

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 One: Let God speak in unexpected ways

In these challenging and strange days we can feel very much out of our comfort zone. It can all feel a bit like we're travelling through a foreign land. In such a time as this, it can be hard to discern God speaking to us and through us. However, the Risen Christ is with us, and we can hope to recognise him, and find our hearts strangely warm. Let us pray for an increase in hope, love, faith and courage.

- **Connect with God**

Think about what has made your heart sing over the last few days and increased your sense of hope, love, and faith?

- **Contemplate** (Based on a prayer of Teresa of Avila)

Read through this prayer several times. Notice a line that speaks most strongly to you and repeat it to yourself listening to what God is saying to you and your church.

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours.

- **Consider: John 20:11-18 (NRSV)**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Setting: *Early on the Sunday morning, on the third day after Jesus' death, Mary finds the tomb empty. In her grief she stands weeping, wondering who has stolen the body. Then unexpectedly she meets someone in the garden, whom she mistakes for the gardener. When Jesus speaks to her, she recognises him. He does not let her cling to him, because he is alive as the same Lord, but in a new way. She goes to tell the others "I have seen the Lord." Perhaps the earliest affirmation of faith that we have.*

Reflect upon this passage. Look for a word, phrase or idea which lights up for you a question or new thought. Think of a time where you unexpectedly found new life, in a different way, when difficult things have happened to you.

- **Commit**

1. Commit this week to practise paying attention to God in 'given' moments of each day.
2. Reflect upon our three themes, and think of at least one way in which you can respond this week.

LOVE 

PRAY 

GIVE 

Our young people have already started to suggest practical ideas. 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.



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

- Plant butterfly or bee friendly seeds in your garden
- Check up on the people in your contacts list you haven't heard from for a while
- Buy a Big Issue – online www.selectmagazines.co.uk/product/the-big-issue
- Be kind to yourself, these are challenging times – do something that helps you feel refreshed
- Give to a food bank; email a supermarket to set up a virtual food bank for when people shop online or sign our petition: www.change.org/onlinefoodbankdonations

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.