

**Read John 2.13-22**

A dramatic scene of Jesus creating chaos in the Temple by driving out the money changers and animal sellers. The Jewish authorities are not pleased and demand to know who he thinks he is, at which Jesus predicts his death and resurrection in a metaphor about rebuilding the Temple.

**A note on the passage:** - This passage offers three ways in which we can think about the Temple: the physical space to worship God, Jesus' body as God here on earth, our own bodies to honour God. Do you find a physical place is important in your relationship with God? What does Jesus' message about his own death and resurrection mean to you today? In what way do you see yourself as a temple, built to honour God?

## STONE TOWER



On stony beaches, you often see pebble towers that others have built, like natural sculptures. Gather together some suitable pebbles or stones and take some quiet moments to build a tower yourself. You might like to write a letter on each to spell 'Jesus'. Take some time to build your tower several times over, reflecting on the passage and using the images of these pillars. In what ways are you 'under construction': being shaped and moulded into something special? What might be getting in the way? What do you need to add more of, to build yourself up?

This week, choose something to give up – just for the week. It could be meat, or sugar, playing video games, or anything else. During the week, whenever you think about or want that thing, let it remind you that you too are 'under construction' and God is at work in you. Ask God to show you more about what you can be, and what the Church can be, too.



## Wesley Methodist Church

**Minister: Revd. Josephine Soon 01384 821854**

Link for on line worship

<https://www.valeofstour.org.uk/virtual-church/live/vosworship>

**Newsletter: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Weekly Hymn: only one that came to mind this week.

Let us build a house where love can dwell

And all can safely live,

A place where saints and children tell

How hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,

rock of faith and vault of grace,

here the love of Christ shall end divisions;

All are welcome , all are welcome

All are welcome in this place.

**Church Contact: Margaret Kite 01384 392310**

**As always, Stay safe God Bless**

Revd Josephine Soon

2 March 2021

A letter to Wesley Methodist Church in lockdown

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Dear friends and family in Christ,

There were two storms (Jesus walking on the water) recorded in Mark's gospel (chapter 4 and chapter 6). I was looking at the glass window in our church the other day and I wondered which storm that it seeks to illustrate?

Like a mighty storm, COVID-19 has left the world reeling and rocking with the very foundations of 'normal' shaken. We have learned that pandemics are no respecter of persons—the royal or lowly, rich or poor, the aged or babes. We have been equalized- white, black, coloured, Asian, European, and African - we all are equal before our Creator God. We all cry with the same tears, our hearts are broken in the same way, and our worries and fears are as profound as those near and far.

Praise God for recent announcements from the government which give us grounds for optimism that restrictions will be eased in all parts of the UK by early summer, but there remain tests to be met and a degree of provisionally about each stage.

We must continue to thank God for our health workers who are holding the hands of their dying patients while they are far away from family and friends. We continue to ask God to give strength and grace for the parents who are struggling to balance work and home-schooling or in supporting their children to re-settle back into school, while under the stress and fear of losing their jobs. We should continue find new ways to reach out to the many within our community that are feeling the anxiety of the isolation of lockdown/quarantine or even post-lockdown.

Being disciples of Jesus, we must not limit ourselves to being socially supportive networks to our community. As the only network who can offer the perfect peace and love to our friends and family, we must not shy away from proclaiming this Christian hope, especially to those in our own household and community.



**As Christians, we are the bride to God, we love the Bible as a bride loves her husband's letters'. The Bible gives us God's own revelation of his identity, character, purpose and actions. It is the primary witness to the Lord Jesus Christ. In reading it we encounter God, our 'lover' and 'husband' and Master through his Spirit with great joy.**

**Our love for the Bible should be an expression of our love for God.** Since the beginning of the year 2021, I encouraged you to read the Bible in a year. I pray that you are persevering in your daily reading as a bride reading her husband's letters.

**As a church, the bride to Lord Jesus Christ, it is natural that we should be excited to introduce Jesus to our family and friends. As a bride who introduces her husband to her family and friends, we should, and need, to help our family and friends to have a relationship with Jesus.** I would like you to pray for one another in this matter. Please pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for you and your family.

With love and prayers,

*Revd Josephine Soon*

**Happy Birthday to Revd Josephine as she celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday on March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

To mark the occasion Josephine is hoping to raise money to support people in lower-income countries and the vulnerable communities in the world to have the equal opportunities to Covid19 vaccine (she is in the middle of negotiation with ALL WE CAN mission). Josephine says "I believe all lives matter. No one should be left behind. While COVID-19 vaccines are rolling out across the world, but not for billions of people in low income countries, with weaker health systems. They are people who are affected by crisis like us — but will not have access to the vaccine this year, and possibly for years to come. This is my desire and hope to bring more people to the awareness of this challenge"

Contact Josephine for details on how to donate.

From Claire Biggs – Circuit Children and Family Worker

Hi all

Here is the link to Family worship on YouTube - It is based on the story of Zacchaeus - please feel free to share with your church families

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSP8qOB8Od4>

Please note I will be leading the evening worship on the circuit virtual church on Sunday 14th March - this will be a Mother's Day worship/sanctuary/reflection dedicated to all moms so it would be lovely to have some of our church moms present for 40 minutes of peace and quiet with God.

Thank you

Claire