

Friends,

We are heading towards the 11th April when the church will reopen for in-person worship. A few things you need to know:

- Although the church is reopening please do not feel that you **have** to return before you are ready to do so. The weekly service sheets and online worship will continue into the future. The church is not going anywhere, it will still be there when the time is right for you to return.
- There is no Sunday Club for the moment. We need to start things slowly, carefully and safely. **Children and young people are welcome into the main service**, which will be an all-age form of worship. **But please do book places for you and your children each Sunday.**
- To abide by Covid regulations we have a limited number of spaces within the church for worship each Sunday. It is important that **everyone** who wants to attend books a place before turning up.

This seems so strange to us; worship is our natural response to knowing our loving, creator God, and it bursts out from us. In the Palm Sunday story from Luke 19:29-40, when the Pharisees tell Jesus to stop the disciples shouting his praises, Jesus tells them “if these were silent, the stones would shout out”. Praise and worship is at the very heart of our being, our connection with God and with each other.

But, that connection is worth very little if it is done in a way which puts our neighbours at risk. And is worship, true worship, if it harms others despite making us feel good?

How much more valuable, in this time of Covid, is worship from our homes, when we are not yet in a position to be in proximity to others, but that is not going to stop us singing God’s praises. How much more valuable, in this time of Covid, is worship which we have booked to attend, making a commitment, purposefully setting aside a dedicated time for God. Arriving at church determined that God will be at the centre of our thoughts and that our worship will be spirit-filled no matter how different it looks to that which we are used to.

Blessings, Rev’d Bekkie