

We sing, hymn: 558 'Lord, you have come'

Activity

1. Church, in your act of worship what has ever been your best offering to the Lord?

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2. How much has Solomon's request for wisdom inspired you? Please, describe.

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3. In what circumstances have you acted wisely? Please, describe the outcome.

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4. How have personal and collective decisions during the pandemic been inspired by wisdom?

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Hymn: 495 'Dear Lord and Father'

Let us pray:

We pray for wisdom for the church as we continue to minister during the pandemic. Feed your church with the bread of life, irrigate your church with the living water to offer, according to your wisdom, renewed life and hope to your people in difficult conditions.

In our lack of understanding we are inclined to hurt one another, abuse our authority, and discriminate against our neighbours. Lord, give us a wise and discerning mind that incline our hearts to repent and do what is right!

We are pressurised by deadlines and other important chores deemed to be important to us and often fail to be with you...Lord, give us a wise and discerning mind that incline our hearts to worship!

Many of us live in dangerous places, abusive homes, conflict-torn communities and in despair and under constant death threats; others are discouraged, sick, troubled, and suicidal...Lord, give us a wise and discerning mind to stand resolutely firm, waiting for your day of relief. Heal and strengthen our will to press on!

Lord, in the hospital wards where NHS staff are giving their best, breathe your shalom on patients who are struggling to breathe and reassure them of your continued comforting presence.

Other prayer concerns.....

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In the Name of Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer... Amen!

Hymn: 481 'The Lord's my Shepherd'

The Blessing

By Rev Marcus Torchon

COVENTRY & NUNEATON METHODIST CHURCH

Worship is our Way of Life!

God's Wisdom is



Riches & Life

**On this
Lord's Day, 15th August 2021**

Reading:
Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15-20
& John 6:51-58

<>This sheet content is exclusively for home worship<>

Come, Let us Worship!

Order of Service

Celebrate and worship with us.

Hymn: 51 'Great is thy faithfulness'

Let us pray through Ephesians 5:15-20

5:15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise... **Lord, we often act foolishly, in your pardoning grace: forgive!**

5:16 ...making the most of the time, because the days are evil; **Lord, help us to make the best use of our time!**

5:17 So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is; **Lord, teach us your way, so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom!**

5:18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit; **Lord, fill us with your Spirit, always!**

5:19 As you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts; **Lord, come and dwell in our worship!**

5:20 ...giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; **Lord Jesus, we thank you!**

Hymn: 544 'As the deer pants'

Reflection on 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14!

Let's meditate on this reading by verse

2:10-11 ...Then David slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.... "

'That's a colourful life with a peaceful ending'.

David was not a saint, yet God refers to him as "A man after my own heart" (Acts 13:22). As father and yet a king, David's life was like a film with intriguing episodes of good and evil in an epic series of love stories and family tragedies. At a glance, the evils of his life may have eclipsed his

goodness, yet he consistently repented and walked in faithfulness, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward God (1 Kings 3:4).

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2:12 *So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.*

3:3-4 *Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places ...Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings at Gibeon.*

"That's a royal worship to an awesome God".

A king with a rather busy schedule invested time and energy into worship and presented his many offerings to God. Should we ever be too busy to worship? Perhaps, we may need to redeem our diaries from competitive deadlines, or TV shows, and other important chores, that rob us of set worship times. Until we worship, our hearts are prone to be restless, seeking a spiritual lift.

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3:5-8 *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night and said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David... and now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in..."*

'That's always a soul-searching question'.

"What should I give you? Obviously, for many, the answer may be motivated by prevailing pressing needs. For example, unemployed people may ask for jobs; sick persons, for healing; A levels students, for career directions. Still, in a celebrity-driven society, the love for money makes this question even more difficult to answer. Solomon was inspired to ask for wisdom to settle the Lord's question.

However, notwithstanding the importance of

what we currently need, we should equally yearn for wisdom. Please, read Hosea 4:6 for guidance.

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3:9-10 *Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.*

"That's wisdom in search of greater wisdom".

Solomon asked for wisdom. This request pleased God. In the crossroads of life when we don't know what best to do, it pleases the Lord that we seek his wisdom. Asking for wisdom is the outcome of the fear of the Lord. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life" (Prov. 9.10-11).

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3:11-14 *God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies... I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."*

"That's wisdom granted, riches gained, and long life awarded".

Seeking the wisdom of God is paramount to a rewarding life. It opens hidden doors of greatness and prosperity. We are also challenged to not be so predictable in asking for what the obvious is but wisdom to know what our greatest needs are, then only then the obvious need will be met. We pray for wisdom for our homes, church, and nation!