Receiving Jesus

Over this period of lockdown, we have had to re-examine all that is important.

We have rediscovered the value of family, friends, freedom, and our health.

As Christians we have had the opportunity to discover what is important to us. We have been locked out of our church buildings, but we have continued to be the church of God – we are [Living Stones and a Royal Priesthood](https://youtu.be/2CbPoa7IlWU).

Our Sunday worship over the next few weeks will consider the basics of our spiritual life.

We will be using a little book by Bishop Mariann Budde – the Bishop of Washington called ***Receiving Jesus.***

You may have come across Bishop Mariann – she was in the news when she condemned President Trump’s publicity stunt when he waved a Bible around outside one of her churches. If you want to see a humorous, but ultimately very moving video concerning that stunt click [here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZv8GQX8E1I) Watch it to the end.

***Receiving Jesus*** is only available on Kindle in the UK and can be downloaded [here](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07X5N8QPY/ref%3Ddp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1). Kindle books can be read on a number of platforms including laptops and tablets.

This is the primary focus of the book:

‘So often we think of the Christian faith as an obligation or as a set of beliefs that we must hold. With this outlook, we can lose sight of what is most important: the invitation to experience a loving, personal relationship with God. It’s a relationship we can trust, where we can find refuge and solid ground upon which to stand.’

The book focuses on seven practices in seven chapters:

1. to turn
2. to learn
3. to pray
4. to worship
5. to bless
6. to go
7. to rest

The book has a Lectionary – set readings – that go with each chapter.

We will introduce the series this Sunday and encourage people to buy a copy of the book.

People may want to discuss the chapters and what they mean for them. This could happen in people’s gardens socially distanced – or on Zoom. Phil will put out some opening questions that could begin discussions. He will also provide some videos aimed at children to supplement the series.

The preacher will be offered readings to choose from that work with the theme.

We will not use all the readings in the services unless there is special reason to do so and the preacher is free to use a different reading.

The Sunday Programme

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|  | Theme | Hebrew Scriptures | Psalm | New Testament | Gospel |
| June 14 | To Turn pt 1 | Isaiah 55:1-3,6-11 | 19:7-14  | Acts 9:1-9 | Mark 1:16-20 |
| June 21 | To Turn pt 2 | Exodus 3:1-6 | 119:169-176 | 2 Cor 4:5-7 | Luke 5:1-11 |
| June 28 | To Learn | Micah 4:1-5 | 90:1-12 | Hebrews 4:12-16 | Matt 13:44-53 |
| July 5 | To Pray | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 | 25:1-10 | 2 Cor 12:7-10 | Luke 11:1-13 |
| July 12 | To Worship | Isaiah 56:1-7 | 96:1-9 | 1 Cor 11:23-26 | Luke 24:28-35 |
| July 19 | To Bless | Genesis 32:22-30 | 23 | Romans 12:9-12 | Matt 25:31-40 |
| July 26 | To Go | Jonah 3:1-10 | 41:1-4 | 1 John 3:11, 18-24 | Luke 10:25-37 |
| August 2 | To Rest | Exodus 20:8-11 | 127: 1-2 | Philippians 4:4-7 | Matt 11:28-30 |