



## Vol: 43 - No 12

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Sunday Before **ADVENT**

*“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, Oh Israel”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach Advent this year, I hope that when singing the above chorus, the name “Emmanuel” will cause us to pause and reflect on our own names and what they mean to us. I hope your name is significant to you as you wish it to be recognised and honoured by others. We are all aware of the irritation and disappointment when we are not called by our name properly. Your name, I’m sure was carefully chosen by your parents. They must have had a vision of the pride and esteem you would bring into their lives, into the lives of those around you and most importantly, into your own life. Also, we have recognition and feel satisfied when our names are called for any reason.

At your christening or naming ceremony if there was one, all who knew about your birth would have blessed you and said prayers or reflected/meditated in some way to wish you love, good health, blessings, joy, esteem, knowledge and general satisfaction in your life. In some cultures, the name given to you has special meanings and refers to important people, places, times or events, etc. I want us to remember just two of such Biblical names that illustrate this approach to naming children – ‘Moses’ and ‘Jesus’.

In the book of Exodus, Pharaoh’s daughter gave Moses his name because she said, ‘I drew him out of the water’ (Exodus 2:10). She took a Hebrew child into the royal palace and brought him up as a member of the royalty. Moses later identified with his Hebrew people, ran away from the royal household and came back to confront Pharaoh with God’s command to, “Let my people go!” What happened after that is history and still remembered in contemporary Jewish culture.

In the gospel of Mathew, Joseph was told in a dream to take Mary who “shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ‘Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.’ (Mathew 1: 20-24). Joseph pondered over what that dream meant. What actually happened has resulted in the worldwide celebration of Christmas.

Your name is special. It’s time to find out its significance and relevance in this period of anxiety, uncertainty and expectancy. Your parents were sure you would make a difference to others when your name was called. Let us claim the honour and dignity we have been given and show that we care about our names and their importance to our families, loved ones and our communities. Shakespeare once stated, “What’s in a name?” ... I am hopeful that you will be happy with your exploration, especially at this Advent time.

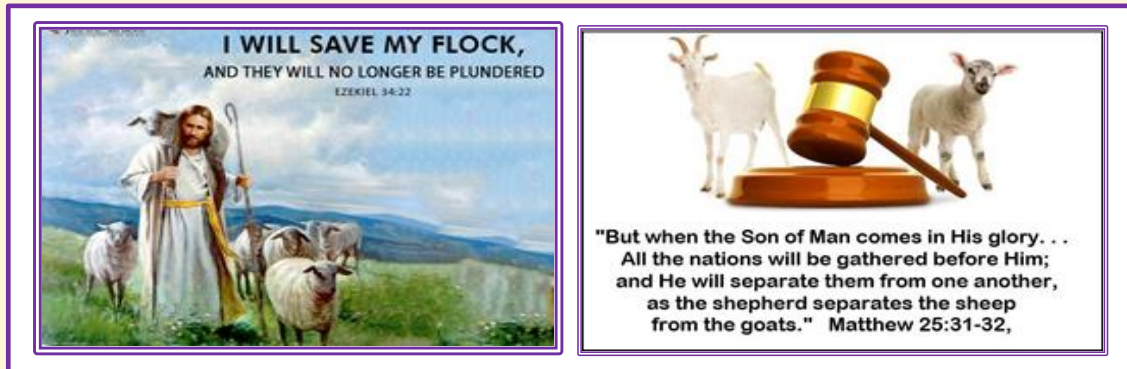
Stay Blessed

**Kojo Hagan**

# LECTIONARY REFLECTION

By Lilla Hercules

*Lectionary Readings: Ezekiel 34 v11-16, 20-24. Ephesians 1 v15-23, Matthew 25 v31-46*



Walking through my neighbourhood I see familiar faces and I am aware of their needs. This brings me to reflect on the lesson of both Ezekiel and Matthew.

Ezekiel accuses the leaders of his day of taking care of themselves and ignoring the needs of the people of Israel. In response to this dereliction of duty, God says “I will look after my sheep and take care of them myself” (v11). “I will look for the lost, bandage those that are hurt and protect the ones that are weak” (v15,16). Also, God will Judge (V22).

In the gospel passage, Matthew recounts Jesus’ analogy of the sheep and goats. The sheep are the blessed and the goat are the cursed ones. It says in the final judgment (Jesus as) the ‘Son of Man’ sitting on his royal throne as a judge will separate those who have done God’s will from those who have not. In relation to helping those in need, He lists six areas in which the (sheep) people have acted correctly: helping people in need of food, water, housing, clothes, health care, and of visitation in prison.

The same standard of judgement is cited for the cursed (goat people) as the king used for the blessed. They are guilty of failing to serve him because of their lack of compassion for one of the least of these. There were plenty of opportunities to help those in need, lots of people who needed assistance.

In the midst of the pandemic we start thinking of Christmas it is difficult to know how we can help others. Verse 40 of our reading says this “And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me”.

Many of us are doing acts of kindness to meet the needs of our communities, sharing the love and the good news of Jesus. This is needed more than ever during these dark times.

As we look to Advent next week let us take the opportunity to share with others who this King of Kings is who came to us and what difference he can make in their lives.

Paul, writing to the Ephesians, says he will ask God to bless you with the Spirit. “The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God”. (Ephesians 1:17) Do we truly have the heart of Jesus, the one who had great compassion for all? The point is that God, the ultimate judge, does notice what we do and don’t do. If we want to serve him, we must serve others.

May the Lord open our eyes to see his face in the faces of people who are less fortunate, disadvantaged, or challenged in other ways. Amen.

God bless you.

Contact:

admin@trinityatbowes.co.uk - 020 8888 2797 - 07484 309301 - www.trinityatbowes.co.uk - Facebook: TaBChurch



## PASTORAL

Tony Addo & Pastoral Leaders

Our thoughts and continued prayers are with our TaB Family and Friends during the current pandemic and the isolation, loneliness and other difficulties this has created. Pastoral contact is an ongoing part of our support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your concerns.

### **Prayers for TaB Members & Friends**

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the many blessings seen, unseen and those that we so often take for granted in our lives. Teach us to pray with faith in your willingness to supply all our needs, that we might receive the generosity of your love and your power of healing: ***We pray for all who are unwell, all those who are homebound or in residential care and for all those who have recently been bereaved.***

***Remembering especially:***

Elizabeth Arnold, Robert Barker, Catrina Basse, Joyce Beaumont, Barbara Biggs, Iris Branch, Frances Branch-Thomas Christina Cabrera, Dorothy Campbell, Chrissie Godfrey, Lynette Heaven, Yvonne Jordine, Rhona Knight, Beverly Watkins-Kowa, Ken Kowa, Yvonne Obeng, Elizabeth Osei, Margarete Prater, Hope Siwela, Priscilla Mbape and Elizabeth Takaedza.

### **A Prayer for the World**

God of love and hope,  
you made the world and care for all creation,  
but the world feels strange right now.  
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.  
Some people are worried that they might get ill.  
Others are anxious for their family and friends.  
Be with them and help them to find peace.  
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,  
and all who are working to discover the right medicines  
to help those who are ill.  
Thank you that even in these anxious times,  
you are with us.  
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

**Amen**

Source: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**



**Happy Belated Birthday**  
**Joyce Guthrie & Masibu Manima**  
**Happy Birthday to Sheila Collins and**  
**to All who have Birthdays this week.**

May God grant you overflowing joy,  
abundant opportunities, and a shower of  
blessings. Happy Birthday!

**To all who have Anniversaries this**  
**week.**

May your marriage continue to be  
blessed with love, joy and  
companionship all the days of your life.

Contact:

admin@trinityatbowes.co.uk - 020 8888 2797 - 07484 309301 - www.trinityatbowes.co.uk - Facebook: TaBChurch

# Church News and Centre Plus

Theo Hercules

1. **Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church Sunday Services are now suspended for the next four weeks as directed by Government. We are due to be reopened on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 providing the Government say this is possible.**

2. **New River Methodist Circuit - Online Church**

**On Facebook: New River Methodist Circuit OR via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/kjbhavh5r28>**

<b>Streaming Schedule for New River Methodist Circuit Online Church</b>			
<b>Day/(s)</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Online Event</b>	
Monday - Saturday	8.00 am	Thought for the Day	<i>Pre-recorded</i>
Monday - Saturday	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	<i>Live</i>
Saturday	10.30 am	Virtual Coffee Morning	<i>Live</i>
Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Service	<i>Pre-recorded</i>

3. **Wednesday 5pm TaB Zoom Meeting - 40-minute Bible Study & 20-minute Business**

All members are invited to participate. Website connection:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9928297354?pwd=a0RYWHlvTG1vWUYyV3pwbDdFcmYxdz09>

4. **TaB Website & TaB Church Face Book** -Our TaB website <https://www.trinityatbowes.co.uk> and TaB Facebook: **TaB Church** are frequently being updated. Please contact Peter Godfrey with your ideas and with offers of help. **Email: [petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk)**

5. **TaB Sunday School Resources**- Resources for Sunday school families can be found on our TaB home website using the following link <https://www.trinityatbowes.co.uk/sunday-school> Peter Godfrey- TaB Sunday School Superintendent is the contact for Sunday School resources

**Email: [petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk)**

6. **Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church Bank Account Details**-Should you wish make a donation by bank transfer to Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church. Our bank account details are as follows:

**Account Name: [Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church](#)**

**Account no: [92883701](#) Sort Code: [09-01-55](#)**

*Account held at the Santander Commercial Bank Please ensure you use **your name as the payment reference***

7. **Upcoming Special Sundays/Services Dates for your Diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Carol Service
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December (Friday)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Sunday Christmas Service

8. **Christmas Tree Festival** - The TaB Christmas Tree festival 2020 is going online. Festive music and pictures of beautifully decorated trees will provide an hour of light hearted entertainment that will be broadcast via YouTube and Facebook, using the New River Circuit links, 7pm, Saturday 28 November. This is the first weekend of Advent. Please send a picture of your own tree by **Sunday 22nd November**. It can represent a theme, such as your home country or family tradition. If not this year's then maybe you have a picture from a previous year available. Photos via email to [suzygodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:suzygodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk), text or WhatsApp to 07931 7660

9. **New River -Circuit-35/22News**

9.1) **Our Churches** – Our 9 Churches are closed during the current Lockdown. We are continuing to offer online worship on our Church Circuit Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

9.2) **Church Online**– Our online worship will continue until 2021. We are hoping to plant a Digital Church within the Circuit. All who are interested are invited to a meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Please email Rev Lunn [revmlunn@gmail.com](mailto:revmlunn@gmail.com) for more information.

9.3) **Circuit Advent Course** – Watching & Waiting 2020 Advent Course. Walk through the season of Advent with us. Starts Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm. Course dates 29<sup>th</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 13<sup>th</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> December. Contact your minister for more information and for Zoom details.

9.4) **3Generate Elections** - Voting opens on 21 November for the Youth President (until 11pm Monday 21 December) and 3Generate Reps (until 11pm Monday 14 December). Our candidate is **Zariel Konadu**. More details can be found at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/3generate/elections-voting/>

If you would like a news item to be included in the NewsNotes send your request via email to [newnotes@trinityatbowes.co.uk](mailto:newnotes@trinityatbowes.co.uk) before 10.00am every Thursday.

Contact:

[admin@trinityatbowes.co.uk](mailto:admin@trinityatbowes.co.uk) - 020 8888 2797 - 07484 309301 - [www.trinityatbowes.co.uk](http://www.trinityatbowes.co.uk) - Facebook: TaBChurch