



**KINDLE**

**Newsletter of the Romford United  
Reformed Churches at Western  
Road and Heaton Way**

**May 2021**

## *Minister's Letter*

*Dear Friends,*

What glorious weather we have enjoyed over the last few days although gardeners and farmers want some rain. Spring and the burst of new life that it brings are well and truly here. It is lovely to see all the blossom, the new leaves and growth, for me it lifts my spirits particularly when coupled with sunshine.

This time last year the novelty of the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown had not yet worn off, this year as new life surrounds us in nature we are emerging from another lockdown, looking forward to meeting in person in the church building. It has been an unusual year, one that has tested us as a nation and individually. The pandemic is not yet over even as new life beckons we will have to be sensible, remembering to socially distance etc for a while yet.

However, none of this stops us dreaming and envisioning the future, for ourselves and our fellowships. What are you dreaming of, getting away on holiday, seeing distant family and friends physically, or more prosaically being able to go into a shop without a face mask?

And what about our fellowships, what are your dreams for worship, for our life and service- being able to sing, exchange the peace? There is a bigger question too what are God's dreams for our fellowships? As we emerge from lockdown, we need to discern God's will, God's dreams for us and what new life God has planned for us.

As I write my mind goes to the book of Revelation and the letters to the 7 churches in Asia Minor at the beginning of the book, what would God's letter to us be, about our endurance and faithfulness, about our love or lack of it? Would it challenge us to look to the future and to live, worship and serve differently or would we be condemned for being half hearted, not allowing God's spirit to move and change us, or for worse?

All questions/issues that face us in the future and we need to take time to listen to God, to each other and discern God's will and purpose for our life, worship, and service together and for us as individuals.

*Alison*

### **Easter Posters**

I enjoyed colouring in my Easter Posters and was quite pleased with the result- I hope passers- by have noticed them and they have made them think about Easter. I had a thought that, if we kept them until next Easter, we could probably laminate them, mount them on a length of fabric/plastic then display them round the wall of the front garden. We might have to hold back the "He is Risen" ones until Easter Sunday. So, unless you wish to keep yours, please bring them when we return to the church building. Thank you.

**Olive**



I am sorry to have to report the death of Sheila Deeks, a former member of our church, who died on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time.

Most of the congregation have had their first Covid vaccination and many have had the second jab as well. The URC are raising money to give thanks for the covid vaccine. Money can be donated via the URC website coronavirus link or sent to Fiona Skidmore clearly marked for Christian Aid.

Graham and Alec have been busy with updating the Risk Assessments for our Church building and therefore subject to the government's road map going to plan, we are hoping to return to Church on 23 May Pentecost Sunday. The service will be conducted by Alison and will be a celebratory service with Communion. We will of course continue to have to wear face masks, to keep socially distanced and we must vacate the building immediately after the service is finished and any chatting to take place outside the building. I and expect many of you are looking forward to all meeting again in person in a safe way. Services will be on Zoom as well for those who cannot/or do not feel comfortable returning to Church yet.

**Pat**

A big thank you for all those who managed to put flowers in the water pots on Easter Sunday. It worked really well, and the flowers lasted for two weeks, they could have lasted longer but we decided that a change was needed especially as we had future plans.

The Cross at the front of the Church has temporarily been removed to receive several coats of stain. When it goes back it will be in a post support buried in the ground. Trevor is doing that for us. So, thank you very much. Now we are hoping to use it in different ways throughout the year it needed a bit of TLC. For Pentecost we are going to celebrate the Church birthday by tying red, yellow, and white ribbons round the cross using florist's ribbon. Hopefully, a big visual statement.

The little rockery at the foot of the cross needs watering occasionally if it hasn't rained recently. Please feel free to do this, and if you have spare plants, please find a space for them.

**Gill**

## **News about Lythan**

### **Lythan becomes the Moderator for the Eastern Synod**

It is very strange this ministerial life! Eastern Synod dips so close to Romford as Brentwood is in "my" Synod! We will move at the end of July. A big part of my life here is working with a school - I've been the chaplain really so did not want to leave until the end of term. Actually, we will have to miss the very end with leavers assembly because that is Tuesday 27th July, and we go camping on 9th August. The thought of moving and locating our equipment in 10 days is a bit of a stretch so our last full day here will be Sunday 25th.

We will be living in a village just outside Cambridge called Great Shelford where the Moderators manse is. God blessed us as the pastorate closest to the house was vacant and Phil has been called to serve three village churches. He is looking forward to the challenge. We are travelling to Cambridge this Friday (23/4/21) for the day to see the Manse and also drive round the villages he will serve (Sawston, Whittlesford and Castle Camps) for the first time.

My induction will be in Stowmarket on 4th September and I'm hoping that I will then lead Phil's induction on the 5th. Carys is coming with us. She was planning to stay in Exeter but a recent ruling about paying support staff who sleep overnight at work has seen her pay being slashed by £2-3,000 per year and she can't really afford that. A move might mean a change of direction and Cambridge will have lots of opportunities we think.

I think lockdown has meant many churches are having to consider what the future means for them and how to best serve their communities. I will be praying for Western Road and Heaton Way - I still love you all dearly.

every blessing

**Lythan.**



# What's Happening

On 17 – 20 May Alison will be attending Spring School on Zoom. She will be at home but will not be taking any calls during that time.

Saturday 22 May at 11.00 am on Zoom - Farewell event for our Moderator, Revd. Dr. Andrew Prasad.

Saturday 5 June at 2.30pm on Zoom - Induction of our new Moderator Revd. George Watt.

Our Sunday services for the next few weeks are:

2 May – Jill Hunt - on Zoom

9 May – Graham and Jim – on Zoom - Church Meeting after the service.

16 May – The Elders – on Zoom

23 May - Alison (Holy Communion) Pentecost in Church

30 May – Fiona - Church

6 June - Alison – Church



## Open Garden Safari Idea for July/Aug

As many of us have been busy with our gardens over the last year it would be lovely if others could enjoy them, and we could raise some money for The Refuge.

I have suggested to the Elders that if we had a small number of gardens with external access, so as not to be dependent on going through the home. This is because we may still need to be aware of limits, depending on the current restrictions at the time.

I have suggested that we have about 6 or so gardens.

Perhaps in one garden there could be teas and cakes for sale,

in another garden plants for sale,

at another venue books and bits and pieces.

another could receive items for the Refuge (I would ask if they had specific items

they need at the time)

The Elders have asked me to put this in the Kindle to get your feedback please, and any further suggestions to add to it.



*Ruth Mitchell*

## Humour in Birdwatching

The other day, as Tom and I were having coffee, looking at the birds through the back window, a crow flew over Tom's workshop and saw a piece of bread in the gutter. He turned around and picked the bread, putting it up on the roof. He returned to the gutter to make sure that there was nothing more, when another bird came a snatched the bread away Returning to the roof the first bird was astounded that the bread had gone. And looked all around for it- not being able to understand how it had disappeared! He spent several moments searching. But to no avail. If a bird could have a look of astonishment, it would have been a wonder to me We laughed about it for some time.

*Betty.*

## March April May

We had April showers in March, and a taste of summer in April, and May holds promise of flowers.

The cuttings I took last year have got through the winter (just like us and are now ready to do their best for their new owners. If you would like some for your garden, window-box or tubs please contact me as soon as convenient. They will be hardened off by the end of April and, providing no overnight frosts, be ready to plant. If a frost is forecast after you have planted them out just throw an old T Towel or duster over them, or even newspaper will probably protect them. You can telephone 01708 746802 (leave message if no reply) or email o.buckley56@btinternet.com. Then we can arrange for you to collect- I will open garage door so you can walk through into the garden to view the plants. Every one sold will be £1 for the Women's Refuge – and one less for me to water!!! Thanking you in anticipation.

**Olive.**

## Christian Aid Week

**10-16 May 2021**

I have signed up to take part in the 300,000 steps campaign where during May I will try to do about 10,000 steps a day. In past years I have taken part in the Circle the City Sponsored Walk.

If you would like to support my efforts there is a just giving page on line at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/OR262948>

Thanks

**Alison**

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate. The impact on the world population is great, as it means that millions of people around the world struggle to get the food and water that they need.

## Rainham Hall

Rainham Hall is a local National Trust property and is reopening to visitors again on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, the hall has been open to the public since 2015. I work as a Hall/ visitor experience officer and would be happy to see anyone come and visit the hall to view the current exhibition. The exhibition is about Anthony Denney who lived in the hall from 1964-1969. He is a famous fashion photographer, art collector and interior designer.

Due to covid regulations we now must book online to visit. Below is the link to book online along with the address. It would be a good idea to support the local National Trust property after our difficult times in lockdown. Feel free to email or send me a message for more information, and I would be happy to show you round the hall.



<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/search?view=list&location=true>

Rainham Hall, Broadway, Rainham RM13 9YN.

**Andrew Donaldson**

## A Handy Hint

It was always difficult when cutting cake to get a clean cut. Until someone gave me a handy hint. Always use a wet knife when cutting and the cake will not stick to the knife. Wonderful!

**Betty**

## Whitechapel Mission



The Spring collection was a huge success, so thank you to everyone who brought black bags of clothing for this very worthwhile cause. Tony Miller, who came to collect the bags, said that the need was greater than ever during the pandemic, because so many people had been made redundant and could not afford their rent or mortgages, and their accommodation had to be repossessed. He said that there were not so many homeless people because many had been housed in hotels, but the Mission has about 400 people coming to the centre which, as well as clothing, provides meals, washing facilities and social service advice. Someone left a black sack outside the house with the label TVMxx.... I could not work out what the label meant so I looked at my telephone contacts and my address book but still could not solve the riddle. Eventually Fiona informed me that its meant Thanks Very

Much!

How we laughed at my ignorance of the new jargon and the time I had spent looking for the answer. It made a good humorous start to the day. **Betty**

## Lockdown

In the April edition of Kindle, I asked whether you have any stories or anecdotes about lockdown that you wanted to share with us? They can be poignant, amusing reflections, or merely an account of what you have done. If so, please send them to Kindle, with photographs, if appropriate. So far, I have received no replies, surely lockdown was not that forgettable! **Editor**

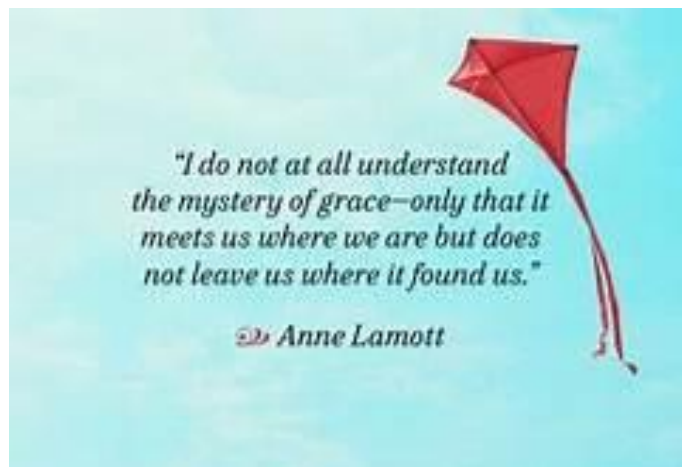
Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee.

Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: "It's right here—HEBREWS."

# Articles

## Dear Everyone,

Over the Easter week a number of us took part in Spring Harvest Home. We were going to go but as with many things the plans were changed. Nonetheless we were able to participate in a week's worth of teaching and celebrating on the theme of What is Worship. Jill has recommended the book from Spring Harvest for you to get hold of and read.



I want to share with you some of my thoughts following this event. Already some of you will be beginning to skim read this as you have the idea that Spring Harvest is for hand waving, dancing evangelicals and that it's not your sort of thing, and it is! However, it is also for the traditionalists, the liberals, the quiet reflective types, and in fact for everyone. Why? Because the whole of the experience is based on Biblical truth. That is not to say that I agreed with every bit of teaching, I didn't, but even when I disagreed it made me think.

In a nutshell the week centred on the idea that Worship is not a thing that we do, it is who we are in our relationship with Christ. We do not go to Church (or join zoom) to worship, we worship at all times and Church on a Sunday is just the place where we meet to worship with others. If we have learned anything during lockdown, it has to be that just because a building is closed it doesn't stop us from

worshipping Almighty God. He doesn't need a building to meet His people in. He is there as you wash up, walk the dog, drive the car, go to the supermarket, watch tv.

Worship is about putting God first in your life and when that is true you will offer Him worship by being like Him. Gracious, loving, kind, serving, gentle, just, compassionate. When God is first in your life, and not a Sunday afterthought, when you can find him in the little things, the smile of a baby, a flower, a mobile phone, a sunset, then your relationship with Him and others will grow. The more we grow in His image, the more we will impact the world around us.

For in him we live, and move, and have our being; Act 17:28.

This was resonated in the teaching for the week when it was said.

“You are either part of the movement, or you are part of the monument”.

Are we prepared to move forward in our relationship of worship with our God or are we going to stick with the monument which is the Church? Are we prepared to change? Or are we ready to die out?

Worship is giving God the best that He has given you.

Just as worship begins in holy expectancy, it ends in holy obedience. If worship does not propel us into greater obedience, it has not been worship.

This is what I got out of Spring Harvest this year. Maybe next year you could join in by going to one of the venues or by taking part online.

*Love Fiona.*

### . Why Worship?

Aside from not seeing folk in person, the thing I have missed most about not being able to meet in church for worship is singing; indeed, I know I was guilty of saying, at one time, that I didn't feel I had been to church if I hadn't had a good sing. Unfortunately, for anyone like me, who enjoys a good sing, even when we get back to the building it seems that congregational singing will still be prohibited for a while.

Now, of course, not everyone feels the same about singing and I've always known that worship is much more than singing. This has been recently evidenced through the different forms of online worship we've shared but it was really brought home to me through various presentations at this year's Spring Harvest online and reading the accompanying book entitled.

**'Why Worship? Insights into the wonder of worship'** by Tim Hughes & Nick Drake.

I thoroughly recommend this book, written against the backdrop of the Covid 19 pandemic, which looks at 3 main questions:

Who we worship?

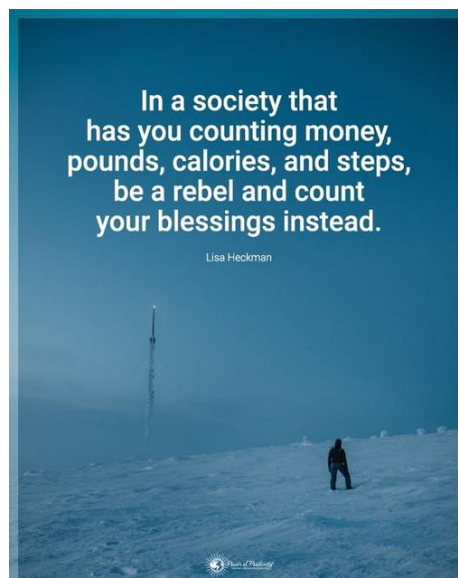
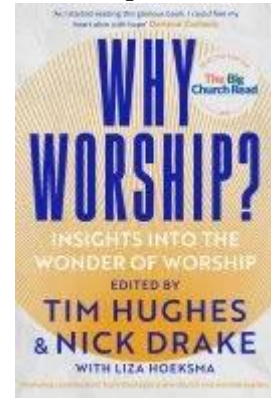
Why we worship?

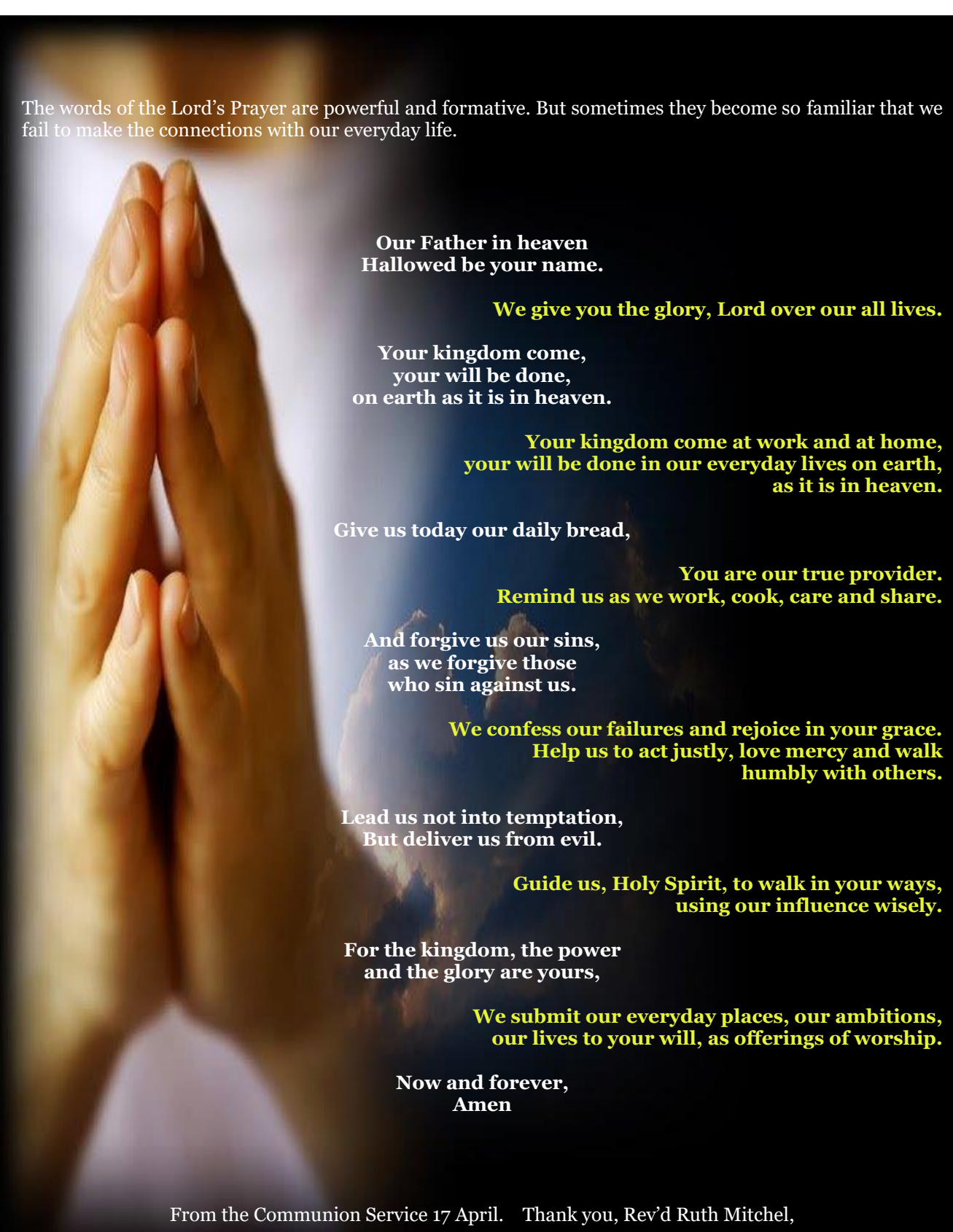
and How we worship?

It is well written and a fairly easy read with some deep insights into worship and the forms it can take. It is also the current Big Church Read book and there is additional material on the Big Church Read website for anyone interested.

Why not give it a go? And, of course, let's also look forward to sung worship in due course!!

*Jill Hunt*





The words of the Lord's Prayer are powerful and formative. But sometimes they become so familiar that we fail to make the connections with our everyday life.

**Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be your name.**

**We give you the glory, Lord over our all lives.**

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Your kingdom come at work and at home,  
your will be done in our everyday lives on earth,  
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread,**

**You are our true provider.  
Remind us as we work, cook, care and share.**

**And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**We confess our failures and rejoice in your grace.  
Help us to act justly, love mercy and walk  
humbly with others.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.**

**Guide us, Holy Spirit, to walk in your ways,  
using our influence wisely.**

**For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,**

**We submit our everyday places, our ambitions,  
our lives to your will, as offerings of worship.**

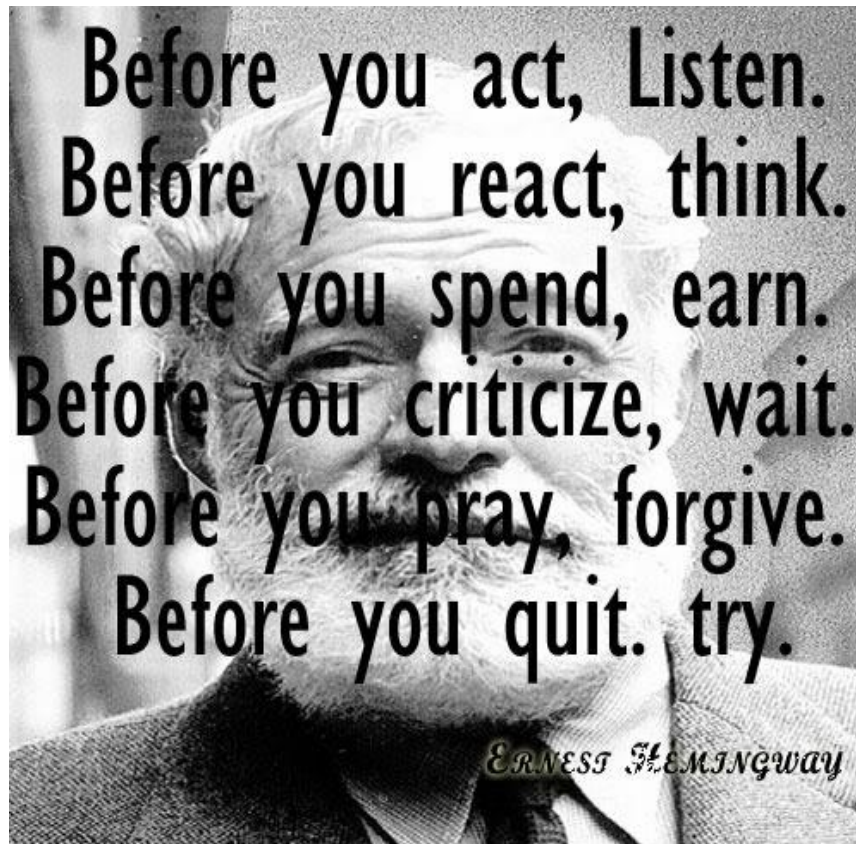
**Now and forever,  
Amen**

From the Communion Service 17 April. Thank you, Rev'd Ruth Mitchel,

Ever wondered where the word “death has lost its sting” originates.....

54When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come to pass: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”  
55“Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?” 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

It is found at 1 Corinthians 15:54 – 56.



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