



Sunday 28th June 2020: Worship at Home

Welcome to this week's edition.

If you can get online join us

Sunday 10.30am	Sunday Worship
Sunday 12 noon	Youth Zoom (11+)
Sunday 4pm	Kidz Club (5 -12 years)
Monday 7pm	Bible study this evening
Tuesday 7pm	Getting ready to re-open our buildings ZOOM with Lt Col Dean Pallant and Major Mark Herbert. See Carl for details
Wednesday 7pm	Quiz night this evening
Saturday 9am	CTiR Prayer Breakfast
Saturday 4pm	Merge -Youth Zoom (14 years plus)

Call Carl on 07900497326 or email carl.whitewood@salvationarmy.org.uk for the ZOOM information. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>.

And you can **ring into Zoom by phone!** If you ring 02034815240, followed by 8651865167# then you will hear the meeting! Calls charged at normal UK rate.





Commissioner Jill Cotterill reminds us that unconditional love, hope, grace and forgiveness – it is the cross guides us home. She said:

Many years ago, as a little girl, I used to recite poems and one of them was based

on a true incident during the Second World War and it's about a little boy and his mum, who had to be evacuated and they ended up in a place called Banbury. Some of you will remember the nursery rhyme. 'Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross, to see a fine lady upon a white horse.' You know that nursery rhyme, I'm sure. The story is told that one day he got lost and The Salvation Army Captain, so the story says, found him and reassured him and was taking him home and suddenly he saw the cross and he suddenly realised he knew where he was and he said to the Captain: "It's okay. Now I can see the cross, I know my way home."

And I just wonder as we are thinking about that today, for anyone that is listening that is struggling, that feels a little bit lost in the circumstances that we find ourselves today, or perhaps you never really thought about what the cross means and Jesus and his death and his life and his resurrection. I'd just like to reassure you that there's always an opportunity for you to have a prayer if you so wish. You can contact us at The Salvation Army and you can contact your local church or your local corps. I'd be delighted to point you to that.

Watch on YouTube <https://youtu.be/1Pxo5hdaabc> or Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/432778271>

Maggie is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



Sunday on the BBC:

Sunday Worship – Radio 4 – 8.10am

Looking to the future hopefully, with John Bell of the Iona Community.

Sunday Worship – BBC 1 – 10.45am

I can't find a listing for this.....but why not join us instead!

Songs of Praise – BBC 1 – 13.15

Northern Ireland. Claire McCollum is on the north coast of her home of Northern Ireland looking back on memorable faith stories from across the region. Filmed before restrictions.

Birthdays

Sheila Wilcox 01-July

Jonah Barrett 04-July

Hayden Beerling 04-July

Maria Brown 05-July

Prayers please for

Please continue to pray for Val, Maurice, and Brenda , sister of Maurice, David and Al and those supporting bereaved friends and colleagues.

Gavin who lost his mum last Saturday, Sally's aunt Helen and also for Debbie Smith who is awaiting hospital treatment. Pray for Mo and Andy.

Pray for Kidz Club – that those who have not joined soon will.

Sincerest apologies to Ron for the printing error in last week's newsletter. I know many of you were upholding Ron in prayer as he remembered the loss of his dear wife Jean on 24 June 2019. We think of Paul's word in Romans 12:15 and "we mourn as Ron mourns" although we can never know the depth of someone's hurt.

COMMISSIONING 2020

MESSENGERS OF THE KINGDOM

SATURDAY 11TH JULY
2PM - LIVESTREAMED

<https://www.youtube.com/salvationarmyvideo>

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE

Led by Territorial Leaders Commissioners Anthony and Gillian Cotterill,
and Colonels Lee and Debbie Graves



Also available on:

www.facebook.com/wbc1929/

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General: Brian Peddle. Territorial Commander for the United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland: Commissioner Anthony Cotterill

Prayers at our hall



The hall will be open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between 10 am and 12 noon (other times by arrangement)

Please call or text to let us know you are coming (where necessary we may ask you to delay your visit to stop overcrowding)

Tables and chairs have been placed around the hall to ensure distancing

Prayer material will be available at each station – which you can use and then take away.

If you are in the high risk (shielded group) please talk to us before you plan to come and we will do our best to minimise contact risk.

Any question please call or text Carl on 07900497326

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A Coronavirus Prayer

Loving and healing God,
We turn to you in prayer,
confident that you are with us
and with all people in every moment.
We stand before you as a people of hope,
trusting in your care and protection.
May your faithful love support us
and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.
Amen

GUEST
CONTRIBUTOR
Jacqueline Freeston



On my heart

I lost my focus Lord, what could I do? The gap is too wide, so I guess we are through.

I am no longer clean, I lost sight of the cross, I am pulled by the media, totally lost...in gratification and every quick fix; all of my needs are met with one click.

I'd turn to find you but my phone's in the way, was that the light of an angel or just my screen save?

I cannot come, despite feeling your pull. Plus there's a need to take one more phone call.

I lost my focus, i no longer say Lord. For my worship is elsewhere and there is no rip cord. The gossip is calling, the drama is raw, the party is bitchin and I can get a quick score.

I am dancing and praising to all the wrong tunes. I am living and loving in Satan's shoes. My heads in the toilet, I am lost and alone... This is the darkness that leaks from my phone...drips from my tablet, toxic laptop...

Focus me Jesus the poison must stop.

And now I have found you, now I can see. Your words are my media and you carry me.

Now I am vibrant, a colourful song, I am following more clearly and in you I belong. I turn to your voice, it is all that i need. I am back at the cross, I am forgiven indeed.

I am back being held in the palm of your hand. I am carried, I am humble, for you understand. You found me and led me, you healed me again. Forever you're faithful, forever my friend.

So I am dancing and praising to a lifted up heart, my soul has been cleansed and my prayers play a part. I am living and loving with all those I see. Each person in Christ is my family.

And the darkness is light and the fear is no more For I had been knocking and I opened the door. And the father he pours a power through me,

And the son shows forgiveness for all eternity, and the toxic addictions from the daily treadmill have been erased by the spirit for she dances still.... To a song that is Jesus, a tune fit for a king and I am his child, forever praising.



You will see a picture of an eagle protecting her young

Turn it upside down and see who is protecting us in every way

Thank to Tracey for this

SAMUEL WYATT'S LIGHT HOUSE.

Designing a light house for the West Pier head became Wyatt's first task. In May 1794 work commenced on the light house. It had three argand lamps and reflectors. In the centre of its basement was a tide-well with a floating tide gauge, to denote by the light at night when there was ten feet of water or more in the harbour. Samuel Wyatt died in February 1807.



Ramsgate Harbour 1837.



The Quay at Ramsgate. 1828.

Thanks again to David Richards for this contribution.

Monday 29th June Just a Spark

James 3:1–6

“We’re in the library, and we can see the flames right outside!” She was scared. We could hear it in her voice. We know her voice—the voice of our daughter. At the same time we knew her college campus was the safest place for her and her almost 3,000 fellow students. The 2018 Woolsey Fire spread more quickly than anyone anticipated—most of all fire personnel. The record heat and dry conditions in the California canyon, along with the legendary Santa Ana winds, were all the rather small sparks needed to ultimately burn 97,000 acres, destroy more than 1,600 structures, and kill three people. In the photos taken after the fire was contained, the usual lush coastline resembled the barren surface of the moon.

In the book of James, the author names some small but powerful things: “bits [in] the mouths of horses” and the rudders of ships (3:3–4). And while familiar, these examples are somewhat removed from us. But then he names something a little closer to home, something small that every human being possesses—a tongue. And while this chapter is first directed specifically to teachers (v. 1), the application quickly spreads to each of us. The tongue, small as it is, can lead to disastrous results.

Our small tongues are powerful, but our big God is more powerful. His help on a daily basis provides the strength to rein in and guide our words.

Reflect & Pray

When was the last time your tongue got away from you? What will help you keep a tight rein on your words in God’s strength?

Jesus, I’ve been on the receiving end of words that burn. And my words have hurt others. Help me to keep a tight rein on my tongue.

Tuesday 30th June. Simply Ask

2 Kings 5:9–14

Her doctor said her detached retinas couldn't be repaired. But after living without sight for fifteen years—learning Braille, and using a cane and service dog—a Montana woman's life changed when her husband asked another eye doctor a simple question: could she be helped? The answer was yes. As the doctor discovered, the woman had a common eye condition, cataracts, which the doctor removed from her right eye. When the eye patch came off the next day, her vision was 20/20. A second surgery for her left eye met with equal success.

A simple question also changed the life of Naaman, a powerful military man with leprosy. But Naaman raged arrogantly at the prophet Elisha's instructions to "wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored" (2 Kings 5:10). Naaman's servants, however, asked the military leader a simple question: "If the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it?" (v. 13). Persuaded, Naaman washed "and his flesh was restored and became clean" (v. 14).

In our lives, sometimes we struggle with a problem because we won't ask God. Will You help? Should I go? Will You lead? He doesn't require complicated questions from us to help. "Before they call I will answer," God promised His people (Isaiah 65:24). So today, simply ask Him.

Reflect & Pray

How complex are your prayer requests? What life problem can you offer to God in a simple prayer?

Dear heavenly Father, when life feels complicated and difficult, thank You for Your promise to hear even my simple prayers.

Wednesday 1st July Navigating Life's Rapids

Psalm 32:5–11

“Everybody on the left, give me three strong forward strokes!” our white-water raft guide shouted. Those on the left dug in, pulling our raft away from a churning vortex. For several hours, we’d learned the importance of listening to our guide’s instructions. His steady voice enabled six people with little rafting experience to work together to plot the safest course down a raging river.

Life has its share of white-water rapids, doesn’t it? One moment, it’s smooth sailing. Then, in a flash, we’re paddling like mad to avoid suddenly swirling whirlpools. Those tense moments make us keenly aware of our need for a skilled guide, a trusted voice to help us navigate turbulent times.

In Psalm 32, God promises to be that voice: “I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go” (v. 8). Backing up, we see that confessing our sins (v. 5) and prayerfully seeking Him (v. 6) play a role in hearing Him too. Still, I take comfort in the fact that God promises, “I will counsel you with my loving eye on you” (v. 8), a reminder that His guidance flows from His love. Near the end of the chapter, the psalmist concludes, “The Lord’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts him” (v. 10). And as we trust Him, we can rest in His promise to guide us through life’s rockiest passages.

Reflect & Pray

What circumstances in your life right now feel like white-water rapids? How might you seek God’s guiding voice about how to respond?

Father, thank You for Your promise to be my Guide. Help me to seek You and listen to You as You direct the course of my life.

Thursday 2nd July. The Favourite

Genesis 37:2–4, 17–24

My husband's brother lives about 1,200 miles away in the mountains of Colorado. Despite the distance, Gerrits has always been a beloved family member because of his great sense of humour and kind heart. As long as I can remember, however, his siblings have good-naturedly joked about his favoured status in their mother's eyes. Several years ago, they even presented him with a T-shirt sporting the words, "I'm Mum's Favourite." While we all enjoyed the silliness of our siblings, true favouritism is no joking matter.

In Genesis 37, we read about Jacob who gave his son Joseph an ornate coat—an indication to his other children that Joseph was special (v. 3). Without a hint of subtlety, the coat's message shouted: "Joseph is my favourite son."

Displaying favouritism can be crippling in a family. Jacob's mother, Rebekah, had favoured him over her son Esau, leading to conflict between the two brothers (25:28). The dysfunction was perpetuated when Jacob favoured his wife Rachel (Joseph's mother) over his wife Leah, creating discord and heartache (29:30–31). No doubt this pattern was the unhealthy basis for Joseph's brothers to despise their younger brother, even plotting his murder (37:18).

When it comes to our relationships, we may sometimes find it tricky to be objective. But our goal must be to treat everyone without favouritism and to love every person in our life as our Father loves us (John 13:34).

Reflect & Pray

When have you struggled with showing favouritism? How is God helping you to treat everyone equally?

Loving God, as I interact with others help me to avoid showing unhealthy preferences. Help me to see others as You do and to treat everyone fairly and without favouritism.

Friday 3rd July Talking Bananas

Acts 11:19–26

Never give up. Be the reason someone smiles. You're amazing. It isn't where you came from—it's where you're going that counts. Some schoolchildren in Virginia Beach, Virginia, found these messages and more written on bananas in their lunchroom. Cafeteria manager Stacey Truman took the time to write the encouraging notes on the fruit, which the kids dubbed "talking bananas."

This caring outreach reminds me of Barnabas' heart for the "spiritual youngsters" in the ancient city of Antioch (Acts 11:22–24). Barnabas was famous for his ability to inspire people. Known as a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, he prompted the new believers to "remain true to the Lord with all their hearts" (v. 23). I imagine he spent time with those he wanted to help, saying things like: Keep praying. Trust the Lord. Stay close to God when life is hard.

New believers, like children, need loads of encouragement. They're full of potential. They're discovering what they're good at. They may not fully realize what God wants to do in and through them, and often the enemy works overtime to prevent their faith from flourishing.

Those of us who've walked with Jesus for a while understand how hard living for Jesus can be. May all of us be able to give and receive encouragement as God's Spirit guides us and reminds us of spiritual truth.

Reflect & Pray

How has God encouraged you in the past? How might God want to work through you to inspire someone?

Heavenly Father give me someone to encourage today. Show me what to say and how to meet this person's needs so that You will be glorified.

Saturday 4th July. The Kindness Man

Luke 7:11–17

Disillusioned and wanting a more meaningful life, Leon quit his job in finance. Then one day he saw a homeless man holding up this sign at a street corner: KINDNESS IS THE BEST MEDICINE. Leon says, “Those words rammed straight into me. It was an epiphany.”

Leon decided to begin his new life by creating an international organization to promote kindness. He travels around the world, relying on strangers to provide him with food, gas, and a place to stay. Then he rewards them, through his organization, with good deeds such as feeding orphans or building on to a school for underprivileged children. He says, “It’s sometimes seen as being soft. But kindness is a profound strength.”

Christ’s very essence as God is goodness, so kindness naturally flowed from Him. I love the story of what Jesus did when He came upon the funeral procession of a widow’s only son (Luke 7:11–17). The grieving woman most likely was dependent on her son for financial support. We don’t read in the story that anyone asked Jesus to intervene. Purely from the goodness of His nature (v. 13), He was concerned and brought her son back to life. The people said of Christ, “God has come to help his people” (v. 16).

Reflect & Pray

What kindnesses does Jesus pour out on you? List them and thank Him.

You, God, are always showering me with Your gifts of love. I praise You for caring for me..

From Major John Be Kind

I have been enjoying and being blessed watching the 'Thought for the Day' from St. Aldates Church. Oxford, in the mornings on You Tube. Different members of their ministry team lead the thought throughout the week. On Tuesday Simon Ponsonby one of their ordained priests was speaking about St. Aldates motto, 'Be true to Christ-Be kind to all-and take the Gospel to the nations.' He explained the motto had been taken directly from the Moravian Church. His message on Tuesday was relating to 'be kind to all' and he said 'If we are true to Christ then we will become like him and be kind. Jesus showed us how to be kind.'

Corrie Ten Boom took it further and said that Jesus 'was filled with tenderness'. Coincidentally I had been thinking recently about one of my favourite verses in the Song Book (verse 2 song 528) which dovetails in so well with the above theme.

Speaking of Jesus it says...

How tender his compassion,
How loving was his call,
How earnest his entreaty
To sinners one and all.
He wooed and won them to him
By love, and that is why
I long to be like Jesus
And meet him by and by.

'Be true to Christ-Be kind to all-and take the Gospel to the nations.'

Time to Smile

A monastery falls on hard times so decides to open a fish and chip shop. At the grand opening, the first customer comes up to the man in the habit

behind the counter and says, 'I suppose you are the fish friar!' 'No, replies the man, 'I'm the chip monk!'

A man goes to become a monk. He enters the monastery and the abbot tells him, 'Here we have a strict vow of silence. You are only allowed to say two words every seven years.'

The man agrees to take the vow. After seven years he goes to the abbot who indicates he can say his two words.

'Food cold' says the man.

The abbot nods. Another seven years pass by. The man is again invited by the abbot to say his two words.

'Bed hard' says the man.

The abbot nods and a further seven years pass by. Again the man comes in to see the abbot who indicates he may say his two words.

'I quit' says the man.

'Well' says the abbot, 'quite frankly I'm not surprised. You've done nothing but complain since you got here!'

An elderly lady goes to the gym and asks if she can join the aerobics class.

'Ooh, I don't know,' says the instructor. 'I'm not sure whether that's a very good idea.' He looks her up and down and asks, 'How flexible are you?' 'O very' replies the old lady. 'But I can't do Wednesday mornings.'

An elderly couple arrive at the airport just in time to catch their plane for their summer break. 'Do you know what?' says the old man. 'I wish I had brought the piano with us.' 'What on earth are you talking about' says his wife. 'Why on earth would you want to bring the piano with you?' 'Because' says the husband, 'I've left our tickets on top of it!'

Keeping Fit!

I exercise every day without fail. Up, down! Up, down! And then the other eyelid.

My doctor told me that jogging could add years on to my life. I think he was right. I feel ten years older already.

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was seventy. She's ninety today and we don't know where on earth she is!

Quiz

- 1.What does Anno Domini mean?
- 2.In which city is the area of Toxteth?
- 3.Which is Britain's most southerly point?
- 4.In which county is Stonehenge?
- 5.In which comic did Korky the Cat first appear?

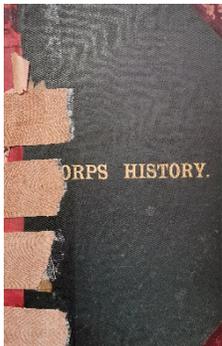
TV Times

- 1.In which fictional village was 'Heartbeat' set?
- 2.What did the ARP Warden call Mainwaring in 'Dad's Army'?
- 3.Which children's TV character lives in Pontypandy?
- 4.Which TV comedian began his show with a shop window illusion?
- 5.Which antiques auction show is hosted by Paul Martin?

What is the only English anagram of ANTAGONIST?

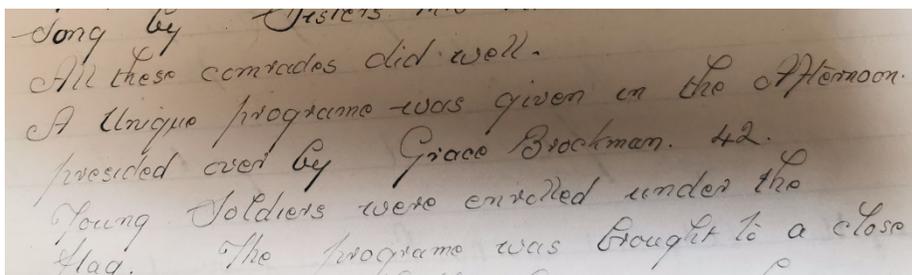
<p>Answers</p> <p>Quiz</p> <p>1.In the year of our Lord. 2.Liverpool. 3.Lizard point. 4.Wiltshire. 5.The Dandy.</p> <p>TV Times</p> <p>1.Aidensfield. 2.Napoleon. 3.Fireman Sam. 4.Harry Worth. 5.Flog it.</p> <p>The only English anagram of ANTAGONIST is STAGNATION.</p>

Hi everyone!



So this week, when going through our history book, I found a lovely piece from 13 and 14th April 1935, and a piece from the 19th April, and I thought you would all enjoy it.

It details our Mother's Day celebrations (which I'm sure we all agree is a wonderful occasion), and our Corps Leaders, Major and Mrs Aves, noted this was perhaps the finest ***Mother's Day Ramsgate had ever held***. The entire hall was decorated with spring flowers, and in 1935 popular spring flowers were gladiolus and dahlias. After the service was finished on this particular day, the flowers were distributed among the elderly and infirm folk who attended our Corps.

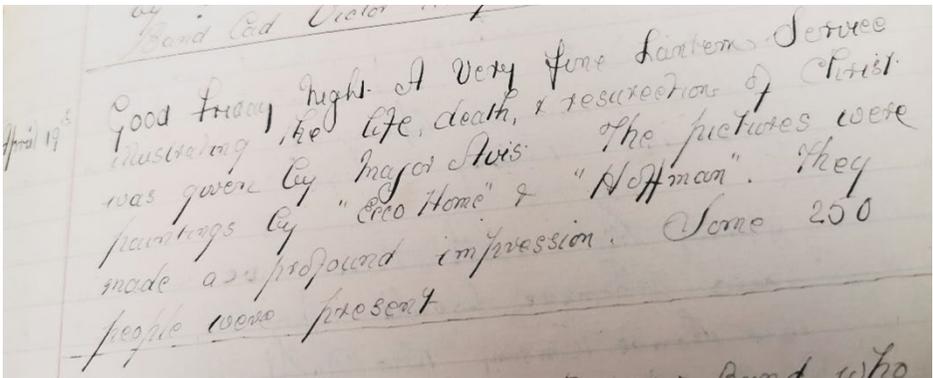


Several comrades at Ramsgate corps spoke at this Mother's Day event, and in the evening, songs were sung and the bandsmen performed. In fact, a duet was sung by two sisters, Mrs Mirams and Mrs E Kelston. Again, Major Aves notes down how well our comrades did.

I can also see how a unique programme was presented, which was presided over by Grace Brockman. It seems the evening event was another joyful event; a group of Young Soldiers were enrolled under the flag. The evening programme was ended by one of our young soldiers, Band Cadet Victor Tilley,

who was 13 years old. How fortunate that a young person had the Grace of God and His love and confidence to lead prayers and end our service!

I do want to mention the 19th April here, when a lantern service was held to illuminate the life, the death and the resurrection of our Lord. In times gone by, religious pictures were painted on to the lanterns that were released, and the pictures were illuminated by candle inside or behind the lamp so people understood the plight suffered by Jesus and his disciples. Major Aves led this service, and the paintings used as he spoke were "Ecco Home" and "Hoffman". These illuminations made a profound impression on all 250 people who were present... **Imagine, 250 souls who loved our Saviour and were there to remember Him.**



Many blessings to you all!

Our thanks to Hollie again for compiling this.

What staggered me was a single line that could almost be missed.

42 young soldiers were enrolled under the flag.

We pray to see such a revival in our time. God will you bless us again?

Worship at Home: Sunday 28th June



Song 353

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found,
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here.

2 Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
Our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

3 Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace.
No work too hard for him,

In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.
David J. Evans

Psalms 23 (Psalms Now)

The Lord is my constant companion.
There is no need that He cannot fulfil.
Whether His course for me points to the mountaintops of glorious joy
Or to the valleys of human suffering.
He is by my side. He is ever present with me.
He is close beside me when I tread the dark streets of danger,
and even when I flirt with death itself, He will not leave me.
When the pain is severe, He is near to comfort.
When the burden is heavy, He is there to lean upon.
When depression darkens my soul, He touches me with eternal joy.
When I feel empty and alone, He fills the aching vacuum with His power
My security is in His promise to be near me always
And in the knowledge that He will never let me go.
Leslie F Brandt

You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You

You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness, my God,
That is who You are

You are here, touching every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, healing every heart
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, turning lives around
I worship You, I worship You

You are here, mending every heart
I worship You, I worship You
That is who You are
Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working

Song 27

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.

2 Open thou the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream shall flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and Hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791), trs Peter Williams (1722-1796) (v 1) and others

Song 536

Heavenly Father, thou hast brought us
Safely to the present day,
Gently leading on our footsteps,
Watching o'er us all the way.
Friend and guide through life's long journey,
Grateful hearts to thee we bring;

But for love so true and changeless
How shall we fit praises sing?

2 Mercies new and never-failing
Brightly shine through all the past,
Watchful care and loving kindness,
Always near from first to last,
Tender love, divine protection
Ever with us day and night;
Blessings more than we can number
Strew the path with golden light.

3 Shadows deep have crossed our pathway;
We have trembled in the storm;
Clouds have gathered round so darkly
That we could not see thy form;
Yet thy love hath never left us
In our griefs alone to be,
And the help each gave the other
Was the strength that came from thee.

4 Many that we loved have left us,
Reaching first their journey's end;
Now they wait to give us welcome,
Brother, sister, child and friend.
When at last our journey's over,
And we pass away from sight,
Father, take us through the darkness
Into everlasting light.
Hester Periam Hawkins (1846-1928)

PRAYER TIME

Song 360

Faithful God, faithful God,
All sufficient one, I worship you.

Shalom my peace,
My strong Deliverer,
I lift you up, faithful God.
Chris Bowater

Eternal God,

We confess our sadness and our fears. We feel stuck, trapped inside, overwhelmed, helpless, and even hopeless. Help us to believe that our present does not control our future, that we can look forward and not just backward. Inspire us to look to you. Sustain us and keep us faithful
Almighty God,

In this moment we pray especially for those fighting on the front lines of the pandemic —our health care professionals. Shelter them from this virus and grant your healing mercies to those who are sick.

Help the government and key decision makers in our community and worldwide know the best way to ensure that we all remain protected and as safe as possible.

Faithful Father,

sustain us in this time when things we cannot control seem to dominate our lives. Father help us to trust in you and to recognise that the virus and the fears it creates are NOT in control and never will be. We acknowledge Father God, that you are far greater than this. We ask for you to reign in our life and over our world. Give us more faith and courage to trust in you every step we take. Make us strong.

For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

Chorus by Lieutenant Colonel Norman Bearcroft

Song 235

Able to save, able to keep,

Yes, my Lord is able.

Giving me grace, giving me power,

Yes, my Lord is able.

He has turned the darkest night to day,

That's the reason I can say:
He's able to save, able to keep
Is Christ, my Saviour.
Norman Bearcroft

Bible Reading: 1 Kings 16: 29 – 1 Kings 17:10

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

*Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call,
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh,
And these are the days of Your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in Your world,
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the word of the Lord!

There's no God like Jehovah.
Robin Mark

HOW TO LIVE SECURELY IN AN INSECURE WORLD

Lessons from Elijah

This week we begin a new series looking at Elijah, an ordinary guy who encountered an extraordinary God and became known as one of the greatest

Old Testament prophets. We read of him in the New Testament standing on the Mount of Transfiguration side by side with Moses.

Matthew 17: 1-3

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

James refers to Elijah as an example of the power of prayer when it is prayed by a righteous man.

James 5:17-18

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Who is Elijah?

He suddenly appears on the scene in Israel during the reign of Ahab introduced simply in 1 Kings 17:1 as:

“Elijah the Tishbite. That is, Elijah is from Tishbe in Gilead.”

His name is a combination of two names for God, Elohim and Yahweh (or Jehovah) and could be translated “Yahweh is God.” What brave parents to name him this in a time where people who worshipped the Lord in this now Godless land had to worship in secret.

He is described in 2 Kings 1:8 as a man who “wore a garment of hair with a belt of leather about his waist” and according to Zech. 13:4, this kind of clothing was typical of the clothing worn by a prophet.

As we study the story of Elijah over the next few weeks, we will discover that he is a man of great courage, great faith, a man of prayer but also a person just like us that sometimes fails and shows weakness.

1 Kings 16 Ahab becomes king of Israel

²⁹ *In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel for twenty-two years. ³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. ³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. ³³ Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him.*

³⁴ *In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken by Joshua son of Nun.*

Elijah appears during the time of the divided kingdom of Israel. After the death of King Solomon in 931BC the nation of Israel became divided and never healed. It is 56 years after the death of Solomon and there has been a series of bad Kings. King Ahab is no different, in fact, we read that he was the most wicked king to reign in Israel up to that point. (1 Kings 16:29-33).

³⁰*Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him*

Ahab was godless. He had set up an altar to his wife's god Baal in the temple to Baal and, we read, God was very angry with him.

³³*Ahab did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him.*

King Ahab was greatly feared by everyone. (1 Kings 18:3). They feared for their lives.

So into this very insecure and dangerous place, God placed Elijah.

What can we learn from Elijah from this passage about how to live securely in an insecure world.

1 Kings 17 Elijah announces a great drought

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.'

BE COURAGEOUS

Elijah is a man of great courage. Elijah boldly faces this wicked and godless tyrant and announces that God is about to punish Israel by sending a drought. (1 Kings 17:1).

Why a drought?

The drought actually was to attest the god Baal, who the nation were now worshipping; Baal was the god of rain!

Later in the book of Kings (1 Kings 18:18) we will see Elijah taking even braver steps: standing before the king and condemning his sinfulness, pronouncing his death 1 Kings 21:20-24. God gave Elijah amazing boldness.

I pray that we can all seek that spirit of boldness that Elijah shows here and throughout his life.

HAVE FAITH: TRUST AND OBEY

Elijah is a man of great faith. This is why he is so courageous.

We know this because:

- he obeyed God (1 Kings 17:2)
- he trusted God to care for him throughout his life

Immediately, after Elijah announces the drought God gives Elijah some instructions....

1 Kings 17: Elijah fed by ravens

² Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ 'Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have instructed the ravens to supply you with food there.'

⁵ So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Note verse 5: *'So he went and did according to the word of the Lord.'*(ESV)

'He went and did it.'

Elijah obeys God.

I pray that when God asks us to do something or go somewhere, we will do it.

Later we see that this was for Elijah's own protection that he had to hide from Ahab. The Bible doesn't tell us how Ahab responded to Elijah's message. But we do know that when things started to dry up Ahab sent men out to search for Elijah but were unable to find him, which of course is why God had sent him to hide..

Elijah trusted in God to look after him and God did.

He not only cared about Elijah's safety, but provided food for him to eat from the ravens. Incidentally, ravens are scavengers so don't even share their food with each other! God can be very creative in providing for us too.

Initially God provided water to drink in the Brook but what happened when that dried up....?

1 Kings 17 Elijah and the widow at Zarephath

⁷Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹'Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have instructed a widow there to supply you with food.'

God had another plan. When one door closes (the brook dried up), it is usually because God is about to open another door in our lives. God was relocating Elijah so that he could be the answer to someone else's prayer and need for provision. The relocation. However, was not an easy one. Zarephath was a difficult journey, about 100 miles, it was out of Israel. It was ruled by King Ahab's father-in-law, it was the heart of Baal worship and a widow was sure to be poor! **Yet Elijah trusted and obeyed God.**

None of us are not exempt from hardship and periods of drought but if we obey God we can trust in God for our safety, to provide for all our needs and that he has a plan.

I ask God to give us more faith to trust and obey

PRAY

Elijah was a man of prayer

James 5: 17-18

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Elijah's prayers and obedience to God put him in difficult positions. In front of a wicked king, in a place without food, without water, in fear of his life but he remains in continual dialogue with God. 'The word of the Lord came to him...

I pray that we are receptive to hearing from God

This pandemic may have caused a drought literally for some people whose work has dried up, whose jobs have gone, who are struggling financially....who are struggling with loneliness and fear.

It may have also caused a spiritual drought as churches are closed, people unable to worship together. In fact, some of us may be in the middle of a spiritual drought.

How do we know? These are some of the signs of spiritual drought.

- We do not feel as close to God as we used to,
- When we pray it does not seem that our prayers are heard.
- It has been a while since we felt God's presence with us.
- When we try to read the Bible, we cannot concentrate.
- We find it hard to worship because we do not feel anything.
- God seems far away

- We wonder whether God really cares about us and what we are going through.

Remember God was with Elijah through the drought. He spoke to Elijah. He provided all he needed. He kept him safe. God had a plan and guided Elijah. This is true for us.

Elijah was just a normal man, James tells us, yet through obeying and trusting his incredible God, Elijah was used incredibly powerfully. I can't wait to read on because this story will get more and more exciting as the weeks go on.

I pray that we are available for God to use us powerfully for his Kingdom Work.

How does this happen?

- **Elijah was a Man of Prayer: KEEP PRAYING. Prayer is powerful**

It is prayer that leads to an end to the drought. Later we see that Elijah's prayers raises the dead and brings fire down from heaven.

- **Elijah was a Man of Faith: KEEP TRUSTING IN GOD.** Hold onto the Promises of God found in the Bible.

Allow God to minister, strengthen, feed you as you study his word.

BE OBEDIENT to his leadings. **TRUST** in his incredible plans

- **Elijah was a Man of Courage: STEP OUT IN FAITH – BE BOLD.**

The powerful Holy spirit is within us.

Two further things to remember:

- **Remember Elijah was just human like us** 'Elijah was a human being, even as we are' and he didn't always get it right. He had weaknesses like us which will discover. At one point 1 Kings 19:3 *Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.* God is with us in times of weakness and doubt.
- **Periods of suffering and spiritual droughts are usually temporary.** If you are experiencing a drought period keep trusting in God, he is with you and seek strength and courage from the Holy Spirit. Keep seeking his will through prayer and study of his word. Remember God has a bigger plan

Song 601

Lord, I come to you,
Let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I found in you.
And Lord, I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away by the power of your love.

*Hold me close,
Let your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,
And I will soar with you,
Your Spirit leads me on in the power of your love.*

2 Lord, unveil my eyes,
Let me see you face to face,
The knowledge of your love as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind
As your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day in the power of your love.
Geoff Bullock

Song 690

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of his word,
What a glory he sheds on our way;
While we do his good will,
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

2 Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But his smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt nor a fear,

Not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

3 Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss,
Not a frown nor a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

4 But we never can prove
The delights of his love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favour he shows,
And the joy he bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

5 Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at his feet,
Or we'll walk by his side in the way;
What he says we will do,
Where he sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

John Henry Sammis (1846-1919)

Benediction

<p>Song 689</p> <p>When we cannot see our way Let us trust and still obey; He who bids us forward go Cannot fail the way to show.</p> <p>2 Though the sea be deep and wide, Though a passage seem denied, Fearless let us still proceed, Since the Lord vouchsafes to lead.</p>	<p>4 Night with him is never night, Where he is, there all is light; When he calls us, why delay? They are happy who obey.</p> <p>5 Be it ours, then, while we're here, Him to follow without fear, Where he calls us, there to go, What he bids us, that to do.</p> <p><i>Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)</i></p>
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Bible Arrow Word II

Cognition Hostility	↖	Lass Household help	↖	Kind	↖	Big cat	↖	Night vision	↖	Start to untie	↖
↳		↓				Hebrew prophet Instrument	↳	↓			
Paddie	↳			Needy Tribe	↳					Cloud	
Natural area	↳			↓						↓	
↳			Plus			No vote		Wonder	↳		
Archaic Garden	↳	Prophetess	↳			↓		Sixth-day creation Duty	↳		
↳				Tiny worker Feasted	↳			↓		Reason to be cast out	Scout
Affirmative		Dawn to dusk Grow old	↳				Charity Make good	↳		↓	
↳		↓	Son of Peleg			Chopping tool	↳				King of Judah
Leg joint	Magnificent Also not	↳	↓						Wages	↳	
↳	↓			Celebration		Yours and mine Tyrant	↳				Relatives
Period in history		Atop Triumphant cry	↳	↓		↓			Acorn tree	↳	
↳		↓	Solomon import	↳					God's domain		Unruly crowd
Grazing ground	David's instrument Cried out	↳					Song of praise	↳			
↳	↓		Lawful Harvest	↳					Sea bottom		Limb
Pain		Grain Edge	↳	↓				Biblical father	↳		↓
↳	↓			Rescue	↳						Unlocked
Jumps	↳						Old Testament realm Acts	↳			↓
↳				Possess Dread	↳		↓		Confident		Includes
Light		Female sheep	Back again	↳					Ocean	↳	↓
↳	↓										
Assyrian foe	↳					Circular	↳				
↳			Old Testament boat	↳					Blood colour	↳	
Israelite Forest creature	↳					Beginnings	↳				

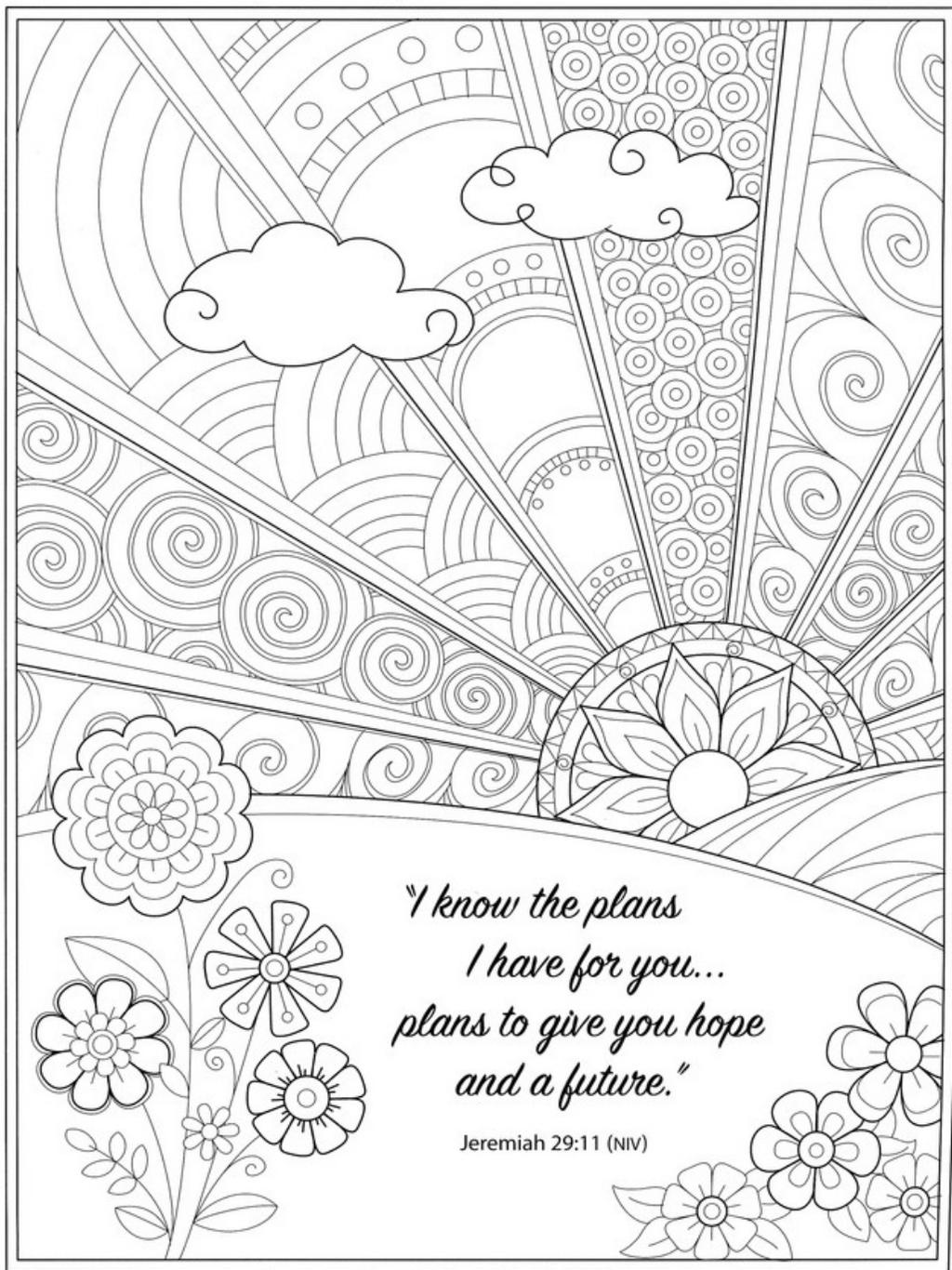
Elijah (1 Kings 16: 29 -17:10)



AHAB
ASHERAH POLE
BAAL
BREAD
BROOK
DROUGHT
ELIJAH

GILEAD
ISRAEL
JEZEBEL
KERITH RAVINE
KINGS
LORD
MEAT

OMRI
RAVENS
RIVER JORDAN
TISHBITE
WIDOW
ZAREPHATH



*"I know the plans
I have for you...
plans to give you hope
and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)