



Sunday 26th July 2020: Worship at Home

Welcome to this week's edition.

If you can get online join us

Sunday 10.30am	ZOOM Sunday Worship
Sunday 12 noon	ZOOM Youth (11+)
Sunday 4pm	ZOOM Kidz Club (5 -12 years)
Tuesday 7pm	ZOOM Bible study
Wednesday 7pm	ZOOM Quiz
Saturday 9am	Churches Together Prayers by ZOOM
TBC	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>. Log -in 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 the normal UK rate.

Holiday

We are acutely aware that for most of you the possibility of holiday is an unreachable dream at the moment. Yet we (Carl and Heather) know that we need to take some time away to recharge and to reflect on these last months.



So we will be away for some days during August.

During this time the hall will be closed and we will not operate food bank, homeless breakfast, prayer space or be available to offer practical and pastoral support. We also want to ensure that the volunteers who have supported us during the pandemic have time to rest.

Sunday 9 th August	Carl and Heather
Sunday 16 th August	Guest
23 rd August	Carl and Heather
30 th August	Guest

The church at home newsletter will not be published every week during August.



Listen again to your favourite Salvation Army melodies on Fortress Radio. **Every day** from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm we broadcast Salvation Army. Check out the

schedules for more details.

<https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>



"Clear lots of ground for your tents! Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. Isaiah 54:2

Will you read this verse and pray this prayer regularly?

The God of heaven Himself will help us succeed; therefore, we will arise and build! We will trust His Word and believe in the Sovereign Lord who always keeps His promises. Nehemiah 2:20

Father, we thank You for Your faithful love for us that never ends and Your mercy which never ceases. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lord, You are God. You created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. You made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. You are the Lord and there is no other. You publicly proclaim bold promises; You do not whisper obscurities in dark corners. We thank You for giving us the vision to build. We pray for the permission and the resources for us to build. Thank You, Father, for being a wall of fire and protection around our corps, our families and our community and all those involved in the planning of this new building.

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 Great is Thy Faithfulness

A service preparing for a "Virtually Keswick" Convention. The theme is hope – at this time of great uncertainty, in the midst of a global pandemic, there is hope in Jesus Christ.

Songs of Praise – BBC 1 – 13.15 - Crosby Beach

The Rev Kate Bottley visits Crosby Beach to meet Christian artists inspired by Antony Gormley's striking iron statues that have stared out to sea for 15 years.

Birthdays

Steve Noonan	28 th July
Gay Boyden	1 st -Aug
Leanne Gomm	1 st -Aug

Prayers please for

Please continue to pray for Maurice who remains unwell. Pray he will know God's peace at this very challenging time.

Continue to remember Val, David and Al.

For Tom – much better – praise God

Sally's aunt Helen has her operation on Monday and also for Debbie Smith recovering with family after her hospital treatment.

Muriel goes into isolation in preparation for her operation later in August.

Hazel's son Paul has entered isolation before his treatment at QEQM

For Ellis – Doreen's nephew. This has been a better week for him – thanks God. Pray for a new healing.

Phillip Coles has been unwell this week.

Officers and their families settling into their new appointments – especially Ian and Keeley with Niamh and Matthew and Glenn and Sharen with Bethany and Luke.

Prayers for Madeleine and Bernard who attend Maidstone Salvation Army, for themselves, their daughter Marie and grandson Steven.

Steven is 20 and has been battling leukaemia for many years. His latest battle is not going so well and urgent prayers are requested for a miracle of healing.



Prayers for the appointment of the new winter shelter manager. The applications close today – we will short list and interview in the next

weeks. Pray for wisdom and guidance.

Prayers for the provision of shelter for this coming winter.

The government have said the dormitory style accommodation (i.e. church floors) will not be acceptable during the Covid pandemic.

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 ensure there is no one else in the hall.

Any question please call or text Carl on 07900497326

GUEST
CONTRIBUTOR



We return to the guest contributor next week.....



For this week we look at two stories following the Elijah challenge we offered to you.

Where in your life have you seen the oil and flour being replenished by God? Where has God's guiding been clear?

The majority of you know that I re-commenced selling the War Cry's in the town of Ramsgate on Friday, 10th July. Due to a lack of Salvation Army presence in the town over the last three months, I decided to include Saturdays for the time being in an attempt to raise at least £100 per week for the Corps Community Work. I have to confess that I was a little apprehensive leaving home on that first morning, thinking it may be a bit too soon to be out on the streets with crowds of people shopping.

However, I was pleasantly surprised! No market stalls, which leaves so much more space for those shoppers, and room for me to stand with a table in front of me to hold the War Cry's, the Kid's Alive, and the S/Army Box. Also, with a transparent shield for my face, and my rubber gloves, I felt very safe!

The first weekend, I was £3.54 short of achieving my goal, so it was no hardship for me to add that to the amount collected. It was quite

amazing that I recognised only one person on the 'Friday' out of all the regulars that had bought papers in the past. All new faces, and quite a lot looking, and wondering who on earth I was, and what I was doing there. There were quite a lot of people out shopping on the Friday, but Saturday was very quiet! However, I have never, so far, seen so many people wearing 'masks' throughout lockdown, as I have seen in the town of Ramsgate, so well-done people of Ramsgate, I applaud you!

This last weekend, Friday was, as usual a good morning. Quite a lot of people out and about, and thanks to the generosity of everyone who donated, I collected £62.99p. When I arrived on the Saturday at 10.am, the High Street was empty! I think it must be the 'lying in' day for most people! As usual, when I'm doing the 'War Cry Ministry' I talk to the Lord! "Please Lord" I prayed, "If I am to raise £100 for the Corps, I need to get £37. 01p today". Then I start to sing 'In Thee O Lord, Do I Put My Trust'. I hadn't been standing very long, in fact I could have counted the number of people on the street, when I was approached by a man, and presumably his wife, who were making their way up the High Street, and walked straight towards the table. With a smile from both of them, They handed me (rather than put in the box) what I thought was a £20 note. I was so 'taken aback' I said "thank you very much indeed" and obviously went to put it into the tin, but as I did so, I noticed that there were two £20 notes, and £10's as well. I was about to call them back, but they had turned around to head back down the High Street, and were too far away from me. I was baffled that so much money should be given to me without explaining the reason why. I just had to put it into the tin, not knowing how much altogether there was, and once again turned to the Lord. "Who are they Lord? Is this a special donation? Please bring them my way next week, I feel so awful, allowing them to walk away like that" I continued to talk to the Lord, thanking him for blessing the Army in this way, and explaining that if I didn't see another soul all morning, I felt obliged to stay the two hours that I had come for, when he had encouraged me in this way! Certainly, had I not been on the High Street, that money may not have

come our way! It was much busier from 11 - 12 o'clock, and then Chris turned up to take down the table and take me home.

During the afternoon, I gathered the unsold papers together, and emptied the collecting box. There was £100 in that donation of rolled up notes! In addition to that, there was £37.50p. How good and faithful is our God! Please pray for this Ministry.

Mavis Blyth

.....

In September last year I made the decision to become self-employed as a social worker as I had this strong calling from God to share the skills and knowledge I had gained from fostering with local families who would benefit from understanding their trauma and learning ways to improve theirs and their children's wellbeing.

I had to give 2 months notice and in November 2019 when I left I had no idea how the vision in my heart would come to pass or where to start! At that exact moment, God opened up this incredible opportunity which up until then I knew nothing about!

It was to become part of the Kent and Medway ACE ambassador programme, becoming part of a network supporting families impacted by trauma. God has used this opportunity to help me form partnerships including the one with Jacqueline and the Salvation Army to run ACE overcomers and two other partnerships, The Corner community centre in Ramsgate and Angel Lane, based in Tonbridge. God has blessed me by providing exactly what I need every step of the way, often from unexpected sources.

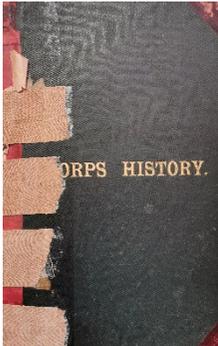
It is a huge step out of my comfort zone and there is still much to learn. I am still relying on God each day to direct my path and meet my family's needs but I am so glad I chose to step out and excited to see what else God will do!

Answers

Quiz
1. Geology. 2. Blue Whale. 3. Benjamin Britten 4. Monument.
5. Daley Thompson.

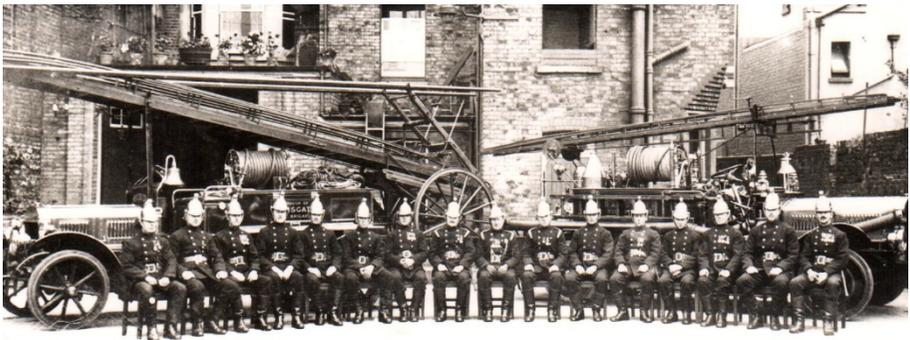
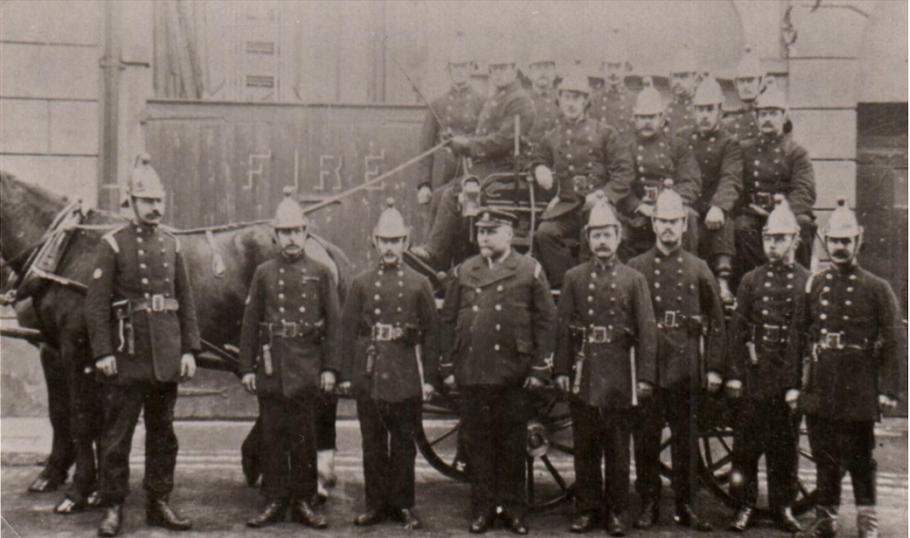
Books
1. Oxford. 2. Black Beauty. 3. John Le Carré. 4. Simonon. 5. Alan
Titchmarsh.

The only English anagram of CONSUMERIST is **MISCONSTRUE**.



Our look at the past continues next week.

The fire brigade in Ramsgate was formed in the nineteenth century operating for the fire station in York Street, near the old police station. The Effingham Street Fire Station was opened in 1905. About 2 years ago a new fire station opened by Newington Bridge. In 1915 Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, the first lady mayor of Ramsgate presented a motorised engine called "Lord Winterstoke" to the town. Later she donated a second one named Dame Janet.



1885 Engine House, York Street

Captain West, Engineer F.W Conion, Foreman J Galloway, Ten Fireman, Two Turncock Engines, One manual hydrant barrow, Two fire escapes, one at Engine House and one at St Lawrence Fire Station

Thanks again to David Richards for this contribution.

Monday 27th July Cultivating God's World

Genesis 2:15

“Dad, why do you have to go to work?” The question from my young daughter was motivated by her desire to play with me. I would have preferred to skip work and spend time with her, but there was a growing list of things at work that required my attention. The question, nevertheless, is a good one. Why do we work? Is it simply to provide for ourselves and for the people we love? What about labor that's unpaid—why do we do that?

Genesis 2 tells us that God placed the first human in the garden to “work it and take care of it” (v. 15). My father-in-law is a farmer, and he often tells me he farms for the sheer love of land and livestock. That's beautiful, but it leaves lingering questions for those who don't love their work. Why did God put us in a particular place with a particular assignment?

Genesis 1 gives us the answer. We're made in God's image to carefully steward the world He made (v. 26). Pagan stories of the way the world began reveal “gods” making humans to be their slaves. Genesis declares that the one true God made humans to be His representatives—to steward what He'd made on His behalf. May we reflect His wise and loving order into the world. Work is a call to cultivate God's world for His glory.

Reflect & Pray

What's the work God has given you to do? How could you cultivate this “field” by bringing order into it and bringing good from it, by His grace?

Dear God, thank You for the honour of joining You in Your work in the world. Help me to reflect Your love, wisdom, and order in my life and in the place where I work.

Tuesday 28th July. Trusting God in Times of Sorrow

2 Timothy 1:6–12

When a man known as “Papa John” learned he had terminal cancer, he and his wife, Carol, sensed God calling them to share their illness journey online. Believing that God would minister through their vulnerability, they posted their moments of joy and their sorrow and pain for two years.

When Carol wrote that her husband “went into the outstretched arms of Jesus,” hundreds of people responded, with many thanking Carol for their openness. One person remarked that hearing about dying from a Christian point of view was healthy, for “we all have to die” someday. Another said that although she’d never met the couple personally, she couldn’t express how much encouragement she’d received through their witness of trusting God.

Although Papa John sometimes felt excruciating pain, he and Carol shared their story so they could demonstrate how God upheld them. They knew their testimony would bear fruit for God, echoing what Paul wrote to Timothy when he suffered: “I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

God can use even the death of a loved one to strengthen our faith in Him (and the faith of others) through the grace we receive in Christ Jesus (v. 9). If you’re experiencing anguish and difficulty, know that He can bring comfort and peace.

Reflect & Pray

How have you experienced God’s joy even in times of deep sorrow? How do you explain this? How could you share what you learned with others?

Heavenly Father, fan into flame the gift of faith in me, that I might share with love and power my testimony of how You work in my life.

Wednesday 29th July Grace Outside the Box

2 Samuel 9:1–7

Tom worked for a law firm that advised Bob’s company. They became friends—until Tom embezzled thousands of dollars from the company. Bob was hurt and angry when he found out, but he received wise counsel from his vice president, a believer in Christ. The VP noticed Tom was deeply ashamed and repentant, and he advised Bob to drop the charges and hire Tom. “Pay him a modest salary so he can make restitution. You’ll never have a more grateful, loyal employee.” Bob did, and Tom was.

Mephibosheth, grandson of King Saul, hadn’t done anything wrong, but he was in a tough spot when David became king. Most kings killed the royal bloodline. But David loved King Saul’s son Jonathan, and treated his surviving son as his own (see 2 Samuel 9:1–13). His grace won a friend for life. Mephibosheth marveled that he “deserved nothing but death from my lord the king, but you gave your servant a place” (19:28). He remained loyal to David, even when David’s son Absalom chased David from Jerusalem (2 Samuel 16:1–4; 19:24–30).

Do you want a loyal friend for life? Someone so extraordinary may require you to do something extraordinary. When common sense says punish, choose grace. Hold them accountable, but give the undeserving a chance to make things right. You may never find a more grateful, devoted friend. Think outside the box, with grace.

Reflect & Pray

Who has sinned against you? How might you hold them accountable while also forgiving them?

Father, I’ve received extraordinary grace from You. Help me show that grace to others—especially to those with a repentant spirit.

Thursday 30th July. Touch the Needy

Luke 13:10–17

It wasn't surprising when Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize. True to form, she received the award "in the name of the hungry, of the naked, of the homeless, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society." Those were the people she ministered to for most of her life.

Jesus modelled how to care for and love the marginalized, regardless of circumstances. Unlike the synagogue leaders who respected the Sabbath law more than the sick (Luke 13:14), when Jesus saw an ill woman at the temple, He was moved with compassion. He looked beyond the physical impairment and saw God's beautiful creation in bondage. He called her to Him and said she was healed. Then He "put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God" (v. 13). By touching her, He upset the leader of the synagogue because it was the Sabbath. Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath (Luke 6:5), compassionately chose to heal the woman—a person who had faced discomfort and humiliation for nearly two decades.

I wonder how often we see someone as underserving of our compassion. Or maybe we've experienced rejection because we didn't meet somebody else's standard. May we not be like the religious elite who cared more about rules than fellow humans. Instead, let's follow Jesus' example and treat others with compassion, love, and dignity.

Reflect & Pray

How have you experienced God's healing and touch? Who can you show compassion to this week?

Jesus, thank You for Your infinite love and incredible compassion for all humans, including those marred by disease and difficulties.

Friday 31st July Shining Light

Matthew 5:13–16

I felt nervous about a five-week prayer class I agreed to teach at a local church. Would the students like it? Would they like me? My anxiety was ill-focused, leading me to over-prepare lesson plans, presentation slides, and class handouts. Yet with a week to go, I still hadn't encouraged many people to attend.

In prayer, however, I was reminded that the class was a service that shined light on God. Because the Holy Spirit would use the class to point people to our heavenly Father, I could set aside my nervousness about public speaking. When Jesus taught His disciples in His Sermon on the Mount, He told them, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house" (Matthew 5:14–15).

Reading those words, I finally sent out a class announcement on social media. Almost immediately, people started registering—expressing gratitude and excitement. Seeing their reactions, I reflected more on Jesus' teaching: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (v. 16).

With that perspective, I taught the class with joy. I pray that my simple deed becomes a beacon and encourages others to shine their light for God as well.

Reflect & Pray

When have you felt nervous or self-conscious about sharing your deeds and gifts for God? How can your deeds and gifts help others, and what are ways you can share them?

Jesus, empower me to let my God-given light shine so others can see and glorify You.

Saturday 1 August. A Divine Duet

John 15:1–11

At a children’s music recital, I watched a teacher and student seat themselves in front of a piano. Before their duet began, the teacher leaned over and whispered some last-minute instructions. As music flowed from the instrument, I noticed that the student played a simple melody while the teacher’s accompaniment added depth and richness to the song. Near the end of the piece, the teacher nodded his approval.

Our life in Jesus is much more like a duet than a solo performance. Sometimes, though, I forget that He’s “sitting next to me,” and it’s only by His power and guidance that I can “play” at all. I try to hit all the right notes on my own—to obey God in my own strength, but this usually ends up seeming fake and hollow. I try to handle problems with my limited ability, but the result is often discord with others.

My Teacher’s presence makes all the difference. When I rely on Jesus to help me, I find my life is more honouring to God. I serve joyfully, love freely, and am amazed as God blesses my relationships. It’s like Jesus told His first disciples, “If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Each day we play a duet with our good Teacher—it’s His grace and power that carry the melody of our spiritual lives.

Reflect & Pray

Why do you sometimes resist the help and encouragement God offers? How could reliance on Him change your outlook and your actions in certain situations?

Dear God, help me to remember that You’re with me in every moment. I welcome Your influence and instruction today. Thank You for Your nearness.

From Major John Breathe on me.

Jesus stand among us in thy risen power;
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

Thus with quickened footsteps we'll pursue our way'
Looking for the dawning of eternal day.

I have used the words of song 339 (SASB) above, as a call to worship or a prayer before a meeting. In particular I love the second verse inviting the Holy Spirit to 'breathe into every heart.'

In John 20 verses 19-22, We see the disciples locked away for fear of the Jewish religious leaders, when the resurrected Jesus appears to them. Twice Jesus says to his disciples, 'Peace be with you'. After the second time Jesus adds, 'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you' And with that **he breathed on them** and said 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

For many over the last few months it might seem like we have been locked away, especially those who are shielding and there might have been fears about the pandemic and a sense of sorrow at not being able to be close to loved ones and friends. I pray that perhaps as you read through the verses of the song, making it a prayer, the Holy Spirit will breathe his peace into your hearts, and as the words say take away the fears and the sorrow, and give you his peace. Amen.

Time to smile

After a morning walk in the woods, the three bears returned to the kitchen to see if their breakfast had cooled down.

'Someone's eaten my porridge!' cried baby bear.

'And someone's eaten my porridge!' Said mother bear.

'Never mind the porridge!' said father bear. 'Where's the flat screen TV and the laptop?'

'I'm not feeling well,' says a patient to his doctor. 'Do you think it might be my diet?' 'What have you been eating?' asks the doctor. 'Snooker balls,' replies the man. 'I have two reds for breakfast, three blues for lunch. And five

browns, and a pink for dinner.’ ‘I think I see what the problem is,’ replies the doctor. ‘You’re not eating enough greens.’

A passenger on a luxury cruise received an invitation to dine at the captain’s table. ‘Look at this!’ he complained to his wife. ‘We’ve paid top money for this cruise and now we’re expected to eat with the crew!’

A Scotsman returned from a holiday in London and was asked how he had got on. ‘Fine!’ he said. ‘It’s a bonny place and nae mistake! The only trouble was they coudna understand my accent.’

‘Accent?’ said his friend. ‘I’ve known you for years, Angus, and I didna ken you had an accent!’

Quiz

- 1.What is the study of rocks and rock formation?
- 2.What is the world’s largest animal by weight?
- 3.Which British musician and poet wrote the opera Peter Grimes?
- 4.What tourist attraction commemorates the Great Fire of London in1666!
- 5.Which British decathlete won gold medals in both the 1980 and 1984 Olympics?

Books

- 1.In which university city is the Bodleian Library?
- 2.Which children’s classic was written to encourage adults to be kinder to horses?
- 3.Who created George Smiley?
- 4.Which Georges wrote over a hundred novels featuring Jules Maigret?
- 5.Which TV personality and gardening expert wrote “Nobbut a Lad”?

What is the only English anagram of CONSUMERIST?



My Covid Memories

Next week your newsletter will include a Covid Memories Card which we encourage everyone to complete

We would like to create a memories book of how this time has affected us and where we have seen God at work in this dark time.

It will help us in the future see how God has protected and provided and be an encouragement and blessing. Thank you.

Worship at home July 2020

Song 400

We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.
Geron Davis

Wherever you are, you are on holy ground. As you worship today make the space a holy space. Come into the presence of God. Invite him in.

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

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you

Jesus the name above every other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you, we live for you

*Holy, there is no one like you
There is none besides you
Open up my eyes in wonder
Show me who you are*

*Fill me with your heart and
Lead me in your love to those around me
I will build my life upon your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in your alone
And I will not be shaken*

Heavenly Father,
You are the creator of our wonderful world and yet you are here with us too.
We praise you because we know you are Almighty and we know that we can
trust in you for all that we need. Direct our paths, we pray. Help us to live for
you. Make us people who have hearts for you and for others and empower us
to live lives that honour you.
Keep us close to you,
We ask this in the name of your son Jesus,
Amen

Song 49

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

3 And when I think how God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;

That on the cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

4 When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation,
To take me Home, what joy will fill my heart!
Then I will bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!
Stuart Wesley Keene Hine (1899-1989)

The Message



Elijah the prophet had witnessed God's amazing power in many ways: the ravens that fed him, the never ending oil and flour, the raising of the widow's dead son, the tremendous fire display on Mount Carmel, the rain coming to end the drought, in the amazing strength he was given to run in front of a chariot for 20 miles and one assumes he would be awestruck or singing God's praises: 'How great thou art.'

But this week we discover that is not the case.

1 Kings 19: 1-21

Elijah flees to Horeb

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, 'May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.'

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said. 'Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.'⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

***All at once an angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.'*⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. ⁷The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.'⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹There he went into a cave and spent the night.**

No one likes telling someone bad news do they?

Carl after the great Salvation Army celebration called Boundless 150, 2015 had some bad news for me.

'I'm giving up making chocolate and working for Cadbury's (Mondelez) to work for the Salvation Army.'

What it actually meant was that I am giving up a paid job to go to college - maybe we won't even be able to afford chocolate. Having been in a house that had an endless supply of chocolate that was devastating news!! Of course, I joke, a little!

Poor Ahab had devastating news for his wife Jezebel as he told her about what had happened on Mount Carmel. How Yahweh, the God of Elijah, the Lord God Almighty, had defeated her god Baal by sending a fire down from heaven to burn up the whole of the altar and then how Elijah had killed 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.

There could have been several reactions to this news. One reaction would have been that she would believe in Elijah's God, the mighty one. However, these prophets were people who had sat at her table, had advised her and the result of this news was a death threat sent to Elijah.

The Christian life is not easy. God never said it would be. It is full of ups and downs, exciting times and devastating times. Here, this amazing man of God, the prophet Elijah, has the most amazing up and then a devastating down. In fact, at the start of this chapter we discover he is depressed and suicidal.

Elijah is human; probably exhausted and certainly deflated. I am sure he assumed that after such an amazing fire show, everyone would turn to God and the nation would be saved, the King and queen would turn from Baal to the true God and maybe he would be recognised as some sort of hero...but that is not what happens.

Verse 3 says 'Elijah was afraid.....' In some translations this is translated as 'Elijah saw'

He saw that what he had hoped for/dreamed of /expected, did not happen? Maybe that is what made him afraid. Perhaps he was afraid of being a failure or perhaps he was afraid to die at the hand of Jezebel who had killed so many others.

We read that he ran for his life. 100 miles south to Beersheba where he sat and wished to die.

Of course, one of the amazing things about Elijah is that he never dies but is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind 2 Kings 2: 11 but that's another story!

Let us just for a moment look at what Elijah said:

'I have had enough, Lord. Take my life, I am no better than my ancestors.'

Like the people before him he had failed to save the world.

The first point I would like to bring out from this passage is that we can

1. Trust in God's plan

You each have a puzzle piece on your newsletter. This is to help us remember that God has huge plan for bringing his people into his kingdom. We each play a little part in that but often we don't see much of the plan. However, we can trust in his perfect plan and timing.

I don't know about you but I find looking at the world devastating sometimes. It certainly is not what God wants. As a church and as individuals we can plan amazing activities, pray hard, do our best to make a difference to lead people to Christ but what we learn from this passage is that we should not be disheartened if we don't see immediate results. We know God has this so we continue to witness.

The Lord appears to Elijah

And the word of the Lord came to him: ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’

¹⁰ He replied, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.’

¹¹ The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’

¹⁴ He replied, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.’

2. Allow God to feed you so that you can feed others

When God comes to Elijah he provides all he needs, food, rest and an angel for company. When we feel in despair, disheartened, a failure, afraid, God knows what we need.

When we minister to others too remember this. Soup and Soap come before Salvation. We need to address people’s physical needs before helping them find God and that takes time.

We can also take this to mean spiritual food. Allow God to fill you with his spirit so that you are empowered to guide others.

3. Seek God's presence and be authentic/real

Elijah after being strengthened spent 6 weeks travelling 200 miles to Horeb, the mountain of God. Why. I wonder. This is also called Mount Sinai and so we know why this is so special: it was the where Moses had received the ten commandments. It is a place where promises are made – covenants agreed. I believe Elijah has come for many reasons. Let's find out?

God asks Elijah: What are you doing here?

God didn't need to ask this question as he knows all things but he asks this to give Elijah the opportunity to pour out his heart. Confession is good for the soul I've been told!

We believe Elijah came here to meet with God as Moses had done before him. Yet, in this magnificently holy place Elijah is full of self-pity, depressed, in despair. 'I have been zealous for the Lord God Almighty, The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.'

When we come into the presence of God, which can be anywhere, be honest and authentic.

The psalms are full of King David pouring out his heart to God just like Elijah does here. Remember Jesus on the cross pleading with his Father to take the necessity for the cross away. When we come to God, be open about how you are. He accepts us as we are. He loves us as we are. He knows how we are.

I love the very next bit of our chapter

11 The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.'

4. Listen to God

I am sure if we were told God was passing by we would expect the magnificent wouldn't we. Sometimes God is in the mighty but he is also in the thin.. We must listen and be open to hear God's speak. We don't know what God whispered to Elijah but it caused Elijah to cover his face. Moses also covered his face as he met with God in the same place – a sign of humility and respect before an awesome God perhaps.

5. Seek God's purpose and vision.

15 The Lord said to him, 'Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.'

The call of Elisha

19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,' he said, 'and then I will come with you.'

'Go back,' Elijah replied. 'What have I done to you?'

21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the ploughing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.'

God still had work for Elijah. It is almost like he reinstated him.

He also opens Elijah's eyes to the truth. Elijah was not the only believer alive, but there were 7000 people who did not worship Baal. When we become in a state of depression or despair, our vision is clouded we just see the darkness but if we come to God, he opens our eyes. He changes our perspective. Even though Elijah felt finished. God had not finished with Elijah and he gave him

new work. God has tasks for us all and he will direct our paths. He also gave Elijah someone to help and to mentor.

We are now back to the beginning then with our puzzle piece. Each of us has an essential part to play in the Kingdom work but the picture keeps growing and growing. We only see a tiny part. I have shared before about my friend Rita who is about 96 years old who has volumes of people's names and she reads them and prays for them every day and how excited she was a few years back when one of those people in her book who was not a Christian became one after 37 years. She was lucky to see that. We may see some results of our prayers but not always but we can be certain that God hears and answers them.

Remember the parable of the sower. We sow the seed of God's word. Sometimes it grows well, sometimes it takes time because the land is hard, sometimes it is choked and sometimes it is eaten by birds. However, we must keep on sowing without becoming disheartened.

Then we read that the Lord gave Elijah someone to help him and to mentor. As Christians we are all part of the bigger picture. We all need to play our part and be prepared when God tells us to allow others to come along side. We must work together and mentor each other. The older generation should inspire the younger ones and when the time is right, pass the baton to them. We must do our part.

Song 456

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!

O calm of hills above,

Where Jesus knelt to share with thee

The silence of eternity, interpreted by love!

4 Drop thy still dews of quietness

Till all our strivings cease;

Take from our souls the strain and stress,

And let our ordered lives confess

The beauty of thy peace.

5 Breathe through the heats of our desire

Thy coolness and thy balm;

Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;

Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,

O still small voice of calm!

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Is He Worthy? By Chris Tomlin

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)

Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)

*But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through?
(We do)*

Do you wish that we could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)

Is a new creation coming?(It is)

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst?(It is)

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honour and glory
Is He worthy of this? He is*

*Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From every people and tribe
Every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
To reign with the Son*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honour and glory
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
He is worthy. He is!*

Song 220

Great is the darkness that covers the earth,
Oppression, injustice and pain.
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
Though many have come in your name.
Watching while sanity dies,
Touched by the madness and lies.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out your Spirit on us today.*

2 May now your Church rise with power and love,
This glorious gospel proclaim.

In every nation salvation will come
To those who believe in your name.
Help us bring light to this world
That we might speed your return.
3 Great celebrations on that final day
When out of the heavens you come.
Darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
And rulers will bow at your throne.
Our great commission complete,
Then face-to-face we shall meet.
Noel Richards and Gerald Coates

Song 389

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you,
The hope of Glory in our hearts.
He lives! He lives! His breath is in you,
Arise a mighty army, we arise.
(Last time) We arise. We arise!*

1 Now is the time for us to march upon the land,
Into our hands he will give the ground we claim.
He rides in majesty to lead us into victory,
The world shall see that Christ is Lord!

2 God is at work in us his purpose to perform,
Building a Kingdom of power not of words,
Where things impossible, by faith shall be made possible;
Let's give the glory to him now.

3 Though we are weak, his grace is everything we need;
We're made of clay but this treasure is within.
He turns our weaknesses into his opportunities,
So that the glory goes to him.

Graham Kendrick

Benediction

Psalms Now 24

Let us never forget that this world and everything in it belongs to the God.
But not all citizens recognise or give allegiance to their Creator.

Who are the ones who truly love and serve God?

They are the people who discover and live within His purposes for their lives.
They are the people whose hearts and hands are dedicated to His will for them.

They are the people who turn away from self-centred concerns to live for those around them.

They count on God's perpetual blessings.

They have been delivered from anxiety to focus their efforts on communicating God's eternal love to people around them.

Let us look up and live!

God is present in all his glory and majesty.

Let us let go and celebrate!

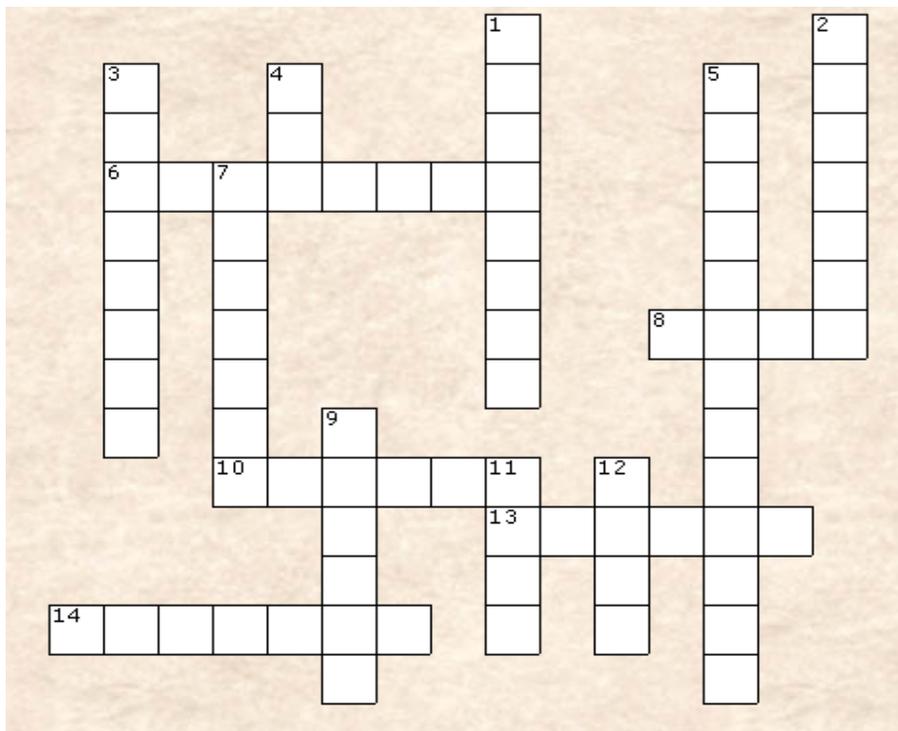
Our loving Lord is here with us and will manifest Himself through us.

We represent Him in all His saving power.

We are his beloved and empowered servants in this world that he created.

Leslie F Brandt

Psalm 23



ACROSS

6 The Lord is my

8 I will ___ no evil
for

you are with me

10 Even though I
walk through the
valley of the ___
of death

13 You ___ my head
with oil

14 Your rod and
your staff, they
___ me

DOWN

1 Surely ___ and
mercy will follow
me all the days
of my life

2 And I will dwell
in the house of
the Lord ___

3 He makes me
lie down in
green ___

4 My ___ overflows.

5 He guides me in
paths of ___ for
his name's sake

7 You prepare a
table before me
in the presence
of my ___

9 He leads me
beside quiet ___

11 I shall not be
in ___

12 He restores my

The Lord appears to Elijah 1 Kings 19



AHAB
ANGEL
BEERSHEBA
BROOM BUSH
CAVE
CLOAK
COVENANT

EARTHQUAKE
ELIJAH
ELISHA
FIRE
GENTLE WHISPER
HOREB
JEZEBEL

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY
MOUNTAIN
SINAI
WILDERNESS
WIND
ZEALOUS

