



Dear friends

We have been delighted to welcome friends from Circuit churches to prayers focussed on the life of the Circuit at Wesley Road Chapel on Wednesday lunchtimes over the past few weeks. We're meeting at 1pm for about 20 minutes – but you are very welcome to drop in earlier than that for a cuppa or to bring a packed lunch. There are usually staff around from about 12.30pm. After some discussion, we have settled on praying with the set Psalm for the day from the Methodist Prayer Handbook, and will post the reading and a prayer prompt on Facebook each week. We know that in person on Wednesday lunchtime at Wesley Rd is not ideal for many of us – but I wonder if you could find a moment to pause wherever you are around that time, and hold the circuit community of churches before God.

There are lots of ways in which we are encouraging one another to pray together during this year. At our Circuit service last Sunday, each local church was given a candle and a prayer card – inviting us to be connected in prayer Sunday by Sunday. There will be a prayer diary, and, as the year unfolds, we will also share photographs of the Circuit prayer board at Wesley Road, where we will keep an ongoing reminder of where we are in our Circuit review process.

Each of us will have our own rhythm of prayer, and our own ways staying 'in touch' with God. As the seasons turn, and we begin to make ready for cooler, darker days, I invite you to take a moment to notice those rhythms and practices in your own life. Will they serve you well in the upcoming months? Or are there things which need 'tweaking', or maybe even wholesale change, as we walk the way of discipleship in the here and now?

Holy God,  
As we light this candle,  
Illuminate the path for us as a church and circuit.  
As the light of this candle shines,  
Give us the confidence of faith  
to trust ourselves to you.  
As the candle slowly burns its wick  
Remind us that you are ever present,  
With us now, and for all that is to come.  
As we light this candle,  
We offer ourselves once more  
to the work of your Holy Spirit.  
We are no longer our own, but yours.  
Help us to willingly offer all we have  
and are to follow you,  
As and where you choose.  
Amen

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Peace, Jo