



NCT SA Connected

Reimagining Church Together

Following advice and communication from our Territorial Leaders, in response to the Coronavirus outbreak and government recommendations - Mothers Day last year was the first Sunday that Salvation Army Corps throughout this Territory were forced to closed their doors, suspending public worship.

Not only was Sunday Worship affected - but all regular weekday activities too - and in the days which followed halls would become temporary food banks, and corps kitchens would be used to prepare ready cooked meals to deliver to those shielding or having to self isolate.

Mum and her husband Paul had arrived at the quarters in Chester le Street, around lunchtime on that Sunday intent on staying a few days. The original plan had been that they would look after Caleb (my dog) whilst I was away at Officer Retreat, but obviously that had been cancelled, but still they chose to visit and at that point were free to do so. We enjoyed a lovely 'home cooked' mothers day meal together - and the following day we packed a simple picnic and took a drive along the coast from Whitley Bay all the way up to Bamburgh Castle, having taken a quick look at the Newcastle Quarters, from the outside, and also a quick look at the site for the new hall at Cowgate.

Because of restrictions already in place - we didn't really stop off anywhere - non essential shops were closed as were the cafes and tearooms, but it was just good to take a drive, enjoy the sights and each other's company, and as we chatted we began to make plans for how we would spend the following few days - which largely consisted of clearing the loft and garage in anticipation of change of appointment a few months later.

We arrived home about teatime - and a short while later the first nationwide lockdown was announced forcing Mum and Paul to return to their home in York.

I remember going to bed that night feeling quite overwhelmed, wondering how on earth I was going to be able to reach out to others, and how to best provide for and minister to members of the corps during those challenging times. Colleague officers were already talking about using various technologies for pre-recording and live streaming worship - which all seemed so far beyond my limited knowledge and capabilities—and I knew that many of my corps folk would struggle to access such 'platforms' anyway... and so it was that the idea for this type of weekly themed worship bulletin was born. I wanted something that could be easily accessible to all, either by email, social media or hand delivery.

Well, 51 weeks later... who would have imagined that I would still be communicating with corps members in this way and it thrills me to know that a number of people have found this a really helpful way of making them feel 'connected' to the corps fellowship in these unprecedented' (gosh... that became a really buzz word in 2020 didn't it!) times.

The first song to roll off my tongue when we first went into lockdown back in March 2020 - was the Songster arrangement of John Gowans' song 'Have you ever stopped to think how God loves you' - entitled 'Everywhere'. The words seemed so appropriate then, and they echo the timeless truth contained in Paul's letter to the Church in Rome...

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

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Reimagining Church Together - continued.



EVERYWHERE

Everything is changing in the world today;
There's one thing reliable in every way:
Other things may alter but it's clear and plain
That the love of God is just the same.

Oh, it's as high as the sky and it's as deep as the sea,
And it's as wide as the world –
God's love for you and for me.
We can't escape His love,
Or take ourselves out of His care,
So where could we hide from His love?
His love is everywhere.

For those with access to the internet I encourage you to take a moment to listen to that song;
<https://youtu.be/bIdgfqld6vM>

Assuring you of my continued prayers for you, and looking forward to the day when restrictions are eased and we can worship publicly together. In the meantime Stay Safe & Keep the Faith!

With every blessing

Major Liz

Announcements and Activities

Major Liz Hancock is on furlough until Monday 22nd March.

There will be no NCT Connected Weekly Worship Bulletin next week (21 March 2021)

Sunday 14th March Mothering Sunday

ZOOM worship at 10:00am led by YPSM Joy and Adrian Sutton

Tuesday 16th March 11am Weekly Coffee & Chat via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/94036559399?pwd=S3lCVFU1QklkcWVsQnJrRUpWNDlNdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 3655 9399 **Passcode:** 236837

Thursday 18th March 7pm - Heathers House Group - Part 5 of *'From the Ram to the Lamb'*

Sunday 21st March ZOOM worship at 10:00am led by CSM Pauline Robson and David Richardson

Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday

ZOOM worship at 10:00am led by Major Liz Hancock

For those able to join together on Zoom the Meeting Link for NCT Sunday Worship is as follows;

<https://zoom.us/j/97311064719?pwd=VXJxWEFBVGU1WFpPSjk2UUFWNWlvdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 1106 4719

Passcode: Worship

Journeying with Jesus from Bethany to Galilee (Holy Week & Easter in a Bag)

Each household should have received a copy of this devotional aid which runs from Sat 27th March through to Sunday 11th April.

This resource replaces the NCT Connected Worship Bulletin for the 28th March (Palm Sunday) & 4th April (Easter Sunday) .

Details of worship during Holy Week were published in NCT Connected Issue 29



SUNDAY 14th March 2021 - Mother's Day

PAUSE for THOUGHT

Today is Mother's Day it's often a day when families come together in church to give thanks to God for our Mams/Mums and those who have been like a mother to us, caring for us and sharing in our joys as well as our sorrows. It's a celebration of love and the positive influence which they have had on our lives.

It's often said that 'Mothers know best', with this in mind ... here's a list entitled 'Some of the things my mother taught me...'

- My mother taught me **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I've just finished cleaning."
- My mother taught me **RELIGION**. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet"
- My mother taught me about **TIME TRAVEL**. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
- My mother taught me about **LOGIC**. "Because I said so, that's why."
- My mother taught me **MORE LOGIC**. "If you fall off that wall and break both your legs, don't come running to me"
- My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**. "Make sure you wear clean underwear just in case you're in accident."
- My mother taught me **IRONY** "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
- My mother taught me about the science of **OSMOSIS**. "Shut your mouth and eat your dinner."
- My mother taught me about **CONTORTIONISM**, "Will you just look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
- My mother taught me about **STAMINA**. "You'll sit there until all your greens are gone."

Ok so that was just for a bit of fun, but the very best advice that a mother can give to her children is to have an appreciation of God;

***"Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him" Psalm 34:8***

As we thank God for our own Mother's today, and those who have been like a mother to us — here are some **Ideas for further reflection**.

This week I'd like to encourage you to check out some of these Godly Mothers from the Old Testament;

- Sarah: The Mother who waited (Gen. 11:30, Chapters 15 & 21)
- Hagar: The Mother who endured (Gen. 21)
- Rebekah: The Mother who believed (Genesis 25, Genesis 27)
- Jochebed: The Mother with a Plan (Exodus 2)
- Hannah: The Mother Who Kept Her Promise (1 Samuel 1:5-6, 1 Samuel 1:20, 1 Samuel 2:1-10)

As you read through each account you might like to think what it is that makes them deserving of the title 'Godly'. What special qualities did they possess. Can you relate to them in any way? How do they relate to your experience of mothers today?

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Reimagining Church - Let's Worship Together

Continued...



A Prayer for all Mothers,

*Thank you, Lord, that you fill a mother's heart with love,
That you have instilled in her very being the need to protect her
children if at all possible,
Thank you for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching
them, of comforting them,
for feeding them and making a safe place for them.*

*For guiding them to be all that God has created them to be.
Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance,
with strength and patience and joy.
Give them ability to forgive again and again.
Enable her to rely on You and call upon You, because You will give her all she needs.
In Your precious and all powerful name, Amen*

Suggested Songs for Worship:

All Creatures of our God and King (SASB 2)
For the Beauty of the Earth (SASB 14)
Now thank we all our God (SASB 45)

Or how about this song—which I found on the web...

Giving thanks to Mothers (tune Europe/ Hymn to Joy) by Rev. Rebecca Kelly 2006

Lord, we thank you for the mothers
By whose faith we come to Thee;
Who reflect Your grace and mercy
In their faces, You, we see.
Honour mothers, God commands us,
Show respect and loving care,
Instruments You made to guide us
Mothers who Christ's love doth share.

Through the ages, leading forward
Mums who serve to glorify.
Eve's firstborn starts all the races,
Child in pain sparks Hagar's cry.
Hannah's prayers and Mary's song
Tell acceptance of God's will.
King of grace and peace and patience
These the lessons mothers tell.

Lord, we thank you for the mothers
Who have brought us forth on earth.
Giving life that we may worship
Saviour born of Virgin birth.
All created by Holy Maker
Workmanship beyond compare
For the gift of mums, we thank Thee
Praise to You, we do declare.



I'll be thinking of you as I celebrate Mother's Day with my Mum ...
Oh and my 50th Birthday!