



GREAT 50 DAYS

EASTER SUNDAY TO PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020 DISTRICT INITIATIVE

Yorkshire North and East Methodist District invites you to make these three themes a priority between Easter & Pentecost 2020:

"Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed"

Although these are challenging days, I invite you to join with me and others around our District in faithfully seeking to make these a 'great' 50 days as we celebrate and share our faith in action.
- Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District

Week Six : Let your life speak of God's way of loving

In loving others Jesus never violates their personal integrity. He invites their full participation and contribution but does not insist or take away their responsibility for themselves.

*It is good to hear of groups meeting on 'zoom' to discuss the material.
If you're not online, who could you share your thoughts with on the phone?*

CONNECT WITH GOD

Reflect on your experiences of giving to, and receiving from, others as you lived with attention to God this week. Have you had any sense of keeping going even when it has been difficult? If you are talking or sharing with others, share your experience of taking risky ventures.

CONTEMPLATE

Sit as comfortably as possible. Become aware of the rhythm of your breathing.

Say out loud (or even sing!) the second verse from Timothy Dudley Smith's hymn. (StF 470)

**Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

Spend a couple of moments in silence reading through the words again and reflecting upon them.

Call to mind one word or phrase or story of Jesus that comes into your mind and spend a few minutes letting it dwell richly in your mind and heart. Repeat the word over and over to yourself slowly. Remember the story and consider how it is speaking to you. Thank God for this time to remember the words of Jesus.

CONSIDER: John 13:31-35 (NRSV)

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids - blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

Setting: Jesus is in Jerusalem for a festival. There are many in need beside a pool. These include a man who has lain there for 38 years. Jesus does not presume to know the man's mind and desire. He asks him if he really wants to be healed. Only when the man says "yes" does Jesus speak decisively and tell the man to do what he really wants to do.

Take some time to read through the passage each day. Look for a word, phrase or idea which lights up for you or a question that is raised. Reflect on this and come back to it the next day.

What do we learn about loving other people from this story of Jesus?

COMMIT

1. How are you going to pay more attention to God so that you live with intentional generosity this week?
2. Reflecting upon our three themes, is there another step you can take on your personal risky venture this week?

LOVE 

PRAY 

GIVE 

Here are some more ideas from our young people. Maybe you could take on one of these suggestions? Please continue to share your thoughts with me – it's great to hear of all the different ways in which people are making these themes practical.

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EASTER SUNDAY TO PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020

Join us in making these
three themes a priority


LOVE


PRAY


GIVE

PRACTICAL IDEAS FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Thank a key worker personally or leave a thank you card for the refuse collectors

Send a silly picture to someone you don't usually talk to

Give to an overseas charity – refugees are struggling

Plan a menu and only buy the things you need to cook it for a week

Clear out your cupboards and give upgraded devices away, perhaps to an older person and if you know how, help them to set up a video chat or their device – virtually of course!



Let us know what you are doing around the themes of Love, Pray and Give to support your communities in creative ways during the Great 50 Days?

www.yorkshirinemethodist.org/our-work/great-50-days



PRAYER

God of amazing grace, you entrust to us the gift of your life.

You invite us to notice and treasure you.

May the threads of our lives, mundane and spectacular, speak of you, that your love may overflow to others and the whole world. Amen.