

**Immanuel Newsletter**  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Website: <http://www.immanuelurc.org/>  
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**Thought for the week:** If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. (Desmond Tutu)

**Family News:** We are so pleased to hear that Myra is now back at home and doing very well. You can imagine how happy she is feeling. Best wishes Myra!

**Resuming worship at Immanuel:** after consulting with the members on their lists, Elders met through Zoom to consider the way forward. There were a few different responses on the matter, and the decision is to return to worship on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30**. This is the Sunday before Pentecost, allowing us all to prepare for the celebration of Pentecost. Of course, this decision is subject to no further changes on the “roadmap” set out by the Government and guidelines from the URC. It is also subject to having enough people to staff the services as needed. The use of masks and distancing is still to be complied with.

**Partnership Services during Easter:** Even if at Immanuel we are not yet celebrating services, you may want to know what is going on in the Partnership. If you would like to attend any of these services - **Please make sure that there is space available in the Church.** Remember masks and social distancing are still in place.

Maundy Thursday at Christ Church, 7:30 pm.

Good Friday at Christ Church at 3:00 pm. Meditation at the foot of the cross.

Resurrection Sunday: Christ Church at 10.00 am All age communion service. Bath Road at 10.00

### **Election of Elders**

Elders have agreed a plan for election of Elders, taking into account that last year this did not happen, and Elders who had completed their term were asked to stay on, never imagining this would be for a whole year. The plan is as follows:

As from **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. list of eligible members list and nominations forms will be distributed by Elders to their pastoral list, in doing this they will arrange ways to pick up/forward the forms to the Church Secretary. **Nominations will close on 2<sup>nd</sup> May**, and the Church Secretary will produce a list of nominees, after which the Church Secretary and/or Minister will approach these Nominees to seek agreement on nomination. These names will be published in the Weekly Newsletter on two Sundays, and then on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**, after the Service, we will hold a short church meeting where voting will take place, Only Church Members can vote, and votes will be those present and those who cannot come to church who have sent in their voting paper.

**Discussion Group:** Our next Zoom Discussion Group – “Reflecting on the Reflection”, will be next **Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00** for about 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.

**Please Include in your prayers:**

- Australia and the floods
- Violence in Yemen, Syria, Tigray, Myanmar
- Highworth URC
- For all those we know who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances.
- 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
- For courage of faith to confront injustice, discrimination, hatred

**Hymn for today**

<p>We turn to Christ anew          who hear his call today,          his way to walk, his will pursue,          his word obey.          To serve him as our King          and of his kingdom learn,          from sin and every evil thing          to him we turn.</p>	<p>We trust in Christ to save;          in him new life begins:          who by his cross a ransom gave          from all our sins.          Our spirits' strength and stay          who when all flesh is dust          will keep us in that final day,          in him we trust.</p>
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We would be true to him  
 till earthly journeys end,  
 whose love no passing years can dim,  
 our changeless friend.  
 May we who bear his Name  
 our faith and love renew,  
 to follow Christ our single aim,  
 and find him true.

Timothy Dudley-Smith. Sing Praise 125

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

**Cerezo Barredo – Entry to Jerusalem**



The webcast details for live streaming of **Gillian Sparkes funeral** that will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 2:00pm, are as follows: Service accessible for 28days from 9th April

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