



Reach Out

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH | MAY 2025



From Glory
TO POWER

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - 18 April 2025 7 LAST WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

Speakers:



Special songs & testimonies



INSIDE

Pastoral Letter	04
Reflections from the Pews	05
Month at a glance	06
Praise & Prayer	07
Power of Prayer	08
In His Time	09
VBS 2025 Report	10
WSCS Report	12
Why Memorize Scripture?	13
Arise! Update	19
Inspirational Message	20
Hymn History	23
MMF	25
May Bible Quiz	27



Sunday Worship Service
9:00 AM ONWARDS



Rev. Hosea Mathew

PASTOR, SRMC

94492 92978 | HOSEA9@GMAIL.COM

MISSION STATEMENT

To be obedient, cheerful, compassionate, humble stewards of God's Word and resources, in utter dependence upon God through prayer, so that we as a congregation and those we reach out to, will experience transformation through the saving grace of God and grow as Christ-Centered people, guided by the Holy Spirit.

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
BESIDE ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY, KODATHI GATE,
SARJAPUR ROAD, BENGALURU - 35



Visit us at www.srmcblr.org



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9 AM ONWARDS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear SRMC family,
Greetings to all in the name our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to God for blessing us through the Lenten season, Passion Week, Good Friday and Easter. Thanks to Rev. Daniel Ezra Naveen for ministering to us during the Passion Week and to all others who shared God's word every Friday during Lent. I also would like to thank those who helped in music and singing, extending help in many other ways, to all speakers on Good Friday and every one's participation. Praise be to God for His blessings on us .

It's a vacation time for children. Some of us have planned travels out of town to spend holidays. Take care of yourself from the summer heat and be safe. We keep all you in prayer, that you will all have happy holidays.

Once again a humble calling to all of us to join hands in the '**Arise... Let us build**' project; a glorious task entrusted to us by God to glorify Him.

We will focus our meditation this month on the theme "**From Glory to Power**". In the Lord's prayer we say *"for thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for ever"*. What is Glory and Power. God the Almighty having Sovereign Power and authority over everything thing without end. A definition about "Glory of God" says, *"The glory of God is magnificence, worth, loveliness and grandeur of God's many perfections which declares in His creative and redemptive acts in order to make His glory known to those in His presence"*.

God communicates His glory through His creation, providence, and redemptive acts. God's people respond by glorifying and praising Him. In the Old Testament, God's glory was revealed to Moses. It fills the tabernacle (Exodus 40: 34), fills the earth and the Temple and is above the heavens. It's identified with people of Israel in their deliverance and travel through the Wilderness.

In the New Testament, glory of God is identified with Jesus Christ. It is linked to his incarnation, birth narratives, miracles, transfiguration, suffering, crucifixion, resurrection, Ascension and coming victory and judgment. It is identified with the Holy Spirit, with the Church and manifested in new creation. (Rev 21 to 22)

The primary Greek term for glory is **doxa**, referred to an "opinion," "conjecture," "repute," "praise," or "fame." The Hebrew word "**kabod**" for glory has the same meaning, referring to God's manifestation of his

person, presence, and/or works, especially his power, judgment, and salvation.

God is intrinsically glorious in the sense of fullness, sufficiency, majesty, beauty, and splendor. Examples of this sense are used throughout Scripture. The Psalms refers to God as the *"King of glory"* (Ps. 24:7-10) as well as the *"God of glory"* (Ps. 29:3). The apostle Paul prays to the *"Father of glory"* (Eph. 1:17). James makes reference to Jesus as the *"Lord of glory"* or the *"glorious Lord"*. Like the Father, Jesus is characterized by glory. The Spirit, also, is identified with glory (1 Pet. 4:14) especially through the language of presence, indwelling, and temple.

Post resurrection, disciples were amazed at Jesus's glorious resurrection and physical appearance of Him strengthening them in faith. All have seen Him ascend to glorious heavens. Assurance came to them of His power and authority over everything and his everlasting presence. They were given the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit which empowered them fully.

The same glorious power is given to his believers in the church, that enables us to engage ourselves in the service of God with the message of salvation to all.

Giving glory to God calls us to an appropriate response to God in the form of worship and exaltation. Psalm 29:2 urges, *"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name"*.

May God guide us to grow strong in faith and service of the glorious God.

- Rev. Hosea Mathew
(Pastor, SRMC)



MONTH AT A GLANCE

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MOTHER'S DAY :: 11th May '25**
 - * A mother's love reflects the love of God!
 - * Celebrating all the mothers of SRMC!
- **ALDERSGATE SUNDAY :: 25th May '25**
 - * The turning point in Rev. John Wesley's spiritual life (*the founder of Methodism*). The day he received an assurance of his salvation while attending a meeting in Aldersgate, London.
- **ASCENSION DAY :: Thursday, 29th May '25**
 - * Sunday, 25th May, will focus on Ascension Day

REGULAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ⇒ **Sunday Worship Service :: 9 AM at Church.** Services are live-streamed on our YouTube channel, for those unable to attend.
- ⇒ **Sunday School :: 10 am** every Sunday. On break, will resume in June.
- ⇒ **Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) at 10 AM** every Sunday. **MYF Monthly meeting** is held on every 3rd Sunday of the month, after the worship service, unless specified otherwise. For more details please contact **Mr. Rabbi Jayakaran**.
- ⇒ **Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS)** meets on the **fourth Sunday of every month** after the Worship Service
- ⇒ **Methodist Men's Fellowship (MMF)** meets every **2nd Saturday, 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM** in Church
- ⇒ **WSCS Bible Study via Zoom :: 7 pm** every Wednesday. On break, will resume from the first week of June.
- ⇒ **WSCS Fasting Prayer** is scheduled on **10th May, 9 AM to 1 PM**.
- ⇒ **SRMC Hindi Worship Service** is held every **2nd Sunday** of the month. This month's service is scheduled for **11th May, 2025**. Guest Preacher: **Mr. Naresh**
- ⇒ **Church Mid-Week Bible Study :: 7:30 PM** every **Thursday**, led by **Rev. Hosea Mathew**. Currently on break.
- ⇒ **PASTORAL CARE** is available through the Church. You can avail the services by speaking to the Pastor personally.
- ⇒ **REACH OUT** is the in-house magazine of SRMC. Please contribute your testimonies, stories, articles and activities for children, etc. Contact the **Committee on Education & Christian Nurture** for details.

PRAISE & PRAYER

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- ◆ Praise God for the wonderful leadership of our **Pastor, activities of the Church and for the wings and standing committees.**
- ◆ Praise God for His grace, as we meditated upon the theme of **“HE IS RISEN - THE ROAD TO A VICTORIOUS LIFE”** for the month of April.
- ◆ Praise God as we completed 4 months in 2025 – especially the month of April where we had every Friday Lenten meditations, the Holy week services and special services of Good Friday and Easter.
- ◆ Praise God & thanks to all the speakers from our church during the Lenten meditation and the **7 verses on Good Friday**. We praise God for raising up such leaders for His glory. Special thanks to **Rev. Daniel Ezra Naveen** for bringing the word of God to us during the **Holy Week**.

PRAY FOR:

- ◆ Continue to pray for our **Bishop Rev. Anilkumar J. Servand, Executive Secretary Rev. David Nathaniel, Conference Treasurer, Rev. Mathew George M., and District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Sebastian Ravi Kumar**. Pray continuously for the **Bangalore Regional Conference** and that God’s will be accomplished.
- ◆ Pray for our dear Pastor, **Rev. Hosea Mathew** and his family, his wife **Mrs. Asha**, sons **Mr. Nischal** & his family and **Mr. Navjacinth**.
- ◆ Pray for all the **Pastorate Committee members** of SRMC and their families, as they render their services selflessly to the Church.
- ◆ Pray for the **SRMC Sunday School & Children’s ministry**. Pray for wisdom and health for all teachers and volunteers and for the challenges that are involved.
- ◆ Pray for the **Church Bible Study group**, Pastor or resource personnel who are conducting it, that God may bring revival and growth to our congregation.
- ◆ Pray for the **Worship team, Choir, MMF, WSCS & MYF fellowships**, and all the volunteers who are striving hard to serve and raise resources for our Church.
- ◆ Pray for the **Hindi Worship Service** of SRMC. Pray that more and more people may be blessed through this initiative and more souls be added to God’s mighty kingdom.

- ♦ Pray for the ***sick, elders, widows and the poor***, who need help in our church. Pray also for all the families that you remember at our Church.
- ♦ Pray for all the families who are suffering due to the effects of ***illnesses, economic difficulties, familial tensions, death etc***, that God may give them strength to cope and move ahead.
- ♦ Pray that God may reveal His Plan for us in this locality and that the SRMC family may become a channel of blessing in this vicinity. The God will provide the resources to raise up a Church for His Glory!

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PEWS

POWER OF PRAYER IN A CHANGING WORLD

Last summer, Bangalore went through a minor water crisis. Listening to my manager talk about how his friends in the city were buying massive drums to store water, I panicked. I decided I needed to jump onto this bandwagon of hysteria without second thought. I started looking for the biggest storage drums that Amazon would deliver.



The next day, I joined the Women's Fellowship prayer. Once again I was listening to a new perspective about a potential draught. This one, though, came from hearts of faith – women coming together and pouring out their fright to the Lord, praying earnestly for rain and water. And not just for ourselves. They prayed for rains to fill the vast fields of farmers who cannot afford to lose their crops. They prayed for rains to nourish wells that were running dry in small hamlets. Above all, they thanked God for being our provider in ages past and still to come.

I stopped chasing after drums, my own heart echoing their prayers, with a much calmer beat. Our world is changing faster than we can keep up with it. And I admit, on most days, it's very difficult to keep calm amidst those changes. But therein lies the power of prayer, it not only calms you down – but it makes you think beyond your worries and your limited wisdom. It reassures you that:

“Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

- Mrs. Priscilla Churchill

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PEWS

IN HIS TIME

You know how difficult it is to walk through a dark season after losing someone you dearly love. It's as if the whole world suddenly goes dark—because that one person who lit up your life is no longer there.

In moments like these, we often question ourselves. Did I not pray hard enough? Long enough? Was I not good enough? We convince ourselves that maybe that's why our prayers weren't answered. And it's not just in loss—we feel this same ache in seasons of waiting. Waiting for a promotion, a new job, a chance abroad, or just some kind of breakthrough when life feels suffocating and heavy. Waiting is painful. You're desperate to see a light at the end of the tunnel, but all you hear is: Wait. And that word can feel like the hardest command.

Recently, I had a surprisingly simple experience that shifted my entire perspective on waiting. It wasn't profound at first glance—but it left a profound impact on me.

We've had a semi-automatic washing machine since 2015. It served us well—no issues, worked perfectly. Even my older child learned to do laundry on it. But then, just last month, the outlet pipe began to leak. Washing became difficult. Still, we managed. Like many middle-class families, we live within our means and carry our share of loans. Buying a new machine wasn't in our immediate budget. As the pipe began to disintegrate, we patched it up again and again, stretching its life as long as we could. But in early April 2025, we started casually checking prices for a fully automatic washing machine—just to get a sense of things.

And guess what? We found one—an affordable, AI-powered smart washing machine that we could control from our phones. It fit our budget. Perfectly. It was a lightbulb moment. *Eureka!*

We never even considered a fully automatic washing machine before. We assumed it was out of our reach and wasteful with water. But here we were—getting something better than what we imagined. And then the message hit me: **You waited.**

Yes, we waited. And at just the right time, the right machine came to us—smarter, more efficient, and perfectly within our means. That was God's gentle reminder: He knows what we need, when we need it, and how to bring it into our lives. His timing is never off. He sees the bigger

picture, and while we may feel like we're stuck or forgotten, He's just preparing the perfect blessing for the perfect moment.

So, here's what I learned: **Waiting on God is never wasted time.** And when you do wait on Him, He doesn't just give you what you asked for—He gives you the **absolute best.**

In His time, He truly makes all things beautiful. Let's believe again.

- Mrs. Jasmine Dinup

WINGS IN ACTION :: REPORT ON VBS 2025

OVERVIEW

This year's VBS at SRMC was held from 31 March to 06 April 2025. It was a power-packed week of faith, fun, and fellowship. With the inspiring theme ***Hold On... Let Go***, children learned to cling to God's truths while letting go of what holds them back. About 55 children participated joyfully, making it a memorable event !

DAY-WISE THEMES & FOCUS

Each day was focused on specific topics :

Day 1: Hold On to God's Promises (*Story: Joshua & Caleb*) : Children learned that God's promises never fail when we trust and obey.

Day 2: Hold On to God's Protection (*Story: Esther*) : Through Esther's courage, children discovered that God is always working behind the scenes to protect His people.

Day 3: Let Go of Trash (*Story: Zacchaeus*) : Kids reflected on letting go of greed, lies, and guilt — to make room for Jesus.

Day 4: Hold On to God's Relationship (*Story: David*) : David's heart for God taught the importance of friendship and worship.

Day 5: Let Go of Self (*Story: Saul*) : Children explored the dangers of pride and learned to walk in obedience and humility.

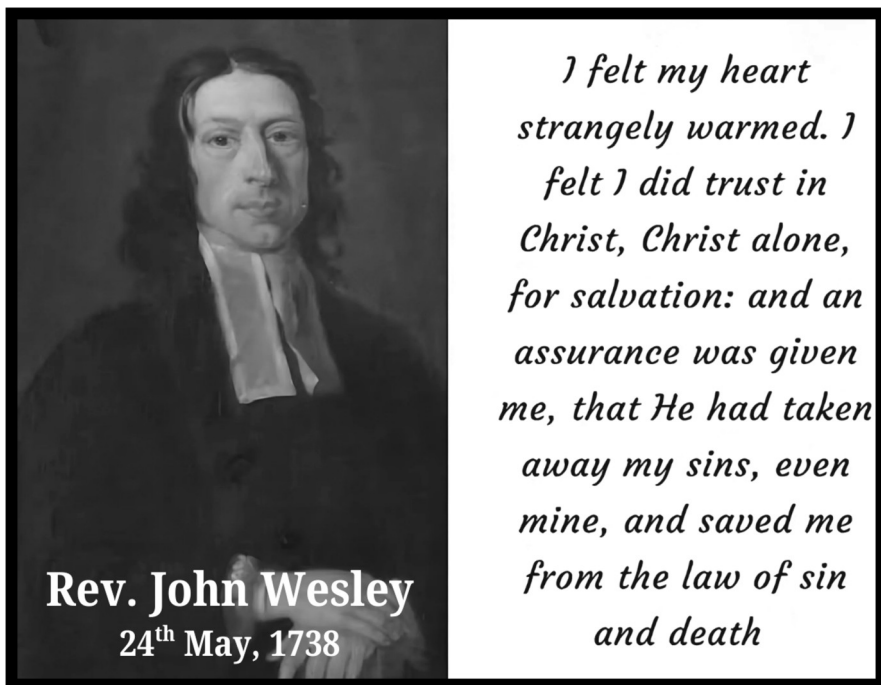
The Worship & Action Songs set the tone each morning. The decor and the props in the church – Zacchaeus on the tree, life-like Goliath were super hits with the children. The Bible Lessons & Memory Verses were taught in interactive, age-appropriate ways. Crafts and Games reinforced daily lessons. Special games like the *Joshua / Caleb Spy game*, *Esther Matching Challenge*, *Zacchaeus Coin Toss*, *David-Goliath Ball hit*, and *Saul's Relay* kept energy levels high. The “yummy” snacks each day was an instant hit with

children. The Children did a fantastic presentation on the final day which was greatly appreciated by all and concluded the event with a wonderful message from Mrs. Grace Johnson that left a deep / lasting impression.

GRATITUDE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank God for His presence and grace throughout the VBS week. Special thanks to our Pastor – Rev. Hosea Mathew for his spiritual guidance and support, The VBS Planning and Organizing Committee for thoughtful organization, The Education and Christian Nurture Committee for leading the program, Our Dedicated Volunteers who served tirelessly each day, Teachers & Group Leaders who made the Word come alive, Parents who entrusted us with their children and supported our efforts, Youth & Worship Teams for their creativity and energy and the generous Donors with whose contribution, we met all the costs of VBS 2025. VBS 2025 was more than a program — it was a faith-building journey that will continue to shape and influence lives in the weeks and years ahead.

To God be all the glory!



ALDERSGATE DAY - 24TH MAY, 1738

WINGS IN ACTION :: WSCS

A TIME OF REFLECTION AND THANKSGIVING

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks" from I Thessalonians 5:16-18 encourages Christians to maintain a joyful attitude, cultivate a constant relationship with God through prayer, and express gratitude in all circumstances.

As we began this month, we entered the solemn season of Lent, a period marked by fasting, prayer, and deep spiritual reflection. Throughout the season, our faith community united in devotion, culminating in the joyous celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. The proclamation, "Jesus is Risen, He is Risen Indeed," echoed in our hearts, reminding us of the transformative power of His sacrifice and victory.

The Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) faithfully conducted regular chain prayers every day at 5:00 AM, 3:30 PM, and 7:30 PM. These moments of collective prayer brought us closer to God and to one another as we interceded for our families, our community, and the world. We witnessed abundant blessings and miracles this month—tangible evidence of our Lord Jesus answering our prayers. These moments serve as powerful testimonies of His love and faithfulness. We thank God for His countless blessings and guidance, and we move forward with renewed hope and unwavering faith.

WSCS's Fasting Prayer

WSCS held a Fasting Prayer on Saturday, 13th April, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It was a deeply meaningful occasion with enthusiastic participation from many women, who united in prayer and reflection.

During the first two hours of prayer time, the focus of the prayers was on the theme *"Arise, Let Us Build."* Participants prayed earnestly for the church land, the financial needs related to the land, and the church building itself. In the next two hours, prayers were dedicated to families, the various wings of the church, and individuals in special need. This included uplifting the sick, senior citizens, children who were preparing for exams and awaiting results, as well as praying for the state of Karnataka and for our nation, India.

The gathering was a profound testament to faith and hope, and it left all attendees with a renewed sense of purpose and connection to their spiritual community.

- Mrs. Jessintha Immanuel
(President, SRMC WSCS)

WINGS IN ACTION :: SUNDAY SCHOOL



Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Psalm 27:1

WHY MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE?

“Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.” Here are a few reasons why so many have viewed Scripture memorization as so essential to the Christian life.

1. Conformity to Christ

Paul wrote that “we all, . . . beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18). If we would be changed into Christlikeness, we must steadily see him. This happens in the word. “The Lord *revealed himself* to Samuel at Shiloh *by the word* of the Lord” (1 Samuel 3:21).

2. Daily Triumph over Sin

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. . . . I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:9, 11). Paul said that we must “by the Spirit . . . put to death the [sinful] deeds of the body” (Romans 8:13). The one piece of armour used to kill is the “sword of the Spirit” which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17). As sin lures the body into sinful action, we call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scripture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.

3. Daily Triumph over Satan

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight (Matthew 4:1–11).

4. Comfort and Counsel for People You Love

The times when people need you to give them comfort and counsel do not always coincide with the times you have your Bible handy. Not only that, the very word of God spoken spontaneously from your heart has unusual power. Proverbs 25:11 says, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” That is a beautiful way of saying, *When the heart full of God’s love can draw on the mind full of God’s word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.*

5. Communicating the Gospel to Unbelievers

Opportunities to share the gospel come when we do not have the Bible in hand. Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, the witness is given that they are precious enough to learn. We should all be able to sum up the gospel under four main headings: **1)** God's holiness/law/glory; **2)** man's sin/rebellion/disobedience; **3)** Christ's death for sinners; **4)** the free gift of life by faith. Learn a verse or two relating to each of these, and be ready in season and out of season to share them.

6. Communion with God in the Enjoyment of His Person and Ways

The way we commune with (that is, fellowship with) God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to him our thanks and admiration and love, and seeking his help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes. Therefore, storing texts in our minds about God helps us relate to him as he really is. For example, imagine being able to call this to mind through the day:

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. (*Psalms 103:8-14*)

Storing texts in our minds about God helps us relate to him as he really is. In Psalm 103:1, we say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!" That is not a natural expression for many people. But if we memorize this and other emotional expressions from the Bible, and say them often, asking the Lord to make the emotion real in our hearts, we can actually grow into that emotion and expression. It will become part of who we are. We will be less emotionally crippled and more able to render proper praise and thanks to God.

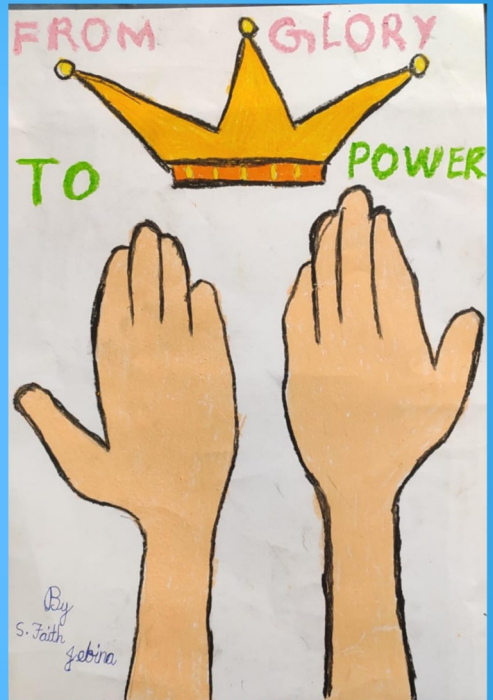
There are other reasons for memorizing Scripture. I hope you find them in the actual practice.

- Compiled by Mrs. Shereen Theeba
Snippet taken from "Desiring God" by Pastor John Piper

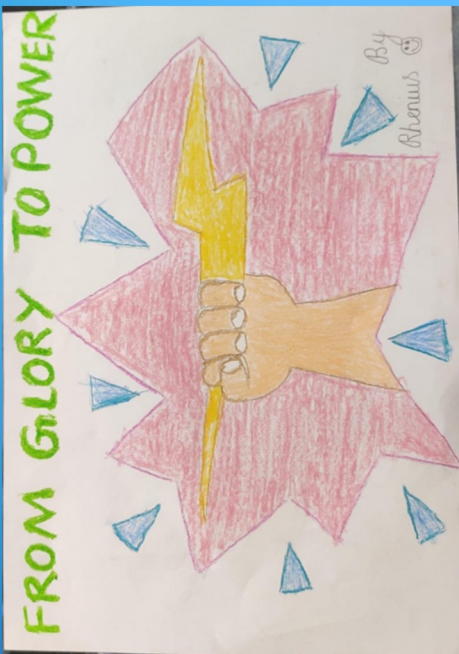
GEN Z SPACE



Painted by V. Tiana Shifra



Painted by S. Faith Jebina



Painted by S. Rhenius Paulfred



GLIMPSES OF VBS 2025 FINAL DAY
HOLD ON
 SRMC VBS 2025
LET GO!
 Saturday, April 5th







Let us build
a temple of praise!

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."

Nehemiah 2:17

How can I participate?

- 1 Pray regularly for the project**
- 2 Contribute time & talents**
- 3 Pledge a certain amount**
- 4 Share vision, to mobilize contributions**

*Contribute as the
Lord leads you*

Banking Name: **Sarjapur Road Methodist Church**

Account Number: **0518053000009989 (Savings)**

IFSC Code: **SIBL0000518**

Bank: **SOUTH INDIAN BANK, Sarjapur Road**



Please contact any member of the Property or Finance committees for more details and clarifications



Since early 2018, we have been involved in the Arise, let us BUILD project helping the church grow and increase capital fund to purchase land and Build Church facility in Sarjapur area. As we go through the planning and processes involved, it is great to see God work in different ways; opening doors at times for better opportunities and closing doors at other times to point us in a different direction.

God had given KMC the vision in 2012 for an extension church at Sarjapur and God has indeed blessed the sacrifice and labours of His people with steady growth and expanding ministries in the Church. A permanent place of its own and a more-functional building will enable us to continue to equip people for ministry and reach people for Christ.

As we are almost close to fix the land, complete the legal procedure and draw the plans for payment schedule, the coming 4-6 months will be both exciting and challenging.

This vision has required and will still require a great deal of commitment and sacrifice from all of us. It is clear that nothing great had ever happened without commitment and sacrifice and just like the investment that Godly men and women made years ago is impacting us with the other Methodist campuses in the City, the investment that we are willing to make for a new Church at Sarjapur will impact for generations to come.

Current plan is to acquire about 100X140 ft land with approximate cost of 5.5 Cr. This is situated in Kodathi Village towards Huskur Road. Once our lawyers give a green signal to go ahead we need to get into an Agreement of Sale with Seller and finish the purchase within 4-6 months timeline with all necessary due diligence.

Our Capital Fund accumulated for this purpose is 1.5 Cr, we are still needing funds to pursue this land option. Over the years since we draw the first plans, the land prices have gone high resulting in down-sizing of our land requirement from 1-acre to about a quarter of its size. We are at danger of further shrinking or shelve the project on further increase of land prices. Reaching our full ministry potential will need all of us.

- What will YOU do to help us to raise money for Arise, let us BUILD Fund?
- The Arise, let us BUILD Fund needs your help, don't leave it to others. Can you make a difference?
- The simplest ideas are sometimes the best, drop in your ideas for new-fundraising opportunities to any of the Pastors or Committee Members.

LET US PRAY IN FAITH, LET US GIVE IN FAITH AND HE WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH.

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

COME STAY WITH ME.....

But He said, 'what is impossible with men is possible with God.

(Luke 18: 17)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. *(Luke 24:13)*



Two friends. Deeply disappointed and heart-broken by the horrible death of the "Person" they had pinned all their hopes for the future on. A cloud of disappoint had settled upon two of Jesus' close friends. As they discussed how the events of the past few days had dashed their dreams to pieces, the Light of the world pierced their gloom.

As they continued their seven-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus, the men were joined by another traveler, who did more than just walk with them. This unknown and unrecognized figure pointedly began to ask questions about their obvious confusion and sorrow. However, Jesus was not recognized.

It is not a surprise for me because, when the problems I face turn into monumental mountains which cannot be scaled, being able to see what is on the other side becomes an impossible task for me often times. It may be the same with you too!

Jesus was the Messiah. And their hope in Jesus as their Redeemer wasn't wrong either. Then why so down and disappointed? In simple words, things didn't work out according to their thought process. The crucifixion wasn't even on their radar, no matter how many times the Old Testament prophets wrote about a "suffering Savior." And what's more, they even ignored Jesus' own words to His followers because the image they had of their Messiah was liken to a "Kingly" claim to power. And when things didn't work out the way they planned - down in the dumps they slipped.

They walked in sadness because their minds were fastened upon a grave, But what they did not realize was that the bars of death had been broken, and the buried One was even now at their side. They thought that the glory had departed, while all the time a greater glory had arrived.

On that apparently desolate road there walked the Conqueror of death, the Lord of resurrection. It was not midnight, but sunrise with all the promise of a superlatively glorious day! It isn't too difficult for me to put myself in the place of these two followers of Jesus. I can understand why they felt absolutely forgotten for at times in all our lives, we've felt alone - all by ourselves wondering what the future holds and questioning the purpose of our lives.

Thankfully, a guiding hand from above was at work, leading these two followers on a pathway illuminated by the truth of the Scripture. Our kind Savior didn't leave them in a heap of despondency. Instead, He gave them a heaven-sent, power-filled Bible study. And He continued to take the Scriptures and reveal the truths contained in the words "beginning with Moses and all the prophets." In fact, Luke underscores that their guest didn't just share prophetic words, "He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the Scriptures."

Oh how I would have loved to be part of that Bible Study group! For as the walk continued, their hearts were burning... the entire atmosphere began to reverse itself...from hopelessness to hope...from faithlessness to faithfulness... from death to life... from glory to power.....

Dr. Luke tells us that as the walk on the Emmaus Road continued, the

visitor seemed to be going ahead, but the men "constrained" or as the Greek defines the word, they "forced or compelled" their companion from leaving and said 'Stay with us'. So Jesus entered into their abode and when the meal was served, He took the bread and blessed it, and broke it, and gave to them" (Luke 24: 30).

The memory of our visit to this little town overwhelms me as I write this. When I stood at the place where He broke the bread for them, I remembered the cherished formula with gratefulness- He took, blessed, broke and gave!

The same formula kindles the awareness of His presence, they now know Him as the risen Lord, whose own body has been give for them. Just think back for a moment to the time in Matthew 14 when we studied about a crowd of more than 5,000 people and the Biblical record tells us when a young boy offered up his lunch, that as the meager supply was placed in Jesus' hands, "He took the five loaves and the two fish, and, looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and blessed and broke the loaves and handed the pieces to the disciples" (Matthew 14: 18, 19).

I just have a feeling that as the two men sat at the table with Jesus, a rush of memories flooded their hearts and minds. And it was because of the time they had spent following Jesus, in close contact with Him, that now in one of the darkest times in their life, the Savior's love permeated the darkness and a heavenly light opened their eyes to the reality of just 'Who' it was that sat in their midst.

In the dreaded days following the death of Jesus, His dear followers must have wiped many a tear from their eyes. Maybe you too feel like things are coming at you from every direction and you are deeply disappointed and broken! I am certain the men on the Emmaus Road most likely felt like, "What will happen next? What bad event will we face next?"

But then, in a tremendous time of revelation, when partaking of a simple meal at their table, Jesus pulled back the curtain, and they immediately returned to Jerusalem to bear witness to seeing their risen Lord.

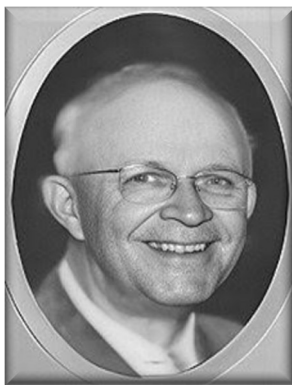
If this is our desire today, then may we always express to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the words of His early followers, "Come stay with me..... "

- Dr. Prema Sunder Raj

HYMN HISTORY :: HE LIVES, HE LIVES

One of the most popular of 20th century songs, and not just for Easter, is the hymn “**He Lives.**” Written by **Rev. Alfred Ackley** in 1933.

Ackley, born in 1887 in Pennsylvania, showed great musical potential as a child. He was tutored by his musician father and then went to New York City to study and on to the Royal Academy of Music in London. There, Ackley played the piano and cello and showed great promise as a composer. After completing his musical training, Ackley returned to the states to attend Westminster Theological Seminary in Maryland and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1914. Ackley pastored in Wilkes-Barre and Elmhurst, Pennsylvania, before being called to a congregation in Escondido, California. For a few years he worked with evangelist Billy Sunday. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Sacred Music degree by John Brown University in Arkansas in appreciation for all his musical pursuits.



While in California, Ackley began witnessing a Jewish man who attended some of the evangelistic meetings. This young student kept saying, “Why should I worship a dead Jew?”. This bothered Ackley and it stayed on his mind.

The year was 1932, and radio was the great means of communication in those days. On the Easter morning of 1932, after waking early to prepare his Easter Sunday message, Pastor Alfred Ackley was amazed to hear on the radio a famous liberal preacher in New York say, “Good morning. It’s Easter! You know, folks, it really doesn’t make any difference to me if Christ be risen or not. As far as I am concerned, His body could be as dust in some Palestinian tomb. The main thing is His truth goes marching on!” Ackley couldn’t digest this and his anger was displayed as he threw the radio across the room, yelling, “It’s a lie!”. Mrs. Ackley reminded her husband, “Alfred, you must get ready for church or we will be late.”

As Alfred arrives at the church, he is fired up and ready to preach. This preacher is riled by what he heard on the radio. He can hardly wait for the congregational singing to be done. He can hardly wait for the announcements to be made. Now he is sitting on the edge of his seat, ready to run to the pulpit to preach his sermon. That morning he preached a

sermon on the resurrection of Jesus Christ like no one had ever heard before. Those brave enough to come back on Sunday night hear another sermon on the resurrection.

After church Sunday night, Mrs. Ackley was in the kitchen preparing some food for Alfred and herself. She hears footsteps pacing in the living room. Looking around the corner from the kitchen she saw her husband pacing back and forth. "What's wrong now?" She inquired. Alfred replied, "I still haven't said all that I want to say about the resurrection."

Mrs. Ackley said, "Listen here Alfred, why don't you do what you do best? Why don't you write a song about the resurrection and that way long after you are gone, the song can tell the story."

Alfred was an accomplished preacher and song writer, and he immediately went to his study in his home. He read Mark 16:6, "And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

A thrill filled Alfred's soul, and he begins to write. On and on he writes until all the stanzas are complete. Moving to the piano, he writes the music. When he finishes, he has written the hymn which we know as He Lives. Anyone who reads the words to this hymn, having heard the story of how it was written, can see the passion of Alfred Ackley on that Easter night of 1932.

Notice the last line of his hymn: You ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my hear.!! What an amazing witness.

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.*

*He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And tho' my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

- Compiled by SRMC Choir

THE SILENT ESCAPE

STORY OF BROTHER YUN (THE HEAVENLY MAN)

In the quiet villages of Henan, China, a young boy named Liu Zhenying was born into a poor farming family. Life was hard under Communist rule, Religion was outlawed, churches were shut down, and Bibles were burned. But at age 16, when his father was miraculously healed of cancer, Liu encountered something greater than pain - he encountered Jesus. He began to seek the God who had healed his father. With no church, no pastor, and no Bible, he prayed and fasted for a Bible for over 100 days. Then, one night, a stranger knocked on his door and handed him a Bible —an impossible act in a land where even possessing one was a crime. From that moment, Liu- now known as Brother Yun - began sharing the Gospel throughout China. He walked for days, preached in fields, and baptized believers in secret. He became a leader in the underground house church movement, a network of courageous Christians meeting in homes, caves, and forests - often under the cover of night.



But faith has a cost. Brother Yun was arrested multiple times, in prison, he was beaten, starved, and tortured. Guards broke his legs. He spent days in solitary confinement. Once, after preaching to fellow prisoners, he was locked in a freezer, expected to freeze to death, But he survived - singing hymns through the night, praying for his persecutors "Bless those who persecute you; bless and, do not curse." -Romans 12:14. Brother Yun lived this verse daily Yet, the most powerful moment of his life came in 1997, in a maximum-security prison in Hangzhou. His legs had been beaten so severely he could barely stand. But one day, in prayer, he heard the voice of the Holy Spirit say: "Stand up and walk out."

It seemed absurd — the prison had locked gates, guards with rifles, and a history of no escape. But Brother Yun obeyed. He stood. His legs, previously broken, held his weight. He walked past the guards - they did not see him. He passed gate after gate - each one opened. Surveillance cameras recorded nothing. No alarms sounded. It was as if God Himself had made him invisible.

Yun walked out of the prison. A taxi was waiting outside - and took him to safety. **"When the Son sets you free, you are free indeed." John 8:36.**

The church in China was stunned. His escape was not just a miracle — it was a message. No matter how dark the cell, no matter how loud the chains, **God's power cannot be locked behind prison bars**. After his escape, Brother Yun fled to Germany, where he was granted asylum. But he did not retire or rest. He began traveling the world, sharing his testimony and encouraging believers in the free world to live as boldly as the persecuted church. He also helped launch the **Back to Jerusalem Movement** - a vision to take the Gospel from China, through the nations between China and Israel, and into the Middle East. It was dangerous, costly, and full of resistance - but Brother Yun believed it was God's call.

KEY CHRISTIAN LESSONS FROM BROTHER YUN'S STORY

- **Obedience Over Comfort** Brother Yun obeyed God's voice even when it defied logic. Walking out of prison with broken legs wasn't rational - but faith doesn't always make sense. Like Abraham leaving home or Peter stepping out of the boat, obedience leads to miracles.
- **Persecution Strengthens the Church** Despite torture and imprisonment, the underground church in China grew - faster and stronger. Persecution, rather than killing faith, purifies and empowers it. As Yun said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."
- **Forgiveness Is Powerful** Brother Yun never sought revenge. He forgave his captors, prayed for his persecutors, and preached to fellow inmates. True Christianity isn't measured in comfort but in our ability to love in suffering.
- **God Still Works Miracles** In a modern world full of doubt, Brother Yun's escape reminds us: the God of Acts is still active. Angels still open prison doors. The Spirit still speaks. Faith still moves mountains.
- **The Bible Is Precious** Brother Yun's hunger for the Word of God - even fasting over 100 days to receive one - challenges us. In a world with easy access to Scripture, do we treasure it as he did?
- **The Church Is Global** Brother Yun's vision reminds us that Christianity isn't Western - it's global, growing, and moving. The fire of faith burns brightly in places where comfort is absent but Christ is present. Today, Brother Yun continues to preach, often anonymously, encouraging the church to stay awake, stay bold, and stay obedient. He never desired fame, only faithfulness. He reminds us all: the Gospel is worth everything. Even prison. Even silence. Even death. And sometimes, in that silence, God performs His loudest miracles.

- Written by Mr. Jyothish Cherian

SRMC BIBLE QUIZ 2025

Welcome to SRMC's exciting New Quiz Series! We're thrilled to have you participate in our quiz challenge. Here's how it works:

- All the questions are from the ***Gospel of John (Chapters 13 to 16) - New International Version (NIV)***.
- Specific portions for each month's Reach Out will be mentioned in the Quiz page. ***Please answer using NIV version.***
- Fill in the Quiz page with the correct answers and send a picture to ***<srmbiblequiz@gmail.com> on or before 25th of the month in the below format:***

Full Name:

Email id/Phone number:

Quiz of the Month of: _____ (May 2025)

- Correct answers and the names of all the participants who nailed the quiz will be published in next issue of Reach Out newsletter.
- Stay tuned for the grand finale! And keep an eye out for the big reveal! At the end of the year, we'll announce the overall quiz champions and prizes will be awarded to the top scorers. Get ready to test your knowledge and rack up points for a chance to win some awesome prizes.
- Kids can attempt all the sections and request Adults (above 17 years) to attempt only the "Section For all"

BEST OF LUCK & HAPPY QUIZZING!

SECTION FOR ALL

WHO SAID THIS TO WHOM?

1. "What you are about to do, do quickly." _____ to _____
2. "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" _____ to _____
3. "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech."
_____ to _____
4. "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."
_____ to _____
5. "Show us the Father and that will be enough for us." _____
to _____

:: TRUE OR FALSE ::

1. When Jesus announced that one of the disciples would betray Him, Peter directly asked Jesus saying, "Who is it?" _____
2. In John 16, Jesus told the disciples they would have perfect peace in the world. _____
3. Jesus said it was better for the disciples that He goes away, because then the Advocate would come to them. _____
4. Jesus said that whoever receives someone He sends also receives Him, and whoever not receives Him receives the One who sent Him _____
5. Jesus said the proof of the disciples' love for Him would be shown by how often they pray. _____
6. Jesus said that He spoke to the disciples using many parables and would continue doing so even after His resurrection. _____
7. The Holy Spirit (the Advocate) would testify about Jesus, not empower the disciples to testify. _____

KIDS' SECTION

The True Vine

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8.



"I am the _____
vine; you are the
branches. If a man
remains in me and
I in him, he will bear
much fruit; apart
from me you can
do nothing.

John 15:5 (NIV)

UTRIF						1
BNUR						3
BAER						2
FIER						4

1	2	3	4

Put the letters in the numbered squares in the same numbered square at the bottom of the puzzle to reveal the final answer.

Jumbled Word Clues

1. A sweet food that grows on a tree or a bush.
2. To destroy by fire
3. To produce fruit; it could also be a large brown animal
4. The light and heat produced by a flame.

KIDS' SECTION

After sharing the parable of the true vine, Jesus gives an important commandment to his disciples. What is that commandment?

Use the key to help fill in the blanks below.



KEY

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	K	L	M	N	O
4	P	Q	R	S	T
5	U	V	W	X	Y
6	Z	.	,	'	

EXAMPLE:

H	R	V	E
<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>15</u>

F	U	N
<u>21</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>34</u>

"This is my commandment..."

<u>45</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>15</u>
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

<u>11</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>15</u>
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

<u>32</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>62</u>
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

APRIL QUIZ ANSWERS:

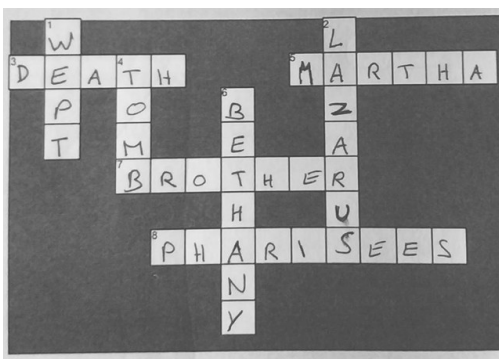
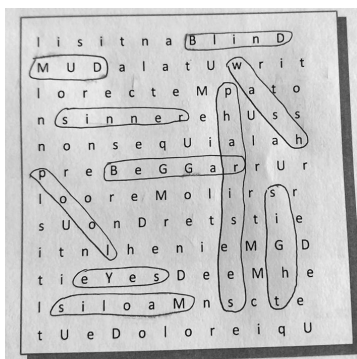
ANSWERS TO SECTION 1 - WHO SAID THIS?

1. The man born blind to Pharisees (John 9:25)
2. Jews to Jesus (Ref. John 10:24)
3. Caiaphas to People in Sanhedrin (Ref. John 11:49-51)
4. Jesus to Disciples (Ref. Zech 9:9)
5. Greeks to Philip (John 12:20,21)

ANSWERS TO SECTION 2 - CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER

1. b) "Jesus wept."
2. c) They took up stones to stone Him
3. c) Two days
4. a) They feared the Romans would take their power
5. c) He healed on the Sabbath
6. a) They were blinded and hardened in their hearts, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy
7. b) He is the only way to salvation
8. b) His death would bear much fruit, like a grain of wheat that dies to produce more grain
9. c) "I once was blind, but now I see."
10. c) To be the light and to save the world **or** b) To bring judgement

ANSWERS TO KID'S SECTION:



PARTICIPANTS WHO ANSWERED ALL CORRECT:

SECTION FOR ALL

1. Sharon Grace
2. John Christopher
3. Manohara Christopher
4. Shoba Rani
5. Shereen Theeba
6. Balakumaran
7. Jenish Prabhu

KIDS SECTION

1. Samuel Jedidiah
2. Faith Jebina S
3. Rhenius Paulfred S
4. Jordan Benjamin

Give as the Lord leads you

SRMC GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT

Sarjapur Road Methodist Church General Fund

Account Number: **0416053000018350**

IFSC Code: **SIBL0000416**

Bank: **SOUTH INDIAN BANK, KORAMANGALA**

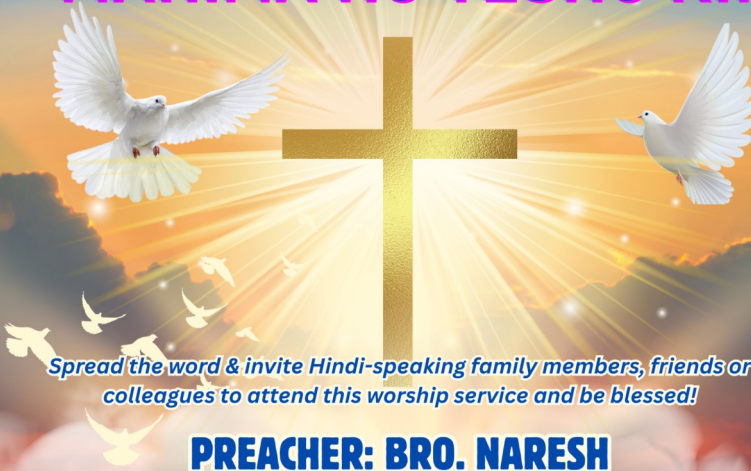
UPI ID: **SRMChurch@sib**



SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH



MAHIMA HO YESHU KI!



Spread the word & invite Hindi-speaking family members, friends or colleagues to attend this worship service and be blessed!

PREACHER: BRO. NARESH

MONTHLY HINDI WORSHIP

11 MAY 2025 | 7 PM



REACH OUT MAY 2025



THEME FOR THE MONTH **FROM GLORY TO POWER**

"Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory belongs to God in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time and eternity! Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21

P U L P I T C A L E N D A R

DATE	TOPIC	PREACHER
4 May	PEACE BE WITH YOU Scripture: John 20:19-22 <i>Holy Communion Sunday</i>	REV. HOSEA MATHEW
11 May	RESTORED BY GRACE Scripture: John 21:15-19 <i>Mother's Day</i>	REV. HOSEA MATHEW
18 May	WAITING WELL: BETWEEN PROMISE AND POWER Scripture: Luke 24:45-49/Acts 1:4-5	REV. HOSEA MATHEW
25 May	COMMISSIONED WITH A PROMISE Scripture: Acts 1:6-11 <i>Ascension Day - 29 May</i>	REV. HOSEA MATHEW

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
BESIDE ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY, KODATHI, BANGALORE - 560 035
W W W . S R M C . C H U R C H

for private circulation only