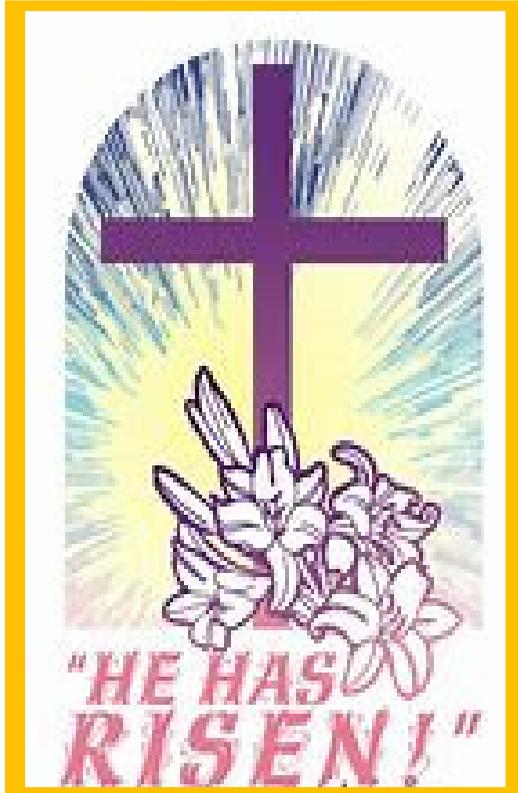


Springdale Methodist Church



Spring 2020

Readings, Thoughts and Prayers
for each day of the week

The Pastoral Message from Our Minister

Greetings

Grace and peace from our lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

I know we are living under difficult circumstances when the church is operating remotely,

and the aspect of fellowship seem very strange. We miss each other but still remember our fellowship, laughter and moments we have been able to share together.

Donald Ryan has put together a Springdale prayer book for a week to help and strengthen and fill this vacuum we experience together and am sure the resources will benefit us greatly.

Always in prayers

Teddy Siwila

Editorial note

This booklet is designed to be used over the coming weeks of our isolation and beyond. Please feel free to share it and add your own prayers and thoughts. I am grateful to Kenneth & Robert who, at short notice, willingly contributed to the booklet.

Blessings Donald

Sunday

Today's reading

John 3: 16 NRSV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Thought for the day

“We are made exactly as God wants us to be. We only need to lift our minds above Earth's empty sorrows so that we can rejoice in the Divine joy.”

Julian of Norwich

“Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not.”

CS Lewis

Our Prayer

It is with unending thankfulness, wonder and overwhelming joy to be assured that you are our eternal Father who unconditionally loves us day and night. It gives us even greater reassurance to know that we are saved by your only begotten Son Jesus Christ. In the safety of our home we worship and thank you for upholding and guiding us in this difficult time. Bless those we love and all the members of our Springdale Church Family and Community. Amen

Donald H. Ryan

Monday

Today's reading

Psalm 8 RSV

When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth.

Thought for the day

During this very recent spring sunshine a casual glance into my back garden would have revealed me on my knees in front of a small bush covered in white flowers. Not an act of worship but admiration as I breathed in the heavenly scent of the Daphne. At a time when we struggle to come to terms with such tragic happenings in the world around us may we hold a sense of wonder and confidence in your ever-renewing power and love.

Our Prayer

O gracious God who has created this wonderful world and placed us in it, grant in us now by the power of your risen living presence a lasting sense of that ever-renewing grace at work in our lives. We bring before you our great concern for all who seek to meet the needs of others and do so at the risk to their own welfare and safety. Help us, we pray, to so conduct our daily lives that we do not add to the difficulties of others but seek to bring care and compassion by the way we live. Amen

Kenneth H Collins

Tuesday

Today's reading

1 Peter 1:3 NRSV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

Thought for the day

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness

Desmond Tutu

As we are surrounded by darkness hope is the ever-increasing bright light on the horizon

DHR

Our Prayer

We worship you, God of hope and resurrection, during the uncertainty of this difficult time. It warms our heart and gives us hope knowing that you hear us, cherish us, and embrace us with your everlasting protecting love. Saviour God knowing that you have walked the road of isolation ahead of us we put our hand in yours and walk with you as you lead us through to better future. Hold each one of us firmly in the fellowship of faith and hope. Amen

Wednesday

Today's reading

Isaiah 41:10 NRSV

...do not fear, for I am with you,

do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Thought for the day

"I have never known more than 15 minutes of anxiety or fear. When I feel fearful emotions overtaking me, I just close my eyes and thank God that He is still on the throne, reigning over everything, and I take comfort in His control over the affairs of my life."

John Wesley

Our Prayer

Loving, caring Father we pray that you will be by each one of us as we sit in isolation. Stay close and support us as we watch and speculate when we can be with family and friends and live a normal life again. We pray that your healing, comforting peace will be with everyone who is ill and with all who feel very alone. As we see our gardens bursting into life, we are assured that the future will good and we can return to normal church and family life. In the name of our blessed Saviour uplift us. Amen

Thursday

Today's reading

Luke 22.42 NIV

In the garden of Gethsemane we glimpse Jesus at a time of great stress praying 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done'

Thought for the day

The day after the Prime Minister announced that we would have to begin to stay in, The English Heritage magazine landed on my mat. The front page announced, 'Adventure Awaits', i.e. places to go and enjoy in their care. Now we are all urged to stay home, what adventures can we have. Treasuring our memories, praying for others, and doing some of those things we have never had time for.

Our Prayer

Lord, in the difficult and sometimes confusing situations we find ourselves in, give us peace to know that you are with us always, whatever. Amen.

Robert A Readshaw

Friday

Today's reading

Luke 23:33-34 NRSV

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus ...Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them,...".

Thought for the day

Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.

Mark Twain

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Martin Luther King Jr

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father we worship you with a thankful heart as we remember that you gave your son Jesus Christ to suffer on the cross to save us. Help us to follow our Saviour's gracious example by not cursing this extraordinary time. In the words of Jesus help us to say Father forgive the situation we are in and help us to rise victorious over it. Amen

Saturday

Today's reading

Matthew 25: 37-40 NRSV

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Thought for the day

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.' ... 'Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

Mother Teresa

Our Prayer

Loving Saviour we thank you for your continual comforting present, along with the phone calls we have received and made which have brightened our lives. We celebrate the offers of help made by family, friends and neighbours. We pray that you will bless them as well as us. We rejoice that you who lived through the darkness and the loneliness of the cross is our special friend in our time of need. We thank you that the light of your resurrection is our guide. Guide we pray our political leaders especially now. Amen

Prayer

by the Revd Barbara Glasson, President of The Methodist Conference

Loving God, If we are ill, strengthen us.

If we are tired, fortify our spirits.

If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies 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