

CHALK FARM CORPS SUNDAY NEWSLETTER



'But no matter what, your will must be mine.'
(Luke 22:42b, The Passion translation)

Today is Candidates Sunday when we consider what it is to follow God's will for our lives. Though we may not all be called to leadership within The Salvation Army we can certainly pray for those who are. Within this newsletter are the names of the Cadets currently training to be Salvation Army Officers. You will also find a scripture based reflection prepared by our former Commanding Officer, Captain Ian Standley, with Cadet Miriam Smith.

'Are you willing?' is a question to which we can respond in different ways. Someone asks of you; 'are you willing to...' and we may hold our breath in anticipation to see what may be asked of us! It's natural to examine if we are willing and make the choice to say yes or no. When God asks us to do something still face that choice – for we are all given free will. I have met people who have regrets about not following God's will at some point in their life but the important thing is that we choose to follow Him today.

Part of the problem for some may be struggling to discern God's will. When we look through the pages of the Bible we read of times when God seemed silent. Seeking God's will was occasionally done by casting lots (which I would not recommend!) and at times if God appeared to give no clear direction people turned to other 'gods' of the world to their detriment. Perhaps a good place to start is simply choosing to live to His praise and glory rather than our own – then His will becomes clear.

John Gowans writes beautifully:

*Nothing can I achieve, nothing attain;
He that without Thee builds, labours in vain;
Shatter my own design,
Shaping a plan divine,
Come to this heart of mine,
Saviour, again.
(SASB 600)*

Once God reveals His will for our life we are challenged to follow it. Agnes Parke Heathcote writes:

*I heard a voice so gently calling:
Take up thy cross and follow me.*

*A tempest on my heart was falling,
A living cross this was to be;
I struggled sore, I struggled vainly,
No other light my eyes could see.*

*I'll follow Thee, of life the giver,
I'll follow Thee, suffering redeemer,
I'll follow Thee, deny Thee never,
By Thy grace I'll follow Thee.*

(SASB 589)

We don't have to be young, intelligent or super fit. God has a habit of choosing the most unlikely of people to fulfil His will here on earth. I wonder today if you know God's will for your life? Are you willing to follow where the Lord leads?

If you want to talk further about your service to God at Chalk Farm Corps or within the wider Salvation Army or to pray for discernment do get in touch. May God bless you this Candidates Sunday.

God bless you,
Captain Michael J Kinnear, Commanding Officer

Thy Kingdom Come, 13-23 May

Are you following the daily reflections in the Thy Kingdom Come prayer journal?

Each day - from Ascension to Pentecost - there is a passage from the Bible, a short reflection, a prayer, and a suggestion for action. See more at www.thykingdomcome.global.

Sunday Worship, 23 May at 10.30am

Sunday Worship is back in the building! If you can, join us for worship at Chalk Farm next Sunday morning (23 May at 10.30am).

Things will be a little different. You will need to wear a mask (unless you have a medical exemption) and sit apart from anyone not in your household bubble. Sadly we can't yet sing together or share tea and coffee after the meeting.

But God is good, and despite the restrictions we look forward to a wonderful time of worship together.

If you're not able to join us in person, that's OK. Know that we miss you, and you will be in our prayers on Sunday. Perhaps you could pause at 10.30 to pray for us too. We are planning to record the meeting so that everyone who would like to can watch it at home.

Scripture reflection

Captain Ian Standley and Cadet Miriam Smith

Jesus left the upper room with his disciples and, as was his habit, went to the Mount of Olives, his place of secret prayer. There he told the apostles, 'Keep praying for strength to be spared from the severe test of your faith that is about to come.'

Then he withdrew from them a short distance to be alone. Kneeling down, he prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup of agony away from me. But no matter what, your will must be mine.'

Luke 22:39-42 (The Passion translation)

Jesus left the upper room with his disciples and, as was his habit, went to the Mount of Olives, his 'place of secret prayer'.

- Where is your place that you go to pray?
- Why is it important to you?
- Is it a good habit or do you need to find a new place?

There he told the apostles, 'Keep praying for strength to be spared from the severe test of your faith that is about to come.'

- What have you been fervently praying for?
- What things have tested your faith in this period of lockdown?

'Then he withdrew from them a short distance to be alone. Kneeling down, he prayed.'

- How do you pray?
- Do you move away from things that may distract you?
- Do you always pray alone?
- Are you seated, standing or walking?

"'Father, if you are willing, take this cup of agony away from me. But no matter what, your will must be mine.'"

- What do you need God to take from you this day?
- How are you going to respond to God's will?

Pray for the cadets currently at William Booth College

Messengers of Grace

Martin Bellshaw
Dean Brill
Jonathan & Heather Culshaw
Gavin & Mary Dunn
Jamie Jones
Maria & David Karickovi
Elliott Kervin
Kit Mayston-King
James Pegg
Susan Shorland-Compton
Corinne Seabridge
Amanda Sewell
Portia Stirling-Mack
Joel Watson
Stephanie White
Nazia Yousaf

Messengers of Reconciliation

Abigail Gray
Emily Hague
Lesley Holland
Chelsea Huddleston
Diane Johnson
Jackie Littlewood
Joanna & Thomas Morgan
Miriam Smith
Matthew Stone
Wendy Verheij

Song of the week

O thou God of full salvation,
King of righteousness divine,
Author of the new creation,
Light of life, within us shine!
Make us holy, make us holy;
With thy blessing make us thine.

From all self and sin deliver,
With thy nature make us good;
Make us kings and priests for ever,
Wash our garments in thy blood.
O'er our Army, o'er our Army
Send a great salvation flood.

Sun of righteousness arising,
Cheer us while we bear the cross,
Living, dying, sacrificing,
Purify from sinful dross
Thy disciples, thy disciples;
Teach us how to gain by loss.

Thou art love's unfathomed ocean,
Wisdom's deepest, clearest sea,
Heaven's and earth's salvation portion,
Parent of eternity;
Grace and glory, grace and glory
In abundance flow from thee.

William James Pearson (1832-1892)

On the television

Sunday at 10.30am, BBC One
Sunday Morning Stories: A couple describe how they offered their home to a Syrian refugee who wanted to become a doctor.

Sunday at 1.15pm, BBC One
Songs of Praise: In Dementia Action Week, Yolanda Brown meets a woman who is helping people with dementia to remain active.

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

On the radio

Sunday at 8.10am, BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship: The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane reflects on the ascension in a service from Lichfield Cathedral.

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