's no guarded palace, just a beautiful open field where all are welcome. There's no top table; everyone is a guest of honour. There's no boasting, just thanksgiving. There's no pompous vow-making and self-aggrandizement, just simple food, blessed, broken, and shared, and enough for all. No horrible silver platter of death, just twelve baskets full to the brimming with abundant life-giving bread and fish.

At which royal family table would you rather dine? Ours is prepared. The host, the ruler of heaven and earth, awaits with open arms.

## Coffee & Conversation

**Fridays: 10.30-11.30**

Join using Sunday Zoom links

*See page 15*



## Offertory and Prayer

Thank you for your continuing financial support of the life of the church. As you make your weekly offering, by which ever means, we invite you to pray this prayer of dedication:

*Sovereign God,  
we bring these gifts in adoration,  
as a visible sign of our homage.  
We bring them in praise,  
as a testimony to the faithfulness of your provision.  
We bring them in gratitude,  
as an acknowledgement of your awesome grace.  
We bring them in love,  
as a small way of showing how much you mean to us.  
Accept not only the gifts  
but the spirit in which we bring them,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



For those who would like to make their weekly offerings, or make an additional donation, by online banking, the church bank account details are:

A/c name: **Christ Church** Sort Code: **01 07 02** A/c number: **07704216**

*If you are part of the Envelope Scheme, then please ensure you include your offertory envelope number as a reference.*

## Could you be a Steward?

We hope that it may soon be possible for us to reopen our church building to tourists and others visiting Port Sunlight village. We are only able to do this with the support of our team of volunteer stewards. Stewards welcome visitors, and share information about the church building.

**If you would like to join the stewarding team, please speak to Val Young on 07926 961260.**



# Supporting Wirral Foodbank

Please continue to bring your donations of food and personal care items to church when you are able. The shopping list shows the items that are particularly needed at this time. At present they have plenty of Baked Beans and Pasta!

**Please bring your Foodbank donations to church and they will be taken to the Foodbank.**

## Shopping List:

- ✓ Tinned Fish, Potatoes & Fruit
- ✓ Squash
- ✓ Sugar (small pkt if poss)
- ✓ Instant Mash
- ✓ Coffee (small)
- ✓ Jam
- ✓ UHT Milk
- ✓ Washing-Up Liquid



## Forthcoming Worship at Christ Church

### Saturday 10 July

#### 10.00am MESSY CHURCH ON ZOOM

*led by Revd Liz Byrne  
(On Zoom)*



### Sunday 11 July

#### 3.00pm AFTERNOON WORSHIP

*led by Revd Ian Smith  
(In-person and on Zoom)*



### Sunday 18 July

#### 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

*led by Revd Ian Smith  
(In-person and on Zoom)*



### Sunday 25 July

#### 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

*led by Revd Ian Smith  
(In-person and on Zoom)*



## Remember in your Prayers

Living God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are our strength  
in times of trouble,  
you rejoice with us  
when we rejoice.  
Hear our prayers  
for your work in the world.

Pray for the places where flood or  
earthquake have brought disaster,  
and pray for relief.



Pray for the areas of the world  
where war and conflict  
are a way of life,  
and pray for peace.

Pray for those places  
where people are oppressed,  
and for places where poverty  
is a way of life,  
and pray for hope.

Pray for the places or situations  
where people are hurting  
because of the actions  
of those they love.

Pray for those people  
who are experiencing doubt  
where they once had faith,  
for those who are having difficulty  
in reconciling the idea  
of a good God and an evil world.

Pray for those who,  
because of life's pain and suffering,  
have found themselves  
turning away from God.

Pray for the places  
where people are happy.  
Where there is a birthday,  
an anniversary, the birth of a  
new baby or a new job.



Pray for your families, your friends,  
your neighbours and yourselves.

We offer these prayers to the Father,  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
asking that the Holy Spirit  
will work through us  
in answering them.  
Amen.



# Opportunities to Worship on Sunday 11 July

## **Sunday 8.10am on BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship**

**A New Beginning** Canon Simon Doogan of the Church of St Columbanus in Ballyholme, Co Down considers how the Old Testament story of King David bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem relates to communities today as they emerge from lockdown. With the Rev Jan Stevenson, Ballyholme's Community Pastor.



## **Sunday 11.00am - URC General Assembly Worship**

**(On line and on Facebook)**

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church is taking place virtually this weekend. The Assembly Sunday Worship service will be livestreamed - please see page 14 for full details.

## **Sunday 1.15pm on BBC Two - Songs of Praise**

**Cheddar Gorge** Aled Jones visits Cheddar Gorge in Somerset to hear the origins of the hymn Rock of Ages, inspired by a rock set into the striking local landscape. He also travels to Devon to explore the Beer Quarry caves, stone from which has been used in cathedral and church buildings across Britain. At Cheddar Baptist Church, Aled reflects on faith in God with lifelong member Barbara Merrick, who has been attending the church for 77 years.

With new music specially recorded under current guidelines, we hear songs from worship leaders Martin Smith and Christian group Bright City, both of whom are from Brighton. Gemma Hunt meets them there and finds out how their Christian faith inspires their song writing.



## **Sunday 3.00pm at Christ Church, Port Sunlight**



Christ Church is open for COVID secure in-person Worship. As this is the second Sunday of the month, our service this week is in the afternoon, starting at 3.00pm. This week's service will be led by Rev Ian Smith and will be based around the story of the death of John the Baptist. Those who are not yet ready or able to come to the church building can join in from home via Zoom. Information about the guidelines for attending church, and how to join the service via Zoom, can be found on pages 15 and 16.

## Messy Church Activity 11 July: THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is one of my favourite parables. The conversation Jesus shared with his disciples, and the story he shared, encapsulate the heart of the Christian Gospel—we are called to love.

The parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of how a man was journeying from Jerusalem to Jericho on a notoriously dangerous road, full of rocks, with lots of nooks and crannies where robbers and bandits could easily hide. If you took that road you kept going, you didn't stop.



So, when a man was attacked and left for dead, Jesus' listeners would understand why the first 2 men who passed that same way would keep moving, they too feared for their lives.

When Jesus brought the Samaritan into the story, his listeners would have expected him to do the same, pass on the other side of the road, keep moving to stay safe, avoid contact to remain clean. Also as relationships between the Jews and Samaritans

were tense, there may have even been some discomfort that they were included in the story.

But Jesus turned the situation upside down, instead of following the example of the Priest and the Levite, the Samaritan was the one who stopped, who put his own life in danger, who reached out and helped the man who had been attacked. He took him to an inn, took care of him, paid for his room, and promised to pay any extra costs that the innkeeper might have incurred.

When Jesus then asked his listeners, who had been a neighbour to the man who had been attacked by the robbers, the answer came, 'the one who treated him kindly'. And Jesus told them to go and do likewise.

We have to love like the Samaritan, not only loving the people we like and the people we know, but also loving the people in need and in the situations that may make us feel uncomfortable.



So, this week we are making LOVE BISCUITS, as a reminder that we need to love our neighbours, just as Jesus taught us to.

**To make a love biscuits you will need:**

- 200g unsalted butter, softened
- 200g golden castor sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 400g plain flour, plus extra for dusting



**Instructions**

- ◆ Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and line a baking sheet with baking parchment.
- ◆ Put the butter in a bowl and beat it with electric beaters until soft and creamy.
- ◆ Beat in the sugar, then the egg and vanilla, and finally the flour to make a dough. If the dough feels a bit sticky, add a little bit more flour and knead it in.
- ◆ Roll the mixture out on a baking mat.
- ◆ Cut out shapes using a heart shaped biscuit cutter, or cut out heart shapes. Re-roll off-cuts and repeat.
- ◆ Transfer the biscuits to the baking sheet and bake for 8-10 mins or until the edges are just brown. Leave to cool for 5 mins, then serve. *Will keep for three days in a biscuit tin.*



Don't forget to send photos of your LOVE BISCUITS to: **[bulletin@ccpsurc.info](mailto:bulletin@ccpsurc.info)**



# Messy Church

on Zoom

***Saturday 10 July at 10am***

For Zoom details contact:  
**[bulletin@ccpsurc.info](mailto:bulletin@ccpsurc.info)**

## URC General Assembly: 9-12 July online

General Assembly is the URC's key decision-making body which meets annually to celebrate, discuss, worship and make decisions about the life and work of the denomination. Topics on the agenda this year include the new URC learning hub, action towards an anti-racist church, the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, the URC's 50th jubilee, the future of Pilots, ministerial disciplinary process, safeguarding, and the pension scheme.

The meeting will be livestreamed on the URC's website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. For more details visit: <https://urc.org.uk/general-assembly-2021.html>



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**  
**General  
Assembly**

## Join in with General Assembly Worship—11 July @ 11am

The Moderators of the United Reformed Church General Assembly are warmly inviting all members of the denomination to join General Assembly's Sunday worship service on 11 July.

The Revd Clare Downing, one of the Assembly Moderators, will preach at the service which will be livestreamed from the URC's national website and Facebook page from 11am.

"We hope you will feel able to explore this possibility, maybe as a novel experience," said Clare and her fellow Moderator Peter Pay. "Thank you for all you are doing to nurture the spiritual health of our communities."

To view the livestreamed service from the URC's website or Facebook page...

**URC's website:** [bit.ly/URCwelcome](https://bit.ly/URCwelcome)

**URC Facebook page:** [bit.ly/URCfacebook](https://bit.ly/URCfacebook)



## Items for the Next Bulletin

Items for inclusion in next week's bulletin will need to be with **Liz Byrne** by 7.00pm on **Tuesday 13th July**. Please send by email to: [bulletin@ccpsurc.info](mailto:bulletin@ccpsurc.info) or post to: **Bulletin, c/o 21 Gorsehill Road, Wallasey, CH45 9JA**

# Joining Sunday Worship from Home

We continue to offer most of our Sunday Services on Zoom. You can either join Zoom with video on a PC, Tablet or Smart Phone, or you can phone in on a landline or mobile phone and simply listen to the service.

**The stream will open approximately 15 minutes before the start of each service**, if you arrive early, you will be placed in a waiting room and then admitted when everything is ready.

## Joining with video on a PC, Tablet or Smart Phone:

### Option 1

- ◆ click on the following zoom link: [Christ Church Sunday Worship Zoom](#)

### Option 2

- ◆ open the Zoom website or app and enter the Meeting ID and Password:

**Meeting ID:** 984 9741 4236

**Meeting Password:** 674153

## Joining with audio on a landline or mobile phone:

- ◆ Choose and dial any one of the phone numbers listed below (if the phone number you choose is engaged try another phone number).

### Dial-in numbers:

0203 481 5237

0203 901 7895

0208 080 6592

0203 481 5240

0208 080 6591

0131 460 1196

- ◆ Key in the **Meeting ID: 984 9741 4236**, followed by '#'.  
◆ When asked for Participant ID press '#'.  
◆ Key in the **Meeting Password: 674153**, followed by '#' again.

## Stay and Chat:

- ◆ Following the service there will be an opportunity to stay on Zoom and chat with others. You will be invited to unmute.



## Contact Details: Rev Ian Smith



**Telephone:** 0151 372 8822

**Address:** 21 Gorsehill Rd, Wallasey, CH45 9JA

**Email:** minister@byrne-smith.com or minister@ccpsurc.info

# Guidelines for Worship

Christ Church is open for COVID secure in-person worship. The service lasts for around 30 minutes. To maintain social distancing we have to limit the number of people in the building - we can only accommodate 35 individuals, couples or household 'bubbles'. There is no Creche or Sunday Worship Club, however activity bags for younger children are available.

## What does this mean in practice?

- ◆ On arrival you will be asked whether you are **displaying symptoms of Coronavirus**. Any who answer 'yes' will be asked to return home.
- ◆ All worshippers are asked to provide **names and contact details**. This is to meet the requirements of 'track and trace'.
- ◆ The wearing of **face coverings is compulsory**. Face coverings protect others by preventing droplet spread, and so help keep people safe in indoor spaces.
- ◆ Everyone is required to **sanitise their hands** on arrival, using the facilities provided. This ensures that any infections picked up outside are not brought inside.
- ◆ **Prayer requests** for inclusion in the service will be noted by a steward. It is unsafe for multiple people to write in the prayer book.
- ◆ Place your **offertory** on the plate provided near the entrance. Passing offertory bags around the congregation greatly increases the risk of person to person transmission.



- ◆ You will be **guided to your pew** by a steward, and **pews will be filled from the front**. This ensures that we are able to maintain social distancing.
- ◆ **Service sheets** will already be in the pews. This again reduces the risk of transmission.
- ◆ At the **end of the service, stewards will guide you out**. The church will empty from the back, last in - first out, to ensure social distancing.
- ◆ Remember to **sanitise your hands** before leaving.
- ◆ Once outside, please continue to limit the number of people you interact with. Keep your distance from each other and continue to be cautious.
- ◆ Please respect the fact that not everyone will feel comfortable being in close proximity with others.

