



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 Two : Let your life speak of hope

After the devastation of losing Jesus, the disciples are afraid for their lives and future. Despite the ruins of their dreams, they meet a very real sense of the presence of Jesus who gives them a deep peace and courage to let the closed door open.

It is good to hear of some people meeting in 'zoom' groups to discuss the material. Or perhaps you could pick up the phone and share thoughts?

CONNECT WITH GOD

Reflect on your experiences of giving to, and receiving from, others over this last week. What was good? What was difficult?

CONTEMPLATE

Find a time each day to stop and be still. You may find it helpful to light a candle, or have a Bible, or a cross as a focus. Let this be a daily unhurried 'waiting upon God' time of devotion. Concentrate on the rhythm of your breathing, as you breathe in and breathe out. Imagine yourself breathing in God's love, God's blessing. Imagine yourself breathing out God's love to your environment, being a blessing for the world. End each time of contemplation by saying these words, claiming them as a promise of God's blessing for you and those you love.

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.*

CONSIDER: John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Setting: *The disciples are meeting together in a room with the doors locked, because they are very afraid that, like Jesus, they might lose their lives. They may be in the same upper room where three nights earlier they had had supper with Jesus. They do not seem to have believed Mary Magdalene's story that she has met the risen Christ. Jesus comes to them through the locked doors, comes close*

to them and breathes his Spirit on them which deeply reassures them that all is well and gives them peace. Thomas is not present with them and insists he needs to see and touch for himself.

Look for a word, phrase or idea which lights up for you or a question raised that you want to think about more. Can you think of a time when you, or someone you know, had the experience of feeling fear, but found the courage to do an action that felt right anyway?

COMMIT

1. Think of a specific challenge or concern that you or someone known to you faces this week. Pray each day for the courage to meet that challenge/concern.
2. Reflect upon how you can pay more attention to God's impulses and give or receive love this week?
3. Reflect upon our three themes, and think of at least one way in which you can respond this week. It was good to be reminded by one of our group of how the phone can be our best friend in these days, a real voice on the end of the line can be a tonic. And sending notes out to one or two people each week, using the Royal Mail, can transform the recipient's day.

LOVE 

PRAY 

GIVE 

Here are some more ideas from our young people. Maybe you could take on one of these suggestions? Please let me know any other ideas you have this week so that we can begin to share more through the Great 50 Days. We will be sharing more practical ideas for each theme in the coming days.



GREAT 50 DAYS EASTER SUNDAY TO PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020

Join us in making these three themes a priority

LOVE PRAY GIVE

PRACTICAL IDEAS FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Pray for people
- Run an errand for a vulnerable person
- Sanitise your post box for the postie
- Ring someone who lives alone
- Pay it forward – buy vouchers from a small local business to use after the shutdown

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.yorkshiremethodist.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.