

## Pastoral note 30<sup>th</sup> August

Well with the change in the weather the garden gatherings for cups of tea have had to be curtailed a bit – but thank you to everyone who has been able to invite others into their garden. It does cheer people so much to do this when it is appropriate. But not all can – so don't feel guilty if for whatever reason it is not something you can offer.

Florrie says a big thank you to all those who sent her birthday cards – it helped make her day very special.

Please remember Mabel Pepper who had a fall at home and has been in hospital with a broken leg, but is home now, and also had a birthday last week – she is not far behind Florrie! There have been others with birthdays – we can't mention them all, but we do hope all have had special days, even if not how they might have been.

We remember Michael Hampson in hospital as I write, and Trish Blanchard, hopefully home by the time you read this.

Our children return to school next week – we pray for all families taking this step after so long at home.

We welcome Revd Bekkie Wright on Sunday, and pray for her as she begins her ministry among us next Tuesday. Below is the link for the service on Sunday evening at 6pm.

You remain much in our thoughts and prayers,  
Angela

<https://stamfordmethodistchurch.online.church/>

### A Reminder:

As convener of Northgate may I remind church members that the current 'Covid Northgate' is produced to provide a weekly printed service in the centrefold with pastoral matters on the back, there isn't room for the more usual Northgate notices. General notices sent from members to the duty editor therefore will not be included and should not be sent. When we can revert to our previous system, it will be advised in Northgate.

Many Thanks, Roger.

# NORTHGATE

The weekly notices of

**OAKHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

Minister contact 1st June - 1st September 2020:

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[www.oakhammethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.oakhammethodistchurch.co.uk)

**“Their (persecuted Christians), faith and their joy is an inspiration for us”**

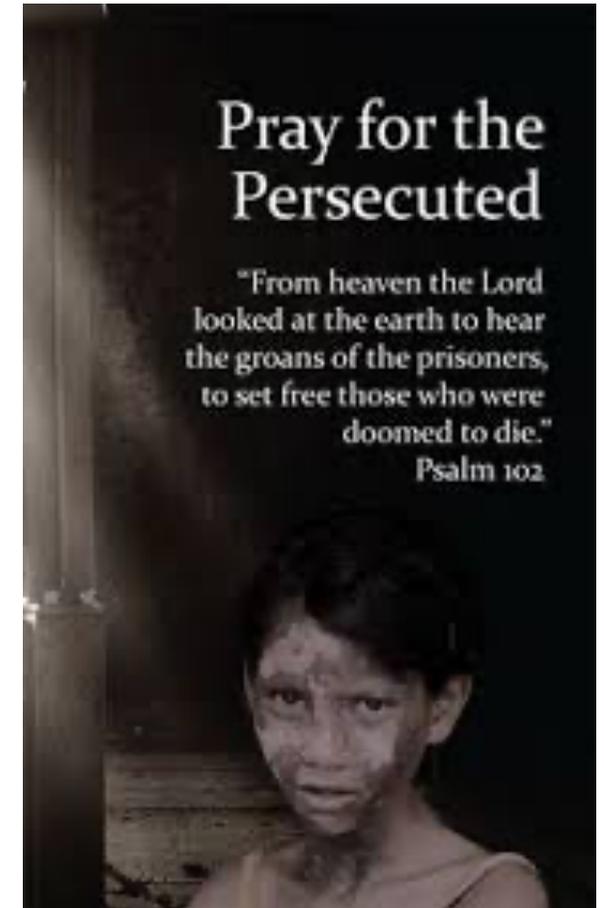
**Barry Gent.**

**Sunday  
30th  
August  
2020.**

**Worship  
Notes  
prepared  
by Barry  
Gent.**

**Pray for the  
Persecuted**

“From heaven the Lord  
looked at the earth to hear  
the groans of the prisoners,  
to set free those who were  
doomed to die.”  
Psalm 102



**Let's begin by thinking of all who share in these thoughts & prayers.**

We thank you, Father, that we are part of your people. You bind us together in love and sharing, even when we are apart. Lift up our hearts that we may know that we are united in Your Presence.

*Sing or follow the music in your mind (SoF 340)*

Ye servants of God,  
your Master proclaim.  
and publish abroad  
his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious  
of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious,  
and rules over all.

Then let us adore,  
And give him his right;  
all glory and power,  
all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing,  
with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing,  
And infinite love.

**A Prayer.** You are far greater, Father God, than we can ever imagine. In time and space you link us with your people around the world and with all those who have gone before us. On our own we are weak and failing. Grant to us, therefore, a deep sense of your presence and fill our lives with the glory that is in Jesus that we may serve and worship you all our days. In Jesus' name, Amen

**The Lord's Prayer.**

*The set readings: Psalm 26 and Matthew 16:21-28.*

*If any man would come after me, let him deny himself  
and take up his cross and follow me.*

I feel challenged whenever I read or hear these verses. Last week we saw how the disciples realised who Jesus was. Today we read how they were puzzled and upset when he explained what lay before him. Then he tells them what it costs to go with him.

It's not easy to follow Jesus. "Self" is still very much with us however hard we try to get rid of it. But Jesus does not ask us to destroy ourselves. To follow Him we must deny ourselves. That means giving up being motivated by self-interest. Others and, above all, God have to come first.

Luke's Gospel adds a helpful word: "daily". Following Jesus is not a one-off event. The commitment has to be renewed every day – often more than once a day. We follow Jesus by seeking

God's will for our lives. Remember his prayer in Gethsemane.

Remember too the rich young ruler, to whom Jesus offered discipleship, but he couldn't face the cost. We are more likely to be called to make a quiet inward decision to forgo something we want in order to help someone else or give our minds fully to God's work. Yet Christians in some parts of the world may well face the daily threat of death. Their faith and their joy is an inspiration for us.

*Teach us, good Lord to serve thee as thou deservest,*

*to give and not to count the cost;*

*to fight and not to heed the wounds;*

*to toil and not to seek for rest;*

*to labour and not to ask for any reward;*

*except that of knowing that we do thy will. Amen.*

(St Ignatius Loyola)

*Intercessions* – Let us pray for:

Persecuted Christians who face a daily threat to their lives;  
All who seek to help those facing persecution and poverty;  
Pupils, students and teachers starting an uncertain academic year:  
Our fellow Methodists at the start of a new church year, especially ministers in new appointments with all the present difficulties.  
Those who struggle with illness, injury or the frailties of old age.  
In the graciousness of your love, Father, hear our prayers.

*A Hymn (SoF 504)*

May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
live in me from day to day,  
by his love and power controlling  
all I do or say.

May the love of Jesus fill me,  
as the waters fill the sea:  
him exalting, self forgetting -  
this is victory.

May the word of God dwell richly,  
in my heart from hour to hour,  
so that all may see I triumph  
only through his power.

May I run the race before me  
strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go.

May God bless us all with the knowledge of His Presence  
and the peace, joy and love which He brings.