

Thought for the week: “For we are so preciously loved by God that we cannot even comprehend it.” Julian of Norwich

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 16th May at 10.30**. This is the Sunday before Pentecost, allowing us all to prepare for the celebration of Pentecost. We will also celebrate Communion.

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.

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 1st**, 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 2nd 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 30th 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.

It has been pointed out that the nomination paper for the above only shows six lines. There are in fact ten vacancies on the Eldership therefore please feel free to put up to ten names on the nomination paper. If you have already sent your paper in feel free to contact your Elder or the Minister if you wish to add further names by 2nd May.

Discussion Group: Last Tuesday the group agreed that we will pause these for a time. We will let you know when we resume.

Please Include in your prayers:

- That HOPE and LOVE may be the signs of our life...
- Violence in Yemen, Syria, Tigray, Myanmar
- Highworth URC
- Those who are recovering from health treatments.
- Those who are mourning the death of family or friends.
- 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, racism.

Hymn for today

<p>Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died, as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied. Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer; let the world confirm the rumour: Christ is risen God is here!</p> <p>Christ has risen for the people Whom he died to love and save; Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to his grave. Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room. He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.</p>	<p>Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night, sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright. They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.</p> <p>Christ has risen and for ever lives to challenge and to change all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange. Christ has risen, Christ is present, making us what he has been – evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.</p>
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Tune: Transformation

Words: WGRG -Iona Community

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