

## Immanuel Newsletter

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Website: <http://www.immanuelurc.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelURC>

Thought for the week "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."  
-*Albert Einstein*

### **Please Include in your prayers:**

- Highworth URC
- The Harbour Project
- Gloucester House
- Threshold
- Those who are struggling with mental health difficulties,
- For the vaccination in our country and the world.
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches
- The URC: nationally, the 13 Synods.
- The South Western Synod: Ruth the Moderator, Gwen the Synod Clerk, and all who work for the Synod Office, and the churches of the Synod.
- for the homeless, and rough sleepers
- our leaders in politics, economics, churches, culture, health, commerce, industry, trade unions, armed forces, and all walks of life: wisdom and call to serve.

### **Bible Readings for this week**

This is the first Sunday of Lent, the readings are:

- Genesis 9; 8-15
- Mark 1; 12-15



**Discussion Group**, Last Tuesday we held the first Zoom Discussion Group – “Reflecting on the Reflection”, there were 8 of us and all agreed that they would like to continue. This is not a closed group, quite the contrary. All are invited to take part.

Our next meeting will be next Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 for about 35/45 minutes. The link for the meeting can be found at the foot of the Reflection each week.

Looking forward to seeing you and sharing thoughts, as we Reflect on the Reflection.

### Hymn for today

Forgive us when our deeds ignore  
Your righteous rule of all the earth,  
When our decisions harm the poor,  
Denying their eternal worth.

Forgive us when we turn aside  
From what is honest, true and fair,  
When dreams of pleasure, wealth and pride  
Supplant your clear commands to care.

Forgive us, Lord, our endless greed  
For what was never truly ours,  
When, driven more by want than need,  
We harness this world's brutal powers.

Forgive us that we change the rules  
By which the game of life is played,  
And never learn to wield the tools  
Which could see joy and hope remade.

Forgive us, God! Our lives betray  
Our shallow, vague response to grace;  
So help us walk your holy way,  
To make your world a better place.

(Martin Leckebusch. Rejoice and Sing, 35)

Question: how can you relate this hymn to the Reflection for today?

**Our World Concerns Committee**, has authorised and sent a cheque for £500.00 this week from the Immanuel Emergency Fund to the DEC Coronavirus Appeal to continue the aid work in seven of the world's most fragile places.

These are: Yemen, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, DR Congo and Afghanistan, as well as the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. DEC charities are on the ground already responding in these places but urgently need more funds to scale up their operations. Individual member charities are working in a much wider range of countries, but these seven places have been prioritised for funding from the DEC's appeal.

The work the DEC member charities are undertaking now includes providing people with the means to protect themselves from coronavirus with soap, water, handwashing stations and information. These charities are working to provide frontline medical staff with protective equipment, medical supplies and training. They are also working with communities to make sure that Covid-19 does not lead to food insecurity, and to prevent people from going hungry and children becoming malnourished.

The **Immanuel Memorial Book** is currently with the Calligrapher to be updated with the names of several more loved ones who have sadly passed away. It is not too late to request

an entry but please can you contact Liz Glead as soon as possible, and she will let you have the details of the information and payment required. Thank you.

### **From the URC website – Have you heard of Stepwise?**

Stepwise is the discipleship development programme from the United Reformed Church. Stepwise is for everyone: all ages, shapes and sizes – including you!

If you are keen to reflect on, and develop your Christian faith, ready to be stimulated and challenged, and want to make a difference in your own life and the lives of others, then Stepwise is what you're looking for.

Stepwise is shaped around your strengths and needs, in the context of your own community and church. It emphasises the importance of learning from your daily life – wherever you are and whoever God might be calling you to be.

Stepwise is part of Walking the Way - Living the Life of Jesus Today, the United Reformed Church's focus on whole of life discipleship – being a follower of Jesus.

**Stepwise** is made up of five broad learning streams, or areas, which include themes for individuals and groups to explore:

Faith-filled Life: discovering our place and purpose - the opening stream of Stepwise.

Faith-fuelled Leadership: we all have a part to play.

Faith-filled Confidence: being confident in our own faith and building friendships across faiths.

Faith-filled Community: being a church shaped by God's mission acting for justice in God's name.

Faith-filled Worship: worship for change

Watch this space. Soon there will be more information.