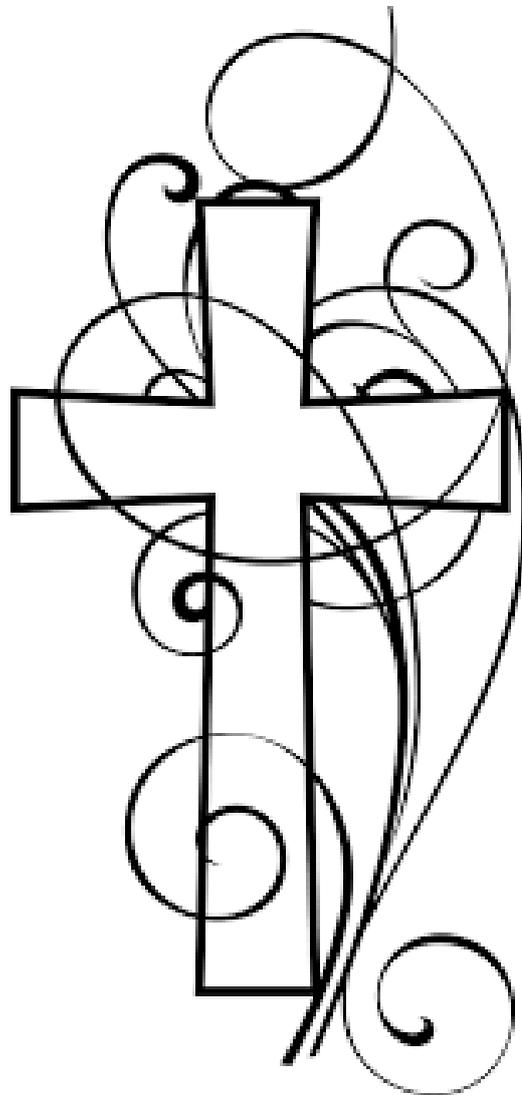


St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit

**Farewell service for the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher,
Reverend Alison Facey, Deacon Linda Kinchenton,
and Reverend Bruce Anderson**

**Sunday, 17 July 2022, at 6:30pm
Marlborough Road Methodist Church**



**'The Lord will watch over your coming and your going
both now and for evermore' (Psalm 121:8)**

A collection will be taken during the final hymn at this service for:
All We Can (formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund)

This helps people in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can, by investing in partnerships that improve quality of life and create positive, long-term change for individuals, families and nations.

The Circuit has been a partner with All We Can since 2018 and MRMC is also a partner Church with All We Can.

Gift Aid envelopes are available.

Prayer

*Pilgrim God, bless us with courage,
where our way is fraught with danger.
Bless us with good companions,
where the way demands a common cause.
Bless us with good humour,
for we cannot travel lightly
when weighed down with over much solemnity.
Bless us with humility to learn from those around us.
Bless us with decisiveness,
when we have to move quickly.
Bless our lazy moments,
when we need to stretch our limbs for the journey.
Bless us, lead us,
love us and bring us home,
bearing the gospel of life.*

Canterbury Cathedral

Introit – We Are Marching In The Light of God
Zimbabwe Fellowship Choir

Welcome and Introduction

the Reverend Rosemary Fletcher

Call to Worship (Iona Community)

the Reverend Andrew Prout

Blessed be God
who creates out of nothing,
who shapes beauty out of chaos,
breathes life into dust,
delights in designing difference
and embodies in each human
the image of our Maker.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God
who gives each person a purpose,
calling the young for their energy
and the old for their wisdom;
refusing to discriminate
in terms of race, colour,
intellect or giftedness;
affirming forgotten worth,
identifying hidden potential,
redeeming deep regrets.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God
who forsakes heaven to live on earth,
who, In Jesus, is truly flesh of our flesh
and bone of our bone,
vulnerable to pain, rumour and conflict,

open to question,
committed to heal,
sentenced to death,
destined for resurrection,
vindicating the power and the love of God
ever holy ever one.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be the Maker, the Son and the Spirit
in our lives and in our worship.

All: Amen.

Hymn StF 687 'One human family God has made'
(Chosen by the Rev Bruce Anderson)

1. One human family God has made, ... —

—

Opening Prayers including the Collect:

Chris and Ros Hancock (Circuit Local Preachers)

Let us pray.

For all that is new, tender, growing in our lives

Creator God, we ask for your nourishment.

Give us courage as we stretch towards that which you are creating new in our lives.

Walk with us as we learn to live in the unexpected places you are preparing for us.

Light in us the fire of your love and help us to answer your call to serve your people.

We pray for all that is new and tender growing in each one gathered here today.

Send to us all your promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

La Rue Unglaube, Illinois

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God...

**All: You call us and we ignore your whisper,
listening to the voices of this world.
You call us and we choose a different path,
following our own devices.**

A time of silence for personal reflection...

**All: You call us
to be your voice in this world,
to be your hands in this world,
to be your feet in this world,
to proclaim your peace,**

**your comfort, forgiveness,
healing, love, and grace.
Forgive us,
open our ears,
call us again, and use us.**

(written by John Birch – www.faithandworship.com)

The Collect

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
We thank you for calling us through your Son Jesus Christ
into the fellowship of your universal Church.
Hear our prayer for your people that each in their vocation and ministry
may be an instrument of your love.
Give to all your servants the gifts of grace
for the good of your Church and the welfare of all people.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn StF 611 ‘Brother, sister, let me serve you’

(Chosen by the Rev Alison Facey)

1. Brother, sister, let me serve
you, ...
- 4.

Isaiah 40: 27-31 read by Marjorie Wilson
(Marlborough Road Methodist Church)

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Anthems (From Shona Methodist Hymn Book)
Zimbabwe Fellowship Choir

Hymn 143 Mumwe Ariko KuMsoro

Paraphrased - There is One Above who loves us, His love is deep/great. Our relatives/friends may abandon us. Circumstances may trouble us. He has not deceived us. He loves us. Knowing Him is Life. He gave us everything. We were lost, He redeemed us with His blood, We are now saved. Jesus is our friend. He wants to bless us. Our spirit yearns for Him. He forgives our sins, He fights our battles. He gives us gifts, blessings and Holiness. He loves us. Emphasis is on Anotida - He loves us

Hymn 154 - Irwa Kurwa Kwakanaka

Fight the good fight, Jesus is your strength. Do good and you will be happy all the time. Walk in God's mercies, Focus, you will see Him, Christ is your Way. In your journey do not be afraid, His mercies are everlasting, If you trust Him He will guide you. Do not be afraid, He is near you. Believe and you will see Him. Christ is your Help

Acts 20: 32-38 read by Peter Barlow **(St. John's Methodist Church Potter's Bar)**

And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." '

When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

Sermon: The Reverend Ermal Kirby



Hymn StF 459 'Captain of Israel's host and guide'

(Chosen by the Rev Ermal Kirby)

1. Captain of Israel's host, and Guide
of all who seek the land above,
beneath your shadow we abide,
the cloud of your protecting love ;
our strength, your grace ;
our rule, your word ;
our end, the glory of the Lord.
2. By your unerring Spirit led,
we shall not in the desert stray ;
we shall not full direction need,
nor miss our providential way ;
as far from danger
as from fear,
while love, almighty love, is near.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Prayers of Intercession (written by the Rev Andrew Prout)

Guy Fenner (Circuit Steward)

Diana Holt (Digswell Village Church - Church Steward)

Idy Osibodu (Marlborough Road Methodist Church - Church Steward)

John Paull (Ludwick Way Methodist Church – Church Council Secretary)

Val Chapman (Birchwood Methodist Church - Treasurer)

Janis Gilbert (Marlborough Road Methodist Church - Church Steward)

Helen Jeckells (St. John's Potters Bar - Church Steward)

The Reverend Simon Carver (Minister Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St Albans)

Revd Sue Stilwell (MHA Chaplain / Cornerstone / SJPB)

Christina and Helena Eshun

(Marlborough Road Methodist Church Young People)

Aliyah O'Brien-Tshuma (Young Person Hatfield/Welwyn Section)

Bidding: Lord of our past, our present and our future

Response: It is more blessed to give than to receive

The Lord's Prayer (Modern Version)

Our Father in Heaven,

Hallowed be Your Name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as in Heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn StF 520 'Give to me Lord a thankful heart'
(Chosen by the Rev Rosemary Fletcher)

1. Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart 3.
and a discerning mind ; ...

A Few Words from the Senior Circuit Steward

Stuart Johnson

Litany of Departure

the Reverend David Mullins

Leader: Each one of us travels a journey

All: Beginning and endings are a part of life

Leader: Times of uncertainty when the way is unclear

All: Cannot be avoided

Leader: Sometimes we travel together

All: And the companionship is fruitful and good

Leader: Sometimes we must travel alone

All: To find a new pathway

Leader: Each journey's end

All: Is a new beginning

Leader: Yet the start of a new road

All: Carries the sadness of leaving

Leader: But life without new horizons

All: would be no life at all

Leader: So, let us shoulder our burden of sadness and fear

All: And embrace with excitement the new road to which we are called. Amen.

Leader: For the new journeys we have begun

All: We seek God's blessing

Leader: For the work we hand onto others

All: We seek God's blessing

Leader: For the people whose lives have been touched and known
by Rosemary, Ali, Linda, and Bruce as Leader and friend

All: We seek God's blessing

Leader: For new ways of living and loving and being

All: We seek God's blessing

Leader: May the Spirit of the Risen Christ go before us to show us
the way, shine above us to lighten our world, may God the
Creator lie beneath us to bear us up, walk with us and give
us companionship, and may the Holy Spirit flow within us to
bring us joy.

All: Amen.

from The Iona Community

**During the singing of the final hymn
there will be a collection for 'All We Can'**

Hymn StF 109 'In the darkness of the still night'

(Chosen by Deacon Linda Kinchenton)

1. In the darkness of the still night,...
- 3.

Blessing of Offering for the work of 'All We Can'

The Reverend Andrew Prout

O God, you are the great provider, the giver of all gifts; your love is the only true currency and we are called through it to store up treasure not in earth but in heaven. Thank you for putting money into our hands, and so with gladness we freely offer it back to you, for use in your service and on this special day for the work of 'All We Can'. We do this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Stuart Johnson, Rev Andrew Prout and Deacon Linda Kinchenton

Circuit Steward: The Spirit of truth lead us into all truth, give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the word and works of God.

All: Amen.

Presbyter: So, bless to us, O God, the doors we open; the thresholds we cross and the roads that lie before us. Go with us as we go, and welcome us home... And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Enabler be with us, and all those whom we love and cherish, this day and for ever more.

All: Amen.

Deacon: Together we journey on in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn StF 484 'We will walk with God'

sung as we depart the church for refreshments

We will walk with God,
my brothers,

*Original Sisuieti:
Sizohamba naye,
wo wo wo,*

Organist: Mike Sheehan

Thank you to the choir of the
Hertfordshire Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowship

The Hatfield Road Music Group

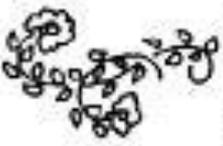
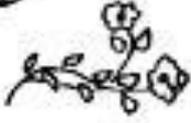
And all those who have taken part in our service and assisted with
the arrangements including catering.

CCLI Licence: MRMC 8513

The Revd Ermal Kirby is a Methodist Minister; and an Associate of the Susanna Wesley Foundation, Roehampton University. Ermal was born in Antigua, and came to England at the age of eight. His theological education and ministerial formation were at Oxford University, and the Caribbean Wesleyan College, Barbados. After more than 35 years of wide-ranging ministry in the UK – community development; pastoral ministry in Circuits; on the Staff of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland; as a Tutor in Theological Education; as Chair of District – Ermal went to South Africa in 2011, and served for four years as a minister in Cape Town. On returning from South Africa, Ermal was appointed as Superintendent of the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit in East London, from which he retired in 2019 and he now lives in Croydon. His work at the Susanna Wesley Foundation focussed initially on Cultural Diversity and Methodist Circuit Ministry, and then expanded to consider ‘transforming communities’, You may remember Ermal from his excellent Thinking Lunch talk in October 2018, titled ‘One World – but what about our differences?’. Ermal’s book ‘Glimpses of Holiness’ was published in July 2021, in which a group of ordinary people in Colossae consider the letter just received from Paul, written to them from his prison in Rome. Available from eden.co.uk or Waterstones.

Rona Wightman (from a recent *Marlborough Round*)

We send Rosemary and James, Bruce, Linda and Joe,
and Ali, Chris, Luke and Bethan on their way
with thanksgiving, the promise of our continuing prayers,
our love and our blessing.

May the Lord
 **BLESS** 
and keep you, and make
His face to shine upon you
and give you peace

Numbers 6: 24-26